



Member of the Association of Camphill Communities

## **INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE GUEST VOLUNTEERS**

If you would like to have the opportunity to 'do something different with your life', maybe require practical experience to aid your college studies, or just wish to develop your knowledge of Camphill methods and training, then come to Coleg Elidyr as a guest volunteer.

There is also the chance to make new friends from different countries and cultures, explore interesting new places, and develop your language and social skills. We also have the advantage of being based on the borders of the Brecon Beacons, in a beautiful rural setting with breath taking scenery of the Welsh countryside.

Coleg Elidyr welcomes applications regardless of ethnic origin, religion or gender. We recognize and value the cosmopolitan influence and the unique contribution that our volunteers make to our community.

### **An Overview:**

Coleg Elidyr is a Camphill Centre for special education and training for young people with special needs (also called students or trainees).

In Camphill, staff come from all over the world. Working in Camphill is more a way of life than a job. It can be very demanding both emotionally and physically, but we believe it is rich and rewarding.

As in most Camphill Communities, you will live under the same roof as the students. The house is run together as a team, lead by the house manager.

You could be working on the land or forestry, in the craft workshops or within the shop. You will be working alongside with students, sometimes being a 'companion', and sometimes as a guide and supporter to them. In the house you will take care of the students, helping them with their independent living skills, personal hygiene etc. and supporting the running of the house in all aspects, which may include cooking.

Friendships, parties and excursions are all part of our life here and contribute to a lively lifestyle. We also organize trips to the theatre, musical concerts and occasionally receive visits from performing artists.

In most cases, guest volunteers adapt quickly to our way of life and enjoy their time with us at Coleg Elidyr, but as it is not possible to judge beforehand to what extent any particular person will adapt, we take the first month as an initial assessment period.

**What we can offer you:**

During your time at Coleg Elidyr you will receive free accommodation (your own single room) and food. You will receive a discretionary personal allowance of up to £150 per month to cover your reasonable expenses while you live and work with us. If you stay for a period of one year we will pay for your return flight home.

You will be entitled to one day off a week during term time. There are also four holidays of varying lengths in our college year: in October, at Christmas, after Easter and in the summer (approx eight weeks in total). The Easter holiday will only begin when celebration of the festival within the community has been completed. Please note that we do not have the same amount of holidays as the students, and all holiday plans are to be discussed and coordinated with your house manager.

We will provide free but limited Internet access.

Some guest volunteers will have the opportunity to take an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) in associated subjects and will receive a certificate on completion of the course. We reserve the right to assess and decide whether a candidate is suitable or not, as eligibility for these courses will depend on your English proficiency and preference is usually, but not always, given to EEC nationals, due to cost implications for visa individuals.

We will encourage and support you with your continuing personal and professional development. Should any concerns arise we will provide support and address any issues to the best of our abilities.

**What we expect from you:**

Previous experience is not required; all we ask for is enthusiasm, commitment, compassion and a pleasant, sociable nature.

It is **very** important that you have an adequate command of the English language to enable you to understand and communicate with both students and staff.

As our students are of a vulnerable nature it is very important that you are aware and understand our duty to protect the students from abuse and the need for confidentiality.

Your support, initiative, encouragement and help will be required with student activities and excursions. Your diplomacy, good manners and consideration of others at all times, is also appreciated.

We expect your full commitment and participation in any training, seminars, theory or practical work that we will give you, which are an essential part of our program. The completion of these items is to your benefit, as they will enable you to carry out your tasks with a greater awareness and better understanding of your role.

While we recognize other religious beliefs, you are expected to support and respect our celebration of the Christian festivals and our Christian ideals, which form an important aspect of our community life.

It is preferred that a commitment is made to come for a full college year, as it takes time for the students to get to know you, and for you to know them. In some cases, however, we may accept people for less than a year, but we give preference to those applying for our whole college year.

As a new guest volunteer you could be allocated to any of our two sites: Rhandirmwyn or Victoria House. Although your interests and experience will be taken into account, we will nonetheless ask you to work where your help is most needed.

We welcome and encourage any artistic gifts, especially musical. We will provide training in related areas, e.g. basic first aid, health and safety, food hygiene, etc. and will also organize seminars on anthroposophy or other subjects.

We do not permit illegal substances on our premises.

### **Other Useful Information:**

Under reciprocal arrangements with most EEC countries you will have access to the National Health Service in this country. We advise you to find out for yourself whether your own country enjoys such an arrangement.

Coleg Elidyr has an insurance policy that will cover you where the college is liable. Should you need further insurance, for medical or other matters, you must take this out yourself.

We recommend that you have a dental check-up before coming, as we will pay for emergency dental work only. Please note that dental work is not free on the National Health Service.

Family or friends are welcome to visit you BUT you must ask your house manager before making any arrangements.

Other than a first phone call home when you originally arrive with us, all phone calls must be paid for by yourself, either by using your own phone cards or by use of the payphones on site. We will refund you up to £20 per month for the cost of phone calls and travel upon proof of purchase.

You should bring adequate clothes suitable for work, social and formal occasions. We will provide waterproofs, overalls and safety wear but don't forget to bring your own swimwear, suitable walking shoes and a warm coat. We provide all your bed linen and towels. You are welcome to bring any musical instruments that you own, providing you transport them at your own expense.

The following websites may be of interest to you:

[www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)

[www.visitwales.com](http://www.visitwales.com)

[www.camphill.org.uk](http://www.camphill.org.uk)

[www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)

If you need any more information please don't hesitate to contact us:

Prospective guest volunteers: [volunteer@colegelidyr.com](mailto:volunteer@colegelidyr.com)

Tel: **+44 (0) 1550 760400**