**Introduction**

If you would like to have the opportunity to ‘do something different with your life’, maybe require practical experience to aid your studies, then come to Elidyr Communities Trust as a volunteer.

There is also the chance to make new friends from different countries and cultures, explore interesting new places, 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.

Volunteers provide our residents the opportunity of meeting other young people from across the world and offer valuable peer support and friendship. They live, learn and socialise together, with the support and supervision of our core staff.

We have moved forwards from the traditional Camphill experience and anthroposophical theory is not currently part of our routine training. We do provide a breadth of training and learning experiences for volunteers including Total Communication, sign-assisted language, and social care induction. Our core values reflect a progression of our original Camphill ideals.

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

**What Will You Do Here**

Elidyr CT is a residential college for young people with special educational needs.

Our volunteers provide our residents the opportunity of meeting other young people from all over the world. They offer valuable peer support and friendship to our residents as you live, learn and socialise together, with the support and supervision of our core staff. Being a volunteer can be a very demanding role both emotionally and physically, but we believe it is rich and rewarding.

You will help out with activities either in the classrooms, craft workshops, on the land or forestry, alongside the residents. In the houses you will be able to help the residents with their daily tasks and independent living skills while 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 organise trips to the cinema, leisure activities and tourist attractions.

In most cases our volunteers adapt quickly to our way of life and enjoy their time with us at Elidyr CT, 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 Will We Offer You**

During your time at Elidyr CT you will receive food, basic toiletries and free accommodation, (your own single room) which includes bed linen and towels. You will share a communal bathroom, kitchen and living space with other volunteers.

If you stay for a period of one year we will also pay for your return flight home (subject to the cheapest available flight.)

You will be entitled to two days off a week. Please note that you do not have the same amount of holidays as the residents, and all holiday plans are to be discussed and co-ordinated with your house managers.

We will provide free but limited internet access.

We welcome and encourage any artistic gifts, especially musical. We will provide training in related areas e.g. introduction to care, basic first aid, health and safety, food hygiene etc.

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 Do 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 residents 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 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 recognise 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 year, as it takes time for the residents 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 a whole year.

As a new 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 do not permit illegal substances on our premises.

**Other Information**

Visa nationals will have access to our to the UK National Health Service in this country subject to having paid an Immigration Health Surcharge when applying for their visa to join us.

Elidyr CT 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 and ophthalmic check-up before coming and any requirements are met before arriving with us. We will pay for emergency dental work only. Please note that dental and ophthalmic care is not free on the National Health Service.

We recommend that your tetanus vaccination is up to date before joining us. You may also decide to have a hepatitis vaccination.

Family or friends are welcome to visit you BUT you must ask permission from management before making any arrangements.

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. Wales has an average temperature of 22 Centigrade in the summer and it can be icy in the Winter. You are welcome to bring any musical instruments that you own, providing you transport them at your own expense.