



L-Università ta' Malta

Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre



Argotti Summer Programme 2026

We are pleased to offer a range of educational and interactive activities designed specifically for summer school groups. Through hands-on learning and creativity, students will discover the fascinating world of plants within the unique setting of the Argotti Botanic Gardens.

1. What is Argotti? (30 min)

Students will enjoy a guided tour introducing the history of the Argotti Botanic Gardens and exploring what makes a botanic garden unique. Along the way, they will discover the relationship between plants and their environment, learn about plant diversity, and observe a variety of habitats and collections.

2. Hexagon Art Puzzle (30 min)

Each student (or group) will be invited to create a decorative hexagonal tile using natural materials such as dried leaves, flowers and seeds. Once completed each tile will be added to the collective Summer 2026 puzzle, creating a unique artwork representing all participants.



3. Bees & Honey (30 min)

Students will learn about the structure and functioning of a honeybee colony, including the three different types (castes) of honeybees: workers, drones, and the queen. They will then participate in a role-playing activity simulating the behaviour and organisation of a hive.



4. What's in the Water? (20 min)

Water may appear clear and empty, but it contains a hidden world of life. Students will examine water samples under the microscope to explore the importance of microscopic ecosystems. They will observe unicellular organisms, filamentous algae, and other microscopic life forms that are invisible to the naked eye.

5. Composting (20 min)

Composting is nature's recycling system for nutrients. In this session, students will learn about the science behind the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio and will set up a simple vermicomposting system using earthworms.



6. Planting (20 min)

Students will explore different methods of plant propagation, followed by a hands-on activity involving root division. Each student will take home their propagated plant.

7. Mystery Box (20 min)

Students will be presented with three boxes containing different plant parts or related materials. They will have the opportunity to feel the hidden objects and try to infer what they might be. After each object is revealed, related information and discussion will follow.



8. Treasure Hunt (30 min)

Following the activities within the Argotti Botanic Gardens, students will take part in a short outdoor treasure hunt at the Outer Argotti or St.Philip's Garden. Working in groups, they will use a question sheet to navigate the garden and find answers within a set time limit. The team with the most correct answers wins.

Argotti Summer Programme 2026

Application Form

The visits are held Monday to Friday between 8am and 1pm and are strictly by appointment. Price is €3 per student. You shall receive a confirmation email once the date is booked. You will be contacted to find an alternative date if the date suggested is not available. Before submitting this application, please make sure to read our Data Protection Policy and the Health and Safety Guidelines found in this form.

Institution Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact No.: _____

Email: _____

Approx. age of Students: _____

Approx. No. of Students: _____

Suggested Date for visit: _____

Starting Time: _____

Please suggest intended starting time between 8am and 11am

Programme for visit:

Activities 1 and 2 are included to all visits, you may or may not select another one or two activities from the remaining list.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| ☒ | 1. What is Argotti? | ☐ | 5. Composting |
| ☒ | 2. Hexagon Art Puzzle | ☐ | 6. Planting |
| ☐ | 3. Bees & Honey | ☐ | 7. Mystery Box |
| ☐ | 4. What's in the Water | ☐ | 8. Treasure Hunt |

Please note that duration of each activity is only indicative. Visit should not be longer than 2 hours.

☐ I have read and agree to adhere to the Health and Safety Guidelines.

☐ I have read and agree to the Data Protection Policy.

☐ I confirm that I am authorised by the school to grant consent on behalf of the parents/ guardians of the students attending this visit, for Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre to take group photos of the students during the visit. These photos may be used solely for educational or promotional purposes by Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre and may be shared with authorised officials of the visiting school for internal educational purposes. Images will not be shared with any other third parties.

Data Protection Policy

The personal data provided in this form will be processed by the Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre for the purpose of organising and administering your school's visit, including contacting you about bookings and related arrangements. The legal basis for this processing is the performance of a service requested by you.

We will retain this information only for as long as necessary to manage the visit and related administration, and in any case no longer than one (1) year after the visit. Your information will not be shared with third parties unless we are required to do so by law.

Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre may take group photos of persons visiting the gardens during these visits only where consent has been granted in advance by the authorised school representative on behalf of the students' parents/guardians. If any student or school official should not be photographed, it is the responsibility of the authorised school staff to inform Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre prior to or during the visit.

You have the right to request access to, and rectification or erasure of, your personal data, to restrict or object to its processing, and (where applicable) to data portability. If you have any queries, please contact us at argottigardens@um.edu.mt. You may also contact the University's Data Protection Officer on dpo@um.edu.mt. If you are not satisfied with our response, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC), Malta.

Health & Safety Guidelines

1. Visits to laboratories or workshops

No student is allowed in the laboratories or workshops.

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.

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 (swar)

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

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.