



## Frequently Asked Questions

**I'm a fiddler, and although I support the vision of the Féis and Slighe nan Gaidheal, I don't intend to become a Gaelic speaker any time soon. Will I be welcome to speak English at the Féis?**

Yes. Although the mission of Slighe nan Gaidheal is a language-driven one, the last thing any of us want to do is frighten off our friends. We also want to make sure that those who *do* speak Gaelic feel comfortable doing so. This is the solution we have devised for this event. Help us find out if it works, and how to make it work better:

We have created a Gaelic phrase sheet and CD that we will be sending to every registered participant. We encourage all Participants to listen to the CD and try out the phrases before the Féis. There will be many opportunities to practice during the week! You will also receive a set of language preference buttons when you check in. You'll be able to let people know by wearing them which language you would prefer to use at the Féis at any time.

**I'm having problems picking a major because I don't play an instrument, can't dance, can't carry a tune and I'm bad at languages. What do I do?**

On the surface it may look like the Feis is mostly for Gaelic scholars and musicians, but there actually will be lots of classes that anyone with an interest in Gaelic culture would enjoy. Dr. Michael Newton will be providing classes throughout the day that focus on Gaelic poetry, literature, and history, all or most of which will be presented through the medium of English.

**May I sign up for instruction in one of the major areas as one of my electives?**

No. We've received much feedback both from participants and presenters indicating that drop-ins can disturb the focus and progress of major-subject classes. As an alternative, we have asked our presenters to develop their elective offerings with non-majors in mind, so that you will have the opportunity to sample other subjects in a way that will be friendly and comfortable to all involved.

**I live near Port Townsend. Do I still have to pay for and use Fort Worden accommodation?**

No. If you live near Fort Worden and would prefer to sleep at home, we understand. Four-day registrants may deduct \$60 from their registrations, and two-day registrants may deduct \$36. Meals, however will still be included, and all participants are encouraged to take meals together and remain at the site to participate in evening activities.

**I don't play the clàrsach, fiddle or pipes, but rather the accordion. If I come to the Féis, what will I be doing?**

Instrument specific instruction is being offered for our three focus instruments, however any instrumentalist can benefit from attending classes in any of these instruments to learn repertoire and stylistic techniques. All instrumentalists will be on equal footing at our *Battle of the Céilidh Bands* competition. Also, all instrument players will benefit from attending Gaelic Song classes, since the melodies of these songs are known to be among the most beautiful in the world.

**Does the linen service include a change of sheets and towels during the time we are there at the Féis?**

Linen service includes fresh towels daily, but only one set of sheets.

**The registration form doesn't list the electives. When will I get to choose the rest of them?**

The Féis committee is working with the Presenters to finalize our class offerings right now. If you have any ideas or specific requests, please e-mail them to [feis@slighe.com](mailto:feis@slighe.com) or phone 206.903.9452 and leave us a message. Once the class schedule is finalized, we will mail out a course catalog to all registered Participants along with a worksheet you can use to select your classes.

**Is there any free time built into the schedule? Will I have time to explore Port Townsend during the Féis?**

We encourage all Participants to take time before or after the Féis to explore Port Townsend. It is truly a hidden treasure of shopping, dining and history. The schedule for the Féis, however, is designed to keep you engaged and growing day and night! Don't miss a minute of it.

**Will Fort Worden accommodate my dietary restrictions?**

Yes. Fort Worden is fully able to accommodate any reasonable dietary restrictions. If, after the information about dietary restrictions are communicated to Fort Worden, questions arise, we will inform Participants immediately.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I'm frightened by the word "Fort" and "State Park." Exactly how primitive are the accommodations?**

While the residence buildings at Fort Worden are somewhat rustic, they are by no means primitive. Both single and multi-bed rooms have locking doors, are clean, and similar to college dorm rooms. Restrooms are shared, but close by, clean, and roomy. Bring a robe and slippers and you'll be just fine.

### **Will there be a secure place to store my instrument?**

Yes, we will be able to store instruments in a building that will be locked at night, if you don't wish to have the instruments in your room with you.

### **What are the directions to Fort Worden?**

Directions to Fort Worden are available via a link from our website, [www.Slighe.com](http://www.Slighe.com). Directions and a map will be included in your registration packet.

### **Can someone pick me up at the ferry?**

Unfortunately, our limited resources don't allow us to provide this service, however we will include numbers for relevant public transportation in your registration packet. You'll make it!

### **Can I park my car there at Fort Worden?**

Why, yes you can!

### **Can I bring my Pets?**

Unfortunately, pets are not allowed at Fort Worden.

### **How much walking and/or stairs are going to be involved?**

Fort Worden is a full access facility, and there is an elevator in the main classroom/céilidh building. There are stairs and ramps in the dormitory buildings. If you have any special needs, please let us know and we will make your room assignments accordingly. There is a fair amount of walking between buildings, but not more than the equivalent of a couple of city blocks. If you enjoy walking, there are many wonderful places to explore, including a lovely beach right by the housing!

### **Will I have any opportunities to perform/be forced to perform?**

Participants will be encouraged (not forced!) to participate in playing/singing/dancing/listening at the evening céilidhs. It will be a wonderful chance to show off what we've all been learning as well as the talents we bring to the Féis.

### **Will class sessions be recorded and will I be able to purchase those recordings? Can I bring my own recorder/camera/video camera and record/film classes and /or céilidhs and performances?**

Féis staff will not record class sessions, however if you wish to record the classes you attend, please check with the Presenter first. You are, of course, free to bring cameras, still or video, to the Féis. Please be sensitive when using flash photography when people are performing, and please do not record or photograph the Friday evening concert.