WHY CHOOSE A UWC EDUCATION?
OVERVIEW

UWC’S MISSION IS TO MAKE EDUCATION A FORCE TO UNITE PEOPLE, NATIONS AND CULTURES FOR PEACE AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

The values-based learning environments in our schools and colleges allow our students to be united, instead of divided, by their differences.

We inspire our alumni to become leaders in social responsibility and achieve change personally, locally, nationally and internationally. We value strong academic achievement but also work more broadly on developing the knowledge, values and skills that will shape our students as well-rounded people.

The IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma Programme is a rigorous and internationally respected qualification which forms the core curriculum of our pre-university programme. The IB Diploma reflects the UWC ethos of providing students with a well-rounded education, which includes supporting social, physical as well as academic development.

All UWC schools and colleges offer broad extra-curricular programmes, including community service work, which far exceed the core requirements of the IB.

Upon leaving UWC our students often secure places and scholarships at some of the world’s best universities, as well as creating positive impact in their communities and chosen fields. Amongst our alumni we count presidents, astronauts, doctors, scientists, film directors, writers, teachers, aid workers and lawyers, as well as many other professions.

A UWC education prepares an individual to succeed in a modern, globalised world encouraging an international outlook, a commitment to service and a compassionate eye with which to view the world’s challenges, we prepare our students to create a more peaceful and sustainable future.

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We know that, for a parent or guardian, nothing is more important than the welfare of their child or ward.

At UWC we support our students every step of the way academically, socially and residentially. All of our IB students live in shared accommodation, most often on campus, and receive support from in-house ‘parents’ and college counsellors. At UWC we offer our students an education which embraces academics, service, leadership, physical pursuits, creative expression, vocational learning and living together.

Students live together in single sex dormitory-style accommodation, share study space and eat in communal cafeterias. Whilst each of our colleges is unique and has individual attributes and merits, they are united in providing an outstanding, international education in a secure and supportive environment.

At UWC we believe opportunities for different peoples and cultures to interact and share experiences should be at the core of a student’s time in one of our schools or colleges. Almost sixty years ago, during the Cold War, we began our mission to encourage interaction and understanding between conflicting peoples. With the end of the Cold War and the new forms of conflict which followed, we still believe that creating constructive dialogue between differing viewpoints and ways of life is crucial for a more peaceful and sustainable future, which is why it is still a part of everyday life at UWC. Our alumni are passionate about their UWC education and often maintain strong links with their school or college and with each other once they have graduated, feeling that they are part of a global fellowship committed to bringing positive change to the world. Our mission and values stay with them and guide their decisions throughout their lives.
Most UWC students are selected through our unique national committee system. Our mostly volunteer-led national committees are present in more than 155 countries, and run selections based on the local educational and cultural context. While each selection process is different, we are always looking for students with the following qualities:

• Intellectual curiosity and motivation to learn about the world around oneself
• Active commitment to act on one’s own beliefs accordingly and responsibly
• The ability and readiness to interact with other people
• Resilience, personal responsibility and integrity
• Passion and ability to contribute to and actively promote UWC’s values

Our students are typically 16 or 17 years old when they join us to study the two-year IB Diploma Programme and our bursaries, scholarships and fee structures ensure a broad socio-economic mix within our student bodies. The UWC Admissions Policy states that we aspire to meet all demonstrated financial need of our students, recognising that we cannot offer a scholarship to every student, nor will every student need one. Each national committee will have slightly different practices but families may be asked to complete a financial assessment as part of the application process. You can learn more about this at the information sessions in your country. Applications are made to the UWC movement rather than an individual school or college, and successful applicants will be offered a place based on what most suits the needs of the student, family and the school or college. Our national committees support the students and their families throughout the whole application process.
WHAT DOES A UWC EDUCATION MEAN?

“One of the most striking things about UWC is the mindset – everything is possible and one person can make a difference.”

Jill Longson, Vice Chair of the UWC International Board

“Students who undertake a UWC education are remarkable in their resilience, remarkable in their passion for life and remarkable in their desire to work for a positive future.”

Laurence Nodder, Head of UWC Robert Bosch College

“UWC empowers students to take action and it is so much a part of school life that my children now feel it is entirely normal to regularly use their time and energy to help out others.”

Fleur Thomas, Mother of students at UWC South East Asia

“Flags of countries far away have been replaced by the faces of our peers.”

Natasha Siyumbwa and Kristoffer Uldahl, UWC Red Cross Nordic graduation speech

“The virtue and the strength of UWC is that it provides small, but powerful cells of innovation, catalysts for change, breaking barriers of habit and opening broader vistas of experience for both pupils and educationalists.”

Nelson Mandela, Honorary President of UWC

“The fundamental values of a UWC education are increasingly relevant to global stability and peace and I truly believe that the world will be a better place because of the contributions of our alumni.”

HM Queen Noor of Jordan, President of UWC
At each of our schools and colleges students study six subjects, three at higher level and three at standard level. Subjects are divided into groups and students choose one subject from each group. The groups are: Studies in language and literature, Language acquisition, Individuals and societies, Sciences, Mathematics and Arts.

There are also three core parts of the IB Diploma programme:

**The Extended Essay** – a 4000 word essay on a subject of the students’ choice.

**Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** – This explores the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.

**Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)** – Involvement in artistic pursuits, physical activity and community service. At UWC, community service is a highly valued part of education and CAS activities go far beyond the requirements of the IB Diploma.

You can find out more about our schools and colleges, information on how to apply and contact details for your national committee on our website. Each UWC has its own course structure within the IB diploma programme and you can find out more about the courses they offer on the school and college websites, details of which are also available from the UWC website.

www.uwc.org