



L-Università ta' Malta Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre

Invitation for Schools to visit Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre

Recently the botanical section of the Argotti gardens underwent extensive rehabilitation. The history of this garden is intricately linked with the study of botany, natural history and some of the medical sciences. The garden botanical collection originated to about 1676 as a physic garden located in the ditches of Fort St Elmo and it was connected with the study of the Medicine and Surgery at the Order's Infirmary. In the early 1800s the botanical collection was transferred to various gardens in Floriana, before finally being located to the garden that had belonged to the Bailiff Ignatius de Argotte y Gusman. The University has had possession of these gardens since 1855, except for a brief period between 1973 and 1996.

To promote the educational value of the gardens, an invitation is being extended to schools for organised tours throughout this scholastic year. The aim of the school visit is that of an educational outing to familiarise students with plants, shrubs and trees and the landscape in which they grow. They will learn about different plant parts and the lifecycle of a plant. Students will be able to observe plants living in a Mediterranean type climate including endemic and indigenous plants and observe plant diversity and adaptations to different habitats.

Guided tours are adapted to students of different age groups, ranging from Year 3 pupils to Year 11 students and beyond. Visits last about 1 to 1.5 hours.

Groups should not exceed 25 students. Each group must be accompanied by at least one teacher. Two or more groups from the same school may be accommodated in the same morning. The tours shall be held every Wednesday and Thursday morning and are strictly by appointment. There will be a €25 fee per group.



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ARGOTTI BOTANIC GARDENS
University of Malta Section
Triq Vincenzo Bugeja, Floriana
opposite Sarrija Church
Tel: 2340 7875/6/7

Application Form – School Visit to Argotti

Please fill in this form and send it by email to:

argottigardens@um.edu.mt

Name of School: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Approx. age of Students: _____ Class: _____

Approx. No. of Students: _____

Name of accompanying teacher/s: _____

Time of tour: Please tick as applicable:

9:30am – 11:00am

11:15am – 12:45pm

or

9:30am – 10:30am

10:45am – 11:45am

12:00pm – 1:00am

For other arrangements please contact us by email

Suggested date for visit: _____

To note:

- You will receive a confirmation email or by phone once the date is booked. You will be contacted to find an alternative date if the date suggested is not available.
- Visit date is subject to availability and weather conditions on the day. It is a good practice to contact us by phone early on the day of the visit.
- It is advisable that tours are 1 hour for younger students. Please note that for every two groups from the same school coming on the same day this will entail waiting for the first group to finish.
- Read the Health and safety guidelines before visiting the gardens.

Health & Safety Guidelines for School Children Visits at Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre

1. Visits to laboratories or workshops

No students are allowed in the laboratories or workshop.

2. Emergency evacuation

It is of utmost importance that the person responsible for the school children will have available a list of names of students they are supervising in the case of an emergency evacuation. If such an emergency were to occur, University staff will guide the school children and staff to the nearest exit.

3. Emergency equipment and signage

During the visit the supervisors are to ensure that the firefighting equipment or emergency signage are not tampered with.

4. First Aid

Although First Aid equipment is available at the University, it is important that at least one (1) of the supervisors is trained in administering First Aid.

5. School children with particular health conditions

It is important that supervisors are fully informed about any school children who may have chronic health conditions which can be worsened if they visit areas due to sensitization, by low levels of contaminants in air, or in some other way. Please note that as a garden, a number of animals and insects make their home here, such as bees and cats.

6. Care in garden

All visiting students and staff are to be strongly advised not to touch any plant and not to put any plant material in their mouths.

7. Safe near ramparts

Student supervisors are to exercise extreme caution and care when visiting the Mediterranean garden and they prohibit students from approaching ramparts.

8. Further provisions

While it is a commitment of the University of Malta to provide a safe place for students during visits to University premises, it is the Head of School or organising body that is responsible to:

- (i) Send an adequate number of supervisors to accompany the students, i.e one (1) supervisor for every fifteen (15) students;
- (ii) Ensure that supervisors do not allow students to wander unattended; and
- (iii) Ensure that groups of visiting students abide by directions and information given to them by University staff responsible to guide the visit.