

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is at school to support me?

At UWC Atlantic College, all staff members are committed to guiding you through the experience. At the heart of our support system is our team of tutors. The personal tutor is your first point of contact if you have any problems or questions. Our Student Support department is also available to help with social emotional support through counselling and support for specific learning difficulties. We also have a nurse on site weekdays from 7:45 a.m. House parents' guide and support the residential programme and live in houses attached to the residential buildings.

What is the living space like?

There are eight residential houses. Each floor or corridor contains a bathroom shared between bedrooms. A day room, a quiet room and kitchen. Four students of the same gender share a room.

Where will I eat?

You will eat in the Dining Hall in the Castle. Breakfast during school days is from 07.15 – 07.50 and dinner from 17.45 – 19.00. Lunch is served from 12:15 to 13:45 is available in the dining hall or the sports hall café and will offer a range of sandwiches, jacket potatoes and paninis. In the houses, you have a small kitchen to cook and store snacks.

What duties do I have to do in residence?

You will be responsible for keeping your room, bathroom and the common areas clean and tidy. The school supplies you with the equipment and materials to do this. Professional cleaners come to clean the bathrooms regularly.

Do we have check in?

You will need to check-in with your House Parent every Sunday to Thursday evening at 22.00 after which you must remain in your House. Check-in is at 23.15 on a Friday and Saturday.

What do I have to bring with me?

We have recommended a short packing list which you will find at the end of this document. It will be your responsibility to label your belongings and keep them safe. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you leave all valuable items at home unless needed for your studies.

Students should be aware that the British mains electricity system is 230 volts, and that the college wiring system requires that British Standard three pin fused plugs are used at all times. **TRAVEL ADAPTORS ARE NOT TO BE USED.** Where possible all electrical equipment used should be CE and/or BS kite marked and be fit for purpose. For laptops and mobile phones, students should contact the manufacturer direct to request a lead/charger that is compatible with British standards. Electrical adapters must also conform to British standards. Students must not purchase cheaper alternative extension leads and chargers online. Any electrical items, adapters and leads that are deemed not safe for use in the UK will be confiscated by the houseparent and returned to you when you leave. For smaller items such as hairdryers and straighteners it is recommended that these are purchased on arrival in the UK, however, if this is not possible, the items should be compatible with British standards. Rice cookers, portable cooking equipment and kettles are **NOT** to be brought into the college. Each house has kitchen facilities for students to prepare food and drinks. Additional heaters if required can be provided by the college. No mains electrical fairy/Christmas lights are to be used. The college tests all electrical appliances on an annual basis and reserves the right to prevent the use of non-compliant items.

Do I need bed linen and a towel?

The school will provide you with a set of bed linens (quilt, pillow, sheet, cover and pillow case). You will need to bring a towel(s) or buy one when you arrive.

Bedding will be laundered by the college. Students will be expected to launder their clothes and washing machines are provided for the students. If student choose to bring their own bedding they will be expected to launder it themselves.

Representing your culture – what to bring with you? - Some advice from our current students.

National costumes are a 'big deal' at UWC, so if you have one and you can pack it in your suitcase it is great to bring it. We have culture weeks, National evenings and other days where we celebrate our different cultures which means exposing others to food, clothing, songs, poems, dances, ceremonies etc. So, it is a good idea to pack traditional spices, a flag, some photos and other small things that you think will help you effectively share your culture.

Preparing for culture shock – some advice from our current students:

Culture Shock happens to us all but what exactly is culture shock? According to Random House Dictionary, culture shock is “a state of bewilderment and distress experienced by an individual who is suddenly exposed to a new, strange, or foreign social and cultural environment”. Most new students find that not only is the culture of the geographical location of their new school different from their own, but that their new school has its own specific culture too. Almost all of it will be different from what you are used to. You will be living and studying with students your own age and much of the time will not necessarily be directly supervised; methods of teaching and learning will be different from what you might expect; and you will make friends from around the world. There will be a wide diversity of students, teachers and staff. UWC is about understanding difference so first and foremost be respectful of these diverse cultures and try to learn from them and explore different perspectives. Do not be shy about sharing your culture and where you are from.

Swap Shop

The students run a Swap Shop and there you can find a variety of things including clothes, shoes, bags etc. Everything in the shop comes from students, staff, and students' parents. Some students will be given vouchers to spend in the swap shop for others a small charge is made to for any items you would like to purchase.

When should I arrive?

Your arrival date will have been confirmed by the Admissions team. The college will provide transport from Heathrow Airport on arrivals day (a small charge will be made for this service). All students have to complete a travel form and a travel information document will be included with the enrolment forms. There is no pick up service at other arrival locations or on different dates. [Travel form](#)

What happens when I arrive?

Your arrival date will have been confirmed by the Admissions Office. On arrivals day you will be greeted by current students and staff. You will have an opportunity to settle in to your room. If parents are accompanying you to the college, they are more than welcome to help you settle in but we ask that they are off site by 1800, so you can get to know your room/ house mates and have supper. You will begin your 2 week induction programme the following day. This will offer you orientation of the campus, an opportunity to learn more about the subjects and co-curricular programme before you make your final subject choices.

What can I do during the breaks?

During the mid-term breaks you can stay on campus, take a trip or travel home depending on your circumstances. During the Winter and Summer breaks the campus is closed. We may be able to provide a link family for those students who may not be able to return home. This will be arranged by your houseparent and the Head of Student Affairs.

When do I choose my subject package?

You will find a link to a Google form for preliminary subject choices provided with the enrolment forms. Please complete and submit this form as it will help us in our timetable planning. Once you arrive at school you will have the opportunity to receive further information in each subject and confirm your choices or make changes if needed.

[Subject choices form](#)

Finance & Insurance

How do I access my pocket money?

To minimise disparity between students, we recommend pocket money be limited to no more than £500 per year. We would stress that this limit is more than adequate for the student's needs and would ask that parents adhere to the figure given. Please note that this does not include the costs of calculators or College Yearbook, personal trips away, trips run by staff or transport to and from the College.

£500 pocket can be transferred in advance using the college bank details, or payable by cash or £GB cheque on arrivals day at the Accounts Office. Please make the cheque payable to 'Atlantic College' with the student's name on the reverse side. Other currencies are not acceptable. In some instances pocket money allowances are provided by the student's scholarship, and this money is paid directly to the student's Pocket Money Account from the College Accounts Office.

The college runs a 'College Bank' for all students whereby they can deposit and withdraw pocket money 5 days a week.

Students may require additional funds to finance their projects in the middle of each term, but parents and sponsors should know that the College is anxious to keep these additional expenses within reasonable bounds, and it is possible for students to undertake projects within the College at no extra cost.

Why do I need to pay the Caution fee?

The £250 refundable Caution fee will cover any damage to school property or cover lost books and documents etc. The £250 is paid in advance to the college. The balance is refunded at the end of your two years after any deductions are made.

Insurance & Health

Health

In case of illness, students can visit the school nurse on campus or consult the school doctor who is located close to the school.

Routine medical treatment and treatment for accidents and emergencies will be given free of charge under the British National Health Service (NHS). The College doctors, full-time residential nurses and a part-time psychological counsellor are responsible for the students' health. The doctors hold surgeries in the College three days per week and are available on call at any time for emergencies.

It is recommended that students who use contact lenses or glasses bring details of prescriptions in case of emergency replacement. If you are on regular medication, you are required to bring at least a months supply at the start of term. Medical care is free but there may be charges for dental and optical services. Orthodontic treatment is not available on the NHS, but can be privately arranged in Cardiff.

Please ensure that you give us as much information as possible on your **Health/Medical Form** provided with the enrolment forms **and declare all relevant information**. This information will be kept confidential and will not impact your offer to attend UWC Atlantic College. Full disclosure of all health issues is essential for the school to support you during your UWC experience.

Insurance

The College insurance policies **DO NOT** cover students' personal possessions and items of particular value must be insured privately. Students' insurance is often included in the parent's household insurance.

We discourage students from bringing valuable items but any valuable items of property (such as cameras and computers) should be kept secure whilst at the College. Each student is given a lockable drawer and wardrobe.

Students may wish to obtain their own insurance against accidents and unforeseen events. The College has entered into an agreement for Students' Personal Accident Insurance, details of which will be provided with the joining papers and can be found on the Parent Portal. This insurance is a compensatory scheme for permanent disablement of one sort or another and is provided at no additional cost to the student. This insurance does not cover costs of medical treatment.

All students are covered by the College's comprehensive travel insurance policy whilst travelling for College purposes during term time.

This does not cover student travel at the beginning and end of term nor privately arranged travel during term time. It is recommended that students have their own travel insurance to cover these journeys.

Medical care is free but there may be charges for dental and optical services. Orthodontic treatment is not available on the NHS, but can be privately arranged in Cardiff.

The Packing List

The current students have suggested the following packing list.

Clothes

- A nice warm coat for winter
- A waterproof coat or jacket
- A few items of clothing that you do not mind getting dirty
- A lot of socks (it seems that the dryer eats them)
- A lot of underwear (same applies)
- Formal/smart outfit (college holds some formal events and conferences)
- Boots/Comfortable Shoes
- Sport clothes
- Sport shoes

Health 101

- Towels
- A bathrobe
- Shower slippers
- Toiletry bag (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, shampoo, shower gel/soap.. the basics)
- A laundry bag

Make your life practical

- A laptop (if you do not have one, the school has some you can borrow but these are usually allocated to students most in need) with UK Lead/charger.
- A pair of earphones
- An adaptor (if the plugs at home are different from the ones in the UK)
- An alarm clock
- A graphical calculator (T-84 plus, T-Inspire, you can buy those from the college at a cost of approx. £90 but please do not buy again if you have one The college can provide calculators to students who are most in need)

Make your life cool

- Your flag (the bigger the nicer)
- Your national costume
- Your musical instrument if you play
- Sheets and pillow case from home, if you want to make your room cosier (sheets and cover are provided)
- Favourite photos/posters from home (you have a nice pinboard)