LAIDLAW SCHOLARS · LEADERSHIP IN ACTION · SUMMER 2027

LiA 2027 with United Through Sport, St Lucia

Spend six weeks of summer 2027 with United Through Sport (UTS) in St Lucia, as one of 3–4 Laidlaw Scholars. You'll coach local children and help build resources that strengthen UTS's volunteer coaching.



Football session, summer 2026

I'm Arthur, a Durham History student in the 2025 Laidlaw cohort. I did my LiA with UTS's St Lucia team from 17 July to 28 August 2026, writing a coaching handbook for its incoming volunteers. As Sustainability Lead, I'll help you prepare, link you with UTS and support you on site.

At a glance

Six full-time weeks with UTS in summer 2027, for 3–4 Laidlaw Scholars. Places and dates are confirmed with UTS.

PARTNER
United Through Sport (UTS), St Lucia programme

WHERE
Gros Islet and Castries area, northern St Lucia

DATES
Fri 16 July to Fri 27 August 2027, full-time

PLACES
3–4 Laidlaw Scholars, plus me as Lead

YOUR LIA
A project you propose for UTS, from resource banks to media; UTS will help you deliver it

YOUR LEAD
Arthur Bloyce, Durham (UTS LiA, summer 2026)

Register your interest by Friday 11 December 2026

Fill in the expression of interest form (about 15 minutes) and keep your Programme Manager in the loop. Scan the code or go to forms.cloud.microsoft/e/EW0FqPgKDr

Why this work matters

New UTS volunteers arrive every fortnight and are thrown straight into coaching sessions. A returning group with shared resources helps each of them deliver well from week one. UTS uses sport to support young people from disadvantaged communities, and has run its St Lucia programme since 2011 (see UTS's St Lucia page).

In 2026 I developed its first formal coaching handbook for volunteers, and worked across the full range of sessions UTS delivers and partners with. Working together, I hope we can build a team legacy that supports UTS's delivery and local connections, and builds awareness of its work. Whether or not you've coached before, I hope there's a chance for mutual growth here too!

Ideas for your LiA project

Your LiA is a project you propose and deliver for UTS. UTS are happy to work with you on your own idea and help you put it into action. These are themes where they'd especially welcome support:

UTS'S TOP PICK

Session plan and activity resource bank

Build a shared catalogue of tested sessions and games that new volunteers can use straight away.

Local partnerships

Strengthen UTS's links with schools, clubs and sports bodies.

Promotional media

A substantial film, photo or written piece or series about UTS's work.

Review and resources

Gather feedback on delivery and turn it into practical resources, such as updates to the volunteer handbook.

Alongside your project, you'll deliver sessions throughout your stay, and you decide how central coaching is to your LiA. Sessions include adventure sports, basketball, cricket, football, netball, rugby, sailing and swimming.

You'll shape and agree your proposal with UTS and me before you travel.

A typical week

Two to three sessions a day, five days a week. Timings can change at short notice.

- **Monday to Thursday:** camps, nurseries and schools in the mornings; clubs and community groups later on.
- **Saturdays:** morning sessions, then a quieter day.
- **Fridays and Sundays:** days off, with brilliant optional excursions such as Carnival, hiking the Pitons and Marigot Bay (typically £25–60).
- **Project time:** around sessions and on days off. UTS are flexible on how much you need.
- **Support:** UTS's full-time coordinators and local coaches, plus a coaching induction and mentoring from me.

Who might thrive here

Anyone willing to learn who brings energy and purpose to their sessions, sporty or not. Experience in a sport UTS runs is a bonus.

You'll enjoy it if you like working with children of all ages and abilities, can adapt a game on the spot, want to learn from local coaches, and would value living with a team of volunteers. Media, research or partnership skills are a plus for project work.



A multi-sport session on a community field, summer 2026



Coaching one of the youngest players, summer 2026

Practical details

- **UTS accommodation fee:** £1,595 for six weeks, covering the guesthouse, breakfast, session transport and airport transfers. The deposit is due at least 2–3 months before travel; the balance can very likely wait for your Laidlaw stipend.
- **Living costs:** from about £100 a week; I'd budget £150–200 for food, transport and days out. Flights and insurance are separate.
- **Guesthouse:** 10–20 volunteers, air conditioning, WiFi, a cleaner and social space, 5 minutes from the beach.

Support from your Lead

Before you go, I'll help with logistics and with UTS, and check in as you develop your LiA proposal so it works for UTS, your university and you. I'll share contacts and make sure you're as prepared as possible to have a good impact.

On site, I'll check in on your project, support your coaching, and open doors through the connections I made in 2026.

FAQs

How does the application process work?
Register through the expression of interest form by Friday 11 December 2026. If places are oversubscribed, there may be a further selection step in early January. Once your place is confirmed, you'll work with your university to get project approval, funding and insurance in place. Then we're a team of 3–4, ready to move forward.

Can I come for part of the six weeks?
No. The LiA runs for the full six weeks, Friday 16 July to Friday 27 August 2027.

Will you book my flights or accommodation?
No. Once you have a place and approval, I'll send the booking steps and a recommended flight.

What if circumstances change?
I'll tell you promptly, check with UTS and your Programme Manager, and confirm in writing.

Who do I contact with a concern about the Lead?
Your own Programme Manager.

How to express interest

1. **Fill in the expression of interest form by Friday 11 December 2026.** It takes about 15 minutes, and it's what I'll use to select the group.
2. Ask me anything by email, or at the LiA Virtual Fair on Wednesday 18 November.
3. Keep your Programme Manager in the loop.

Scan to open the form

Contact: arthurbloyce@gmail.com
Read more: my first-week reflections, my final reflections, my impact report and UTS's St Lucia programme.