



**TOOLS
FOR
UWC CHANGEMAKERS**



**Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
28th April – 2nd May 2026**



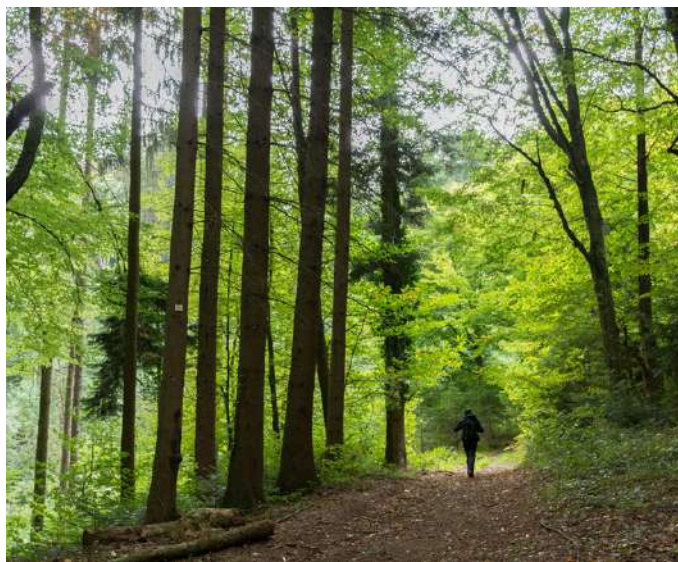
ABOUT

In a world where so much feels uncertain, what difference can one person really make? Many of us feel a growing discrepancy between our working lives and the deeper values that truly motivate and inspire us.

Tools for Changemakers is a values-driven development course grounded in the long-standing principles of UWC: personal responsibility and integrity, respect for the environment, celebration of difference, personal challenge and idealism. These principles form the backbone of the program's approach to finding agency and creating community impact.

The course consists of an intensive 5-day in-person workshop in Freiburg, where participants take a deep dive into experiential learning, reflection, and practical skill-building. The structure is designed not just to inspire, but to sustain real change and includes workshops and collective action as well as time to stop, breathe and reflect together. You will leave with a toolbox full of ways to turn the desire for change into tangible action within your community, whether that is a project you work on on your own or together with other participants - connection is the heart of the course.

If you're ready to realign your skills with your values and to translate intention into meaningful action we invite you to apply to Tools for Changemakers. This is your opportunity to grow, connect, and create impact where it matters most.





Tools for Changemakers is a breathing space to imagine, play and work together, and to learn the methods that can help us to develop viable projects to create the world we want.

This course is for you if

- you see injustices and problems around you and that you would like to address but are not quite sure where to start.
- you want to become clearer on your purpose and identify the values you want to strengthen in your life.
- you want to explore how to leverage your life experiences, skills, knowledge and influence to affect the change you want to see.
- you want to learn tools that help groups imagine solutions and make decisions together in a non-hierarchical and equitable way.
- you want to become part of a community committed to building a better world.

By the end of the course you will have

- a clear understanding of the strengths, experiences, skills and attitudes you and other participants bring to making the world a more just, sustainable, abundant and peaceful place.
- a positive road map for how to challenge the issues you see around you.
- clearly identified ways of bringing change to both your own life and your community.
- the practical and inter-personal skills to make these ideas a reality.
- the skills to build community and create spaces for productive, equitable and inclusive exchange.
- lasting connections with other participants and the wider UWC movement.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is structured around five themes that align closely the values that drive the United World College movement.

DAY 1: WELCOME AND WEAVING

Who is in the room? What has brought us here?

DAY 2: ROOTING

How do we relate to the world around us? (This day takes place at UWC Robert Bosch College)

DAY 3: AGENCY AND AFFINITIES

How do we identify and gather collaborators? Where does our agency lie?

DAY 4: CONFLICT AND COMPLEXITY

How do we navigate complex problems, imperfect solutions and difficult conversations?

DAY 5: RESILIENCE, REWORKING AND REFLECTION

How do we create meaningful change in our own communities?



What is the United World College movement?

United World Colleges (UWC) is a global movement that makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. Since 1962, the United World College movement's aim has been to inspire young people to put their talents and energy into driving change around the world. For the first time, this UWC Short Course offers this opportunity to adults in the midst of their lives.



Meet the Changemakers Team



Elisa Engel (Lead Facilitator)

Elisa is a UWC alumna, having attended Waterford Kamhlaba, the UWC of Southern Africa in the 1990s. As an architect, she has built her career around empowering communities to co-design their urban environments and creating international networks and collaborations with project partners in Sub-Saharan Africa. As an educator she focusses on teaching participatory methods to a new generation of changemakers. This course is rooted in her training in experiential learning techniques at the Kaospilot School of Social Entrepreneurship in Denmark and builds on 10 years of teaching, including her module on Effective Activism on the Post-Graduate Course in Advanced Architecture at the Arts University Linz, Austria.

Elisa developed Tools for Changemakers together with Katherine and they lead the first edition of the course in 2024 in Exeter.



Katherine Leat (Lead Facilitator)

is an architect specialising in socially responsive, community-led development and holds a postgraduate diploma in Global Development and Humanitarian Practice. She has worked in private practice, for the international development charity Article 25 and for the London Legacy Development Corporation. She is a co-founder of Citizen Architects. The practice re-located to Exeter in 2021 and refurbished the then derelict Old St Leonards Church Hall to create a studio and community space to support bottom-up initiatives by providing a welcoming and affordable space for community projects in Exeter.

Meet the Changemakers Team

Marie Caffari (Guest Facilitator)



lives in Switzerland and has been involved in the UWC movement ever since she graduated from UWC Atlantic College in 1986! In 2006, she co-founded the first creative writing degree programme in Switzerland, at the Bern University of the Arts, where she taught until 2023. Having spent many years working with young literary writers, she now teaches French language and literature at a state secondary school in Bern. Her personal and research interests focus on writing, literary processes and dialogue. She enjoys coaching, observing and supporting students in diverse educational settings and she is happiest when they develop their own creative learning strategies.

At Tools for Changemakers we will guest facilitate workshops on how to think and write together in groups.

Julian Eiler (Assistant Facilitator)



Is a garden and landscape therapist, farm educator, social worker, and alternative practitioner for psychotherapy, working at the interface between people and nature, because we are all part of the same ecosystem. In his free time, he can be found in forests, on mountains, or by the sea.

On this edition of Tools for Changemakers, Julian will support the lead facilitators throughout the course and document our work together through beautiful photographs. He will also guest facilitate workshops on connection with nature, mindfulness, and nonviolent communication.

LOCATION

The course will take place in Freiburg im Breisgau on the edge of the beautiful Black Forest in Southern Germany. Freiburg is known as a progressive city where many grass root initiatives aim to show in practice what an inclusive, thriving community living in harmony with its natural surroundings might feel like.

We will be based at the International Youth Hostel just outside the city, located on the banks of the river Dreisam, right next to the forest. Accommodation will be in small dormitories, and we will take our meals at the youth hostel.

For some of the course duration, we will also have access to a typical German forest hut. Here we will spend time immersed in nature and enjoy an evening around the bonfire on our last night together.

One day will be spent at UWC Robert Bosch College, meeting with staff and students and helping out around the college garden.



DETAILS

When?

28th April to 2nd May 2026 (arrive 27th April, depart 3rd May)

Where?

International Youth Hostel Freiburg

Kartäuserstraße 151

79104 Freiburg im Breisgau

Germany

Who?

Tools for Changemakers has been designed as the first in-person UWC short course specifically for adults.

Participants under Erasmus+ funding criteria must be between 18 and 30 years of age. We are inviting a multi-generational cohort of curious minds to think and learn together. Applications can be made through our partner organisations (Spain, Lithuania) or directly to the UWC German National Committee.

Cost

The course fee is EUR 100,- which totally covers accommodation and catering. Travel reimbursements are available for applicants who require them. Guest participants that don't match our Erasmus+ funding criteria (over 30; not from Spain, Lithuania or Germany) are asked to cover their own travel and accommodation.

Questions?

For any questions about applications or logistics, please contact Lorenz at: lorenz.seibl@uwc.de