

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

2026

QUEST
Africa 

Find Your Direction.

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OUR PHILOSOPHY: Forging Capable Humans

Quest Africa revolves around values-based 'action-learning'. We provide school leavers and young people with a rare opportunity to discover who they really are and where they should be going in life. Our approach is as simple as it is demanding: we trade the classroom for the real world.

Here, participants are tested by authentic challenges, shaped by a tight-knit community, and forged into physically and mentally strong, confident 'can-do' characters who graduate with a real edge on their peers.

"While the rest of the world prepares young people for exams, Quest prepares them for life itself."



OUR CLASSROOM: An 850-Hectare Wilderness

Established by Falcon College in 2010, our home is the Quiet Waters Wilderness Estate—an 850-hectare private conservancy in Zimbabwe. This is our living, breathing classroom.

It is a secure, natural wilderness home to an incredible diversity of wildlife, from giraffe and zebra to a prolific range of birdlife, providing the perfect environment for real-world learning.





OUR MENTORS: A Team of Experts

The Quest team is a small, passionate group of facilitators with a wealth of experience in leading and inspiring young men and women. Led by CEO **Ali Conn** and Programme's Director **Japh Mpfu**, the team provides daily guidance and mentorship.

They are supported by a network of specialist trainers, from Professional Guides and environmentalists to successful entrepreneurs from across Zimbabwe.

OUR FOUNDATION: A Base for Growth

Our campus is built for purpose. Students are housed in comfortable, safari-style tents with en-suite facilities, fostering a strong sense of community. A well-equipped, purpose-built Technical Centre serves as the hub for practical skills training.

Camp is the base. It provides comfortable accommodation, full dining facilities, and ample communal spaces designed for socializing, downtime, and building the team dynamic.

Quest operates on the **2000-hectare Quiet Waters Wilderness Estate**.

It is a secure, game-rich environment that offers the freedom of the wild with the safety of established protocols, including direct access to professional medical care and the Falcon College sanatorium.

Furthermore, our unique partnership with Falcon College (**just 1.5km away**) provides full access to their world-class facilities, including a swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis, squash courts and several sports fields where team games (such as touch rugby) are often played.

When possible, the Quest students can play senior Falcon teams.

Quiet Waters Base Camp



QUEST MODEL

SIX ACUMENS. One Transformation.

The Quest programme covers a wide range of learning areas or 'acumens' which overlap and complement each other. The key acumens include:



PHYSICAL

Summit mountains, kayak rivers. Build fitness that lasts



NATURAL

Track wildlife, study ecosystems. Learn to read the land



TECHNICAL

Weld, build, repair. Master practical, hands-on skills



MEDIA & VISUAL

Photography, digital communication & personal branding



SOCIAL

Join teams, host events, and master presentation skills. Coach youth. Lead with empathy.



BUSINESS

Pitch ideas, manage budgets. Bring real enterprise to life





‘PHYSICAL’ ACUMEN



A wide range of activities including off-road cycling, abseiling, kayaking, orienteering, rock climbing, physical training and body strengthening, basic healthcare and emergency technique are covered. Physical training of some sort takes place almost every morning at 6 a.m.

Quest has an experienced fitness coach, who aims to demonstrate and encourage a desire to keep fit. Quest carries out a lot of mountain biking and adventure activities. Questors personal fitness is measured at the start and end of the course culminating in a fitness report. Questors complete the PACMED First Aid Course receiving a Certificate.



‘NATURAL’ ACUMEN



Our African heritage means that this is a significant part of the program and is ongoing throughout the course. Fortunate with our own game park, we can study common flora and fauna in a personal, hands-on interaction at our own pace and without interruption. An Equestrian experience is available.

Visits to game ranches and neighboring farming enterprises give the participants a deep and personal insight into the delicate balance of life in the wild and what conservation and sustainability mean in the African environment. Visits to National parks, World heritage sites and top conservancies are made.



This acumen provides a grounded general knowledge in essential technical skills.

Whether heading to university or straight into a career, the ability to work with your hands—from basic mechanics to construction—builds a level of self-reliance and problem-solving capability that is vital for life in the modern world.

‘TECHNICAL’ ACUMEN



Indoor and outdoor digital photography including the use of photographic editing software. Videoing techniques, editing and production of film clips using appropriate software.

Use of social media, including importance of personal branding and responsible use. The value of social media in business is also considered.

‘MEDIA’ ACUMEN





‘SOCIAL’ ACUMEN

Includes Public Speaking, Presentation Skills, and Debating; Etiquette, Wine Tasting, Cooking, Community Work, Personality Profiling, and Career Advice.

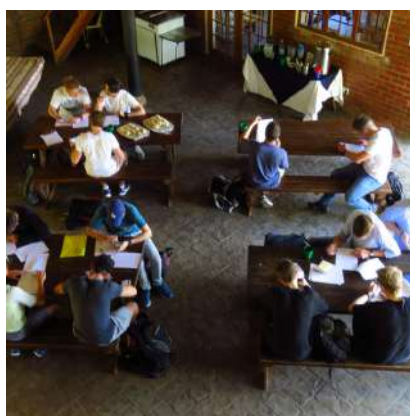
Quest works on experiential learning which requires regular reflection on lessons learnt in ‘action’. Journaling is used to record this progress and serves as input into a ‘Personal Development Plan’, which is a required deliverable towards the end of the programme. This acumen also includes ‘Stewardship’ – a real awareness of the natural and social environment and the importance of community service and environmental sustainability.



‘BUSINESS’ ACUMEN

Entrepreneurial skills, profit and loss statements, personal finance for non-financial people including basic book-keeping and budgeting, marketing, branding, HR and the management of simulated businesses are covered.

The intake is divided into smaller groups all of whom select appropriate projects where financial monitoring and presentations, both written and visual to the board are essential.



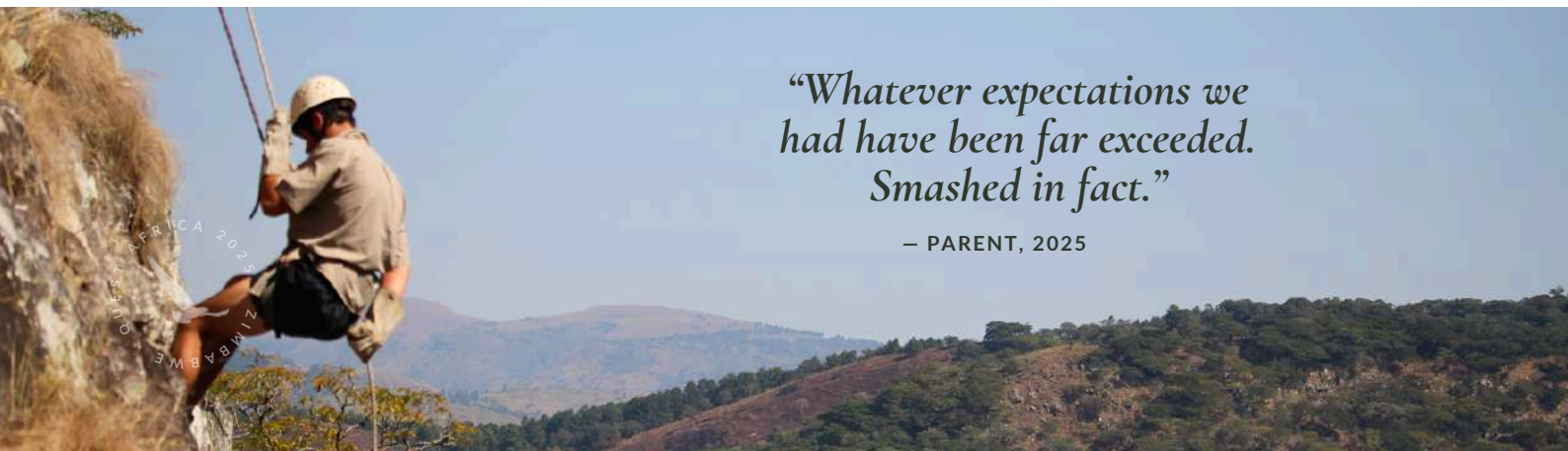


CHOOSE YOUR QUEST

Every journey is different. We offer a range of immersive programmes designed to meet you where you are and take you where you need to go.

From our flagship **full-year experience** to our intensive **8-week launchpad**, each programme is a life-changing investment in your future.

MEN'S CORE	CORE CLASSIC	MIXED CORE	LIFECAMP
A 7-Month Quest	A 3 Month Extension- The Specialization	A 4.5-Month Co-Ed Journey	An 8-Week Foundation
Our most immersive programme, designed for young men ready to master their craft and forge their future.	**For Men's Core Programme Students to continue.	A dynamic co-ed experience focused on building the collaborative skills essential for the modern world.	The Quest experience, LifeCamp is a shorter, intensive specialized course run 2 to 3 times per year
Duration: 7 Months (Jan-Aug)	Duration: 3 Months (Sep-Nov)	Duration: 4.5 Months (Aug-Dec)	Duration: 8 Weeks
For: Young Men, 17-21	For: Young Men, 17-21	For: Young Men & Women, 17-21	For: Young Men & Women, 17-24



“Whatever expectations we had have been far exceeded. Smashed in fact.”

— PARENT, 2025

QUEST AFRICA 2025
ZIMBABWE

MEN'S CORE: A Full Transformation

This is the flagship Quest Africa experience. Our most immersive programme, running from January to December, is designed for young men aged 17-21 who are ready to build profound independence, leadership, and the essential life skills that shape future leaders.

This could be a two-part journey:

Part 1 : Men's Core The Foundation (7 Months)

You will join a tight-knit brotherhood in our legendary Men's Core programme. You'll build a broad foundation of capability through our 6 Acumens—mastering everything from mechanics and welding to financial literacy and expedition leadership.

Part 2: Core Plus The Specialization (3 Months)

Having earned your foundation, you can progress to the **Core Plus**: a 3-month apprenticeship where you move from student to junior colleague, specializing in an area like advanced field guiding or project management.



MEN'S CORE

DATES: Dates TBD for 2027

PRICE: International: **USD 18,000.00.**
SADC Countries **USD 17,000.00.**

CORE PLUS

DATES: Extension to Men's Core

PRICE: International: **USD 4,925.00.**
SADC Countries **USD 4,500.00.**



“Quest Africa has been the best period in my life and I know for a fact that the lessons I learnt here, the experiences I had, the places I saw, the people I met, and the things I did, both easy and tough, will stick with me for the rest of my life and that is something I would never take back.”

-PARTICIPANT, 2025



MIXED CORE: A 4.5-Month Co-Ed Journey

Forge your future, together. The Mixed Core is a 4.5-month co-ed journey for young men and women ready to build a foundation for their future in a collaborative environment.

This programme is designed to forge the character, skills, and collective spirit that modern universities and employers are searching for.

In this unique environment, you will learn to leverage different perspectives to solve complex problems, communicate effectively, and lead with empathy.

Built on our proven 6 Acumen framework, your 5 months are a deep dive into holistic capability, from technical skills in our workshop to leading expeditions across Southern Africa.

DATES: August - December 2026

PRICE: International: **USD 11,500.00.**
SADC Countries **USD 10,500.00.**



“I have learned that personal growth is not about becoming someone completely new; it is about uncovering who you truly are and having the courage to live that truth. I still face fears and temptations, and there are times I struggle. But now I also have the tools, the mindset, and the vision to move forward.”

-PARTICIPANT, 2025



LIFECAMP: An 8-Week Foundation

This isn't a gap. It's your launch.

The Quest LifeCamp is the Quest experience, distilled. It's an 8-week journey designed to forge the confidence, clarity, and real-world capability that university doesn't teach.

Based at our stunning wilderness campus, you will join an intimate group of just 12 pioneers. This is a hands-on, action-learning experience built on our 6 Acumens.

You'll learn practical skills in our workshop, manage a real expedition budget, and receive professional coaching to help you find your unique strengths and a clear direction for your future.

You're not buying an experience. You're investing in 8 weeks that shape the next 60 years.



DATES:

JAN-MAR

JUN-JUL

OCT-DEC

PRICE:

USD \$5,900.00



“During his time with you he spoke to me regularly about his journey. He learned that life is rarely fair, and that the true path is always lined with self-doubt and challenges. But he also learned how to listen. How to be of service. How to push past his perceived limits. And perhaps most importantly, how to find value in everything and everyone he encounters.”

-PARENT, 2025



FREQUENTLY ASKED Questions

Q. What do I need to bring?

Upon acceptance, you will receive a comprehensive kit list covering essential requirements. On the Men's Core programme, mountain bikes are required—these can be brought by the students or purchased through a dealer in Zimbabwe.

Q. What is the dress code, are there uniforms?

There is no formal uniform per se but students are required to purchase some Quest branded clothing.

Q. What does a "typical day" at Quest look like?

At Quest a typical day starts at 6am, usually with some form of physical training. Formal activities commence at 8am and finish by 4.30pm followed by sport activities until dinner at 6.30pm. There may be evening talks or activities, and there is access to TV and other recreational facilities. Unless they are on field trips, students have Saturday afternoon and Sunday to themselves and can embark on bush/birdwatching walks, fishing, mountain bike excursions or relaxation. On the men's core course approximately 10 weeks are spent on field trips around Zimbabwe and to the neighboring countries of Malawi and Botswana.

Q. What is Falcon College?

Falcon College is one of Zimbabwe's leading co-educational boarding school based in the heart of Matabeleland approximately 40kms south of Bulawayo, the country's 2nd largest city. The curriculum follows the Cambridge system leading up to 'A Level' with most of the leavers moving to universities in South Africa and the UK.



QUEST PROGRAMME INFORMATION 2026



Q. What's the link between Falcon and Quest?

Quest Africa is owned by Falcon College and founded by the College. The Falcon College Trust felt that the College game park was an ideal location to host a unique 'gap year' programme for school leavers. Based on hands-on, practical learning in an outdoor oriented environment, Quest operates as a separate entity and is answerable to a committee that reports to the Falcon Board.

Q. How long has Quest been open, how many students have you had, what is the age range and can it be extended, has anyone failed?

Quest is in its **15th year** having run its first course for 12 in 2010. Since then over **600** students have passed through the doors. Over 70 girls are included in this total and is rising significantly with the success of the 4 ½ months mixed core course. Students are aged 17 to 21 but on rare occasions 16 and 22 years olds have been accepted. Each intake averages 30 with a maximum of 35 students.



Q. What sort of projects does Quest engage in?

An integral component of the course requires groups of students to plan and complete their own projects under the guidance of a mentor. Recent projects have included: design and construction of solar shower; design and construction of a fully functional toilet/ shower unit, preparation of a wildlife booklet using Q codes, marketing video, international marketing trips, construction of an aquaponics tank, rebuild of an old vehicle and fund-raising events for local communities and charities.

Q. What charities are Quest involved with?

Most of the charity work is carried out in the local community with particular emphasis on the rural schools who are very short of resources. Recent involvement has included 'Riding for the Disabled'. Farther afield, for the last 5 years, Quest has worked with 'Cool Runnings' an organization in Malawi (see their Facebook page) where we work with local schools using skills learnt and developed at Quest.



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Q. What do graduates go on to do?

Upon graduation from Quest, students head off in different directions and generally pursue further education in academic institutions or take specific vocational training in other career paths. Many go on to universities in South Africa, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, and Germany. Others have gone on to diverse careers including entrepreneurship, commercial pilot, working on super yachts, documentary making, Scuba instructor, field guide and many more. Also, we have a former Quest graduate working at Quest.

Q. What is the current mix of students?

Our current intake came from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Germany, Singapore, Mauritius, USA, France, Australia and UK with the majority from South Africa.

Q. What facilities are on site?

Accommodation is in 3–4-man safari tents each with their own shower, toilet and hand basin. Hot water is provided by solar and/or wood burning geysers, maintenance of which is the responsibility of the occupants. Other support buildings are brick and concrete with thatched roofs. They include a recreational area, central lecture area, dining room and kitchen. The property also has 2 luxury lodges which are kept for visitors and guests (usually parents or friends of the students). There is also a well-equipped workshop for technical skills training. Tap water is safe to drink, all food is included in the fee and is prepared by two professional chefs to a diet designed for the rigors of the programme. Students are given instruction in health and food preparation and cook for themselves at weekends.

Q. What wildlife is likely to be seen?

Students regularly see many 'plains game' including giraffe, wildebeest, impala and zebra. Bird life is excellent. This is best seen from horseback and there are eight horses available for trail rides once the students have demonstrated competence in riding.

Q. Are visas required?

Study visas are required and are arranged by Quest. This involves a fair amount of paperwork and adequate time must be allowed for this in planning – usually 2 to 3 months.





Q. What about transport?

Quest has its own 25 seat over-lander truck, a 22-seat bus, and several pick-ups. If required Quest has access to the vehicles at the College. Quest provides transport to and from Bulawayo international airport at no extra charge unless a private arrangement is requested.

Q. What medical facilities are available?

All staff are qualified in first aid. Falcon College is just 5 minutes from Quest and has a well-equipped school sanatorium where 2 fully qualified and experienced nurses are available 24/7. Bulawayo, where there are hospitals and access to doctors and specialists, is 50 minutes away by good sealed road. Medical insurance is the responsibility of the students. Quest is not in a malarial area but when travel is to risk areas prophylactics are required. The supply of these is the student's responsibility, however Quest will provide guidance and can assist in purchase should that be necessary.



Q. What communication facilities are available?

Quest is covered by mobile phone and access to the internet is provided via 4G services. On campus, Wi fi is available to students, however usage is limited and students who require additional time can purchase vouchers which are available from Quest.

Q. What sport/social facilities are there?

Quest has full access to Falcon College facilities which include extensive sports facilities- tennis, squash, basketball courts, pool, gymnasium, cricket nets and several full-size playing fields. There is also a school tuck shop which sells a range of snacks and basic toiletries if required. Quest also has its own bar which, supervised by facilitators, is run by the students.



Q. What about access to town to do shopping?

Students are expected to arrive with everything they require for the course as trips to Bulawayo for shopping are infrequent but do happen. However, intakes spend a lot of time away on field trips around Zimbabwe and other Southern African countries and these provide opportunities to 'resupply' when needed.

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Q. What is the curriculum?

The Quest syllabus covers a wide range of skills but there is insufficient time to formally qualify students in all areas and only receive formal certification in first aid. However, they do receive Quest certificates of completion for each of the other skills areas and a comprehensive report covering all acumens with their final Quest Diploma.

Q. What is your approach to safety and supervision?

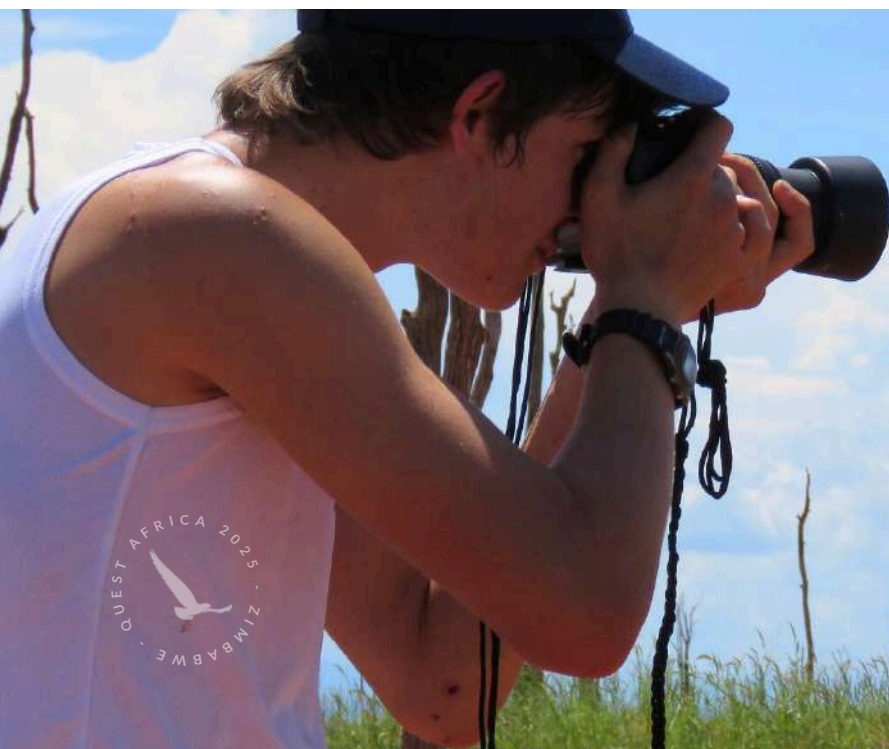
A participant's safety is our priority, backed by a 15-year impeccable record. Our campus is a private, 850-hectare managed wilderness estate, and all activities are led by certified professionals. Crucially, our partnership with Falcon College provides access to their world-class medical facilities, ensuring professional support is always just minutes away.

Q. How can we stay in touch?

While we encourage a "digital detox" to help participants be fully present, the campus has mobile phone coverage and Wi-Fi is made available at specific, scheduled times so students can connect with family and friends back home

Q. Where can I find out more information?

Both Quest Africa and Falcon College have their own websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn, Instagram, Tik Tok and there are several videos on YouTube.



“Where potential becomes capability — in the world’s most transformative environment.”

START YOUR QUEST



The journey of a lifetime begins with a single conversation. We believe in a personal approach, getting to know each applicant to ensure Quest is the right fit.

If you are ready to trade the classroom for the real world and discover what you are truly capable of, we invite you to get in touch.

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