

# UWC International Policy

## Admissions Policy: IB Diploma Years

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UWC has a unique admissions system with national committees operating in more than 150 countries and territories around the world. The vast majority of national committees are run by volunteers.

Residential students, where eligible, are selected by either a national committee, via the Interim International Selection Programme (also known as Global Selection Programme, GSP) or via direct entry into a small number of UWCs which run direct admissions predominantly into their pre-IBDP programmes.

Irrespective of the application route, students are selected for a place at a UWC school or college on the basis of demonstrated promise and potential based on [UWC's core selection criteria](#).

### A. UWC admissions principles:

- (1) UWC schools, colleges and national committees seek to build deliberately diverse student communities, drawing applicants from a variety of socio-economic, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds and experiences, as well as from different nationalities and from communities that reflect tensions within and across societies (e.g. refugees and internally displaced persons).
- (2) The UWC movement aspires to attract to our schools and colleges students of demonstrated promise and potential irrespective of their background and to meet all demonstrated financial need. To determine the financial needs of every student a financial assessment has to be carried out.
- (3) National committees aspire to identify candidates across the socio-economic spectrum, including students who don't require any financial assistance.
- (4) UWC admissions shall be on the basis of selection processes that operate in accordance with UWC selection policies.
- (5) Admissions strategies will comply with the statutory, regulatory and inspection frameworks under which each individual school and college operates.
- (6) Proposed new schools and colleges will submit an admissions strategy that is in line with this policy as part of the new school and college approvals process.
- (7) The timing of the admissions process will meet the needs of all UWC stakeholders (schools, colleges, national committees, UWC International and applicants).
- (8) All UWC students regardless of how they are selected and regardless of their financial contributions are part of the UWC movement.

## B. All admission routes:

- (1) Students must not make more than one application to UWC (including to the GSP) concurrently. Making more than one application could result in a rejection of all applications. Admissions staff at schools and colleges with direct admissions will check with the appropriate national committee(s) and the GSP that the student is making only one application.
- (2) The minimum and maximum age is set by the schools and colleges. National committees may set their own, as long as they are within these parameters.
- (3) National committees are encouraged to receive applications both based on residency and nationality. Where there are legal or funding restrictions, individual national committees will set eligibility criteria as widely as is feasible. These criteria will be reported to UWC International on an annual basis.
- (4) Schools, colleges and national committees shall not discriminate in favour of or against those who have had a family member attend a UWC.
- (5) UWC schools' and colleges' admissions strategies will take into account the interests of national committees and other schools and colleges in addition to their own admissions needs. UWC schools' and colleges' admissions strategies should reflect the requirement for balanced representation, regionally, socio-economically and otherwise, across all schools and colleges, and the relative capacities of national committees.
- (6) Schools and colleges will submit their quoted fees to UWC International at a set date, to be agreed, prior to each new intake of students into IBDP. The quoted fee will include tuition, room and board, books, IB examination registration fees and field trips for the purposes of fulfilling the school's or college's curriculum and will be set for the full duration of the IBDP programme at a time (per entry class). Under exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the school or college (e.g. inflation, devaluation, financial distress, laws or regulations), fees can be adjusted after Year 1 for students going into Year 2. Schools and colleges are required to notify UWC International of such adjustments without delay, providing information that explains the adjustment so that UWC International can inform and guide other stakeholders. The setting of the fee for students selected via the Global Selection Programme is at the discretion of each school and college and follows the same process and timeline. For UWC International-administered scholarship programmes fees will be agreed in accordance with donor conditions and with a view to actual cost per student calculated as gross expenditure for IBDP divided by the total number of IBDP students and an adjustment for day students where appropriate.
- (7) Acceptance of contributions from the families of selected students must be fair and transparent and in accordance with UWC guidelines. The UWC financial assessment form should be used wherever possible.

## C. Admission through the national committee system:

- (1) Students who apply to a national committee apply to the UWC movement and have access to scholarship funding based on means testing (financial needs assessment).

- (2) National committees shall aspire to promote and select for all places offered to them by schools and colleges with the understanding that schools and colleges will take into account their particular circumstances and offer places accordingly.
- (3) National committees shall actively promote UWC to encourage representation from regions and social groups that reflect diversity including socio-economic diversity within their country, including refugees and internally displaced persons where these communities exist, and which reflect the wide range of tensions among and between peoples. This diversity should be seen in both the applicant pool and the selected candidates.
- (4) After selection has been completed, national committees shall aim to match places from individual schools/colleges to students based on demonstrated financial need. Financial need is the difference between the resources of a family and the cost of a place at a UWC school or college.
- (5) National committees can pool funding and reallocate as long as they have obtained the consent of the relevant schools and colleges and UWC International.
- (6) All national committees must complete the UWC Nomination Form and any other required documentation for each nominated student by 1 April each year.
- (7) A national committee is encouraged to send qualified students to the clearing process, run by UWC International between early April and early May each year, also completing the UWC Nominations Form and any other required documentation.

#### D. Admission through direct application:

- (1) A school or college may actively seek and recruit direct applicants in the following circumstances:
  - (a) The model or circumstances of a school or college require it to recruit students directly. This must be agreed with UWC International and declared. The relevant national committees will be informed if a student from their country is admitted.
  - (b) From time to time, if a school or college is targeting a specific group to increase diversity, national committees must be made aware of the school or college's intention and invited to participate in the selection process. This must be agreed with UWC International.
- (2) Where a school or college operates direct admissions into IBDP1, a student ('they') will only be permitted to apply directly to that school or college in the following circumstances:
  - (a) They are unable to pay the full fees of any school or college participating in the Interim International Selection Programme (also known as Global Selection Programme) *and* they meet the eligibility criteria of *neither* the national committee in their country of residence *nor* those of the national committee in the country of their nationality
  - (b) They are unable to pay full fees *and* they live in a country with no national committee *and/or* have a nationality of a country with no national committee *or* are otherwise ineligible to apply via the national committee of their nationality or residence
  - (c) They are the child of a UWC staff member and are eligible to apply on that basis

- (d) They are a younger-year UWC student who wishes to continue into IBDP1 at their current school or at another UWC and either (a) or (b) above applies.
- (3) Any UWC school or college which operates direct admissions shall select all directly admitted students in a competitive manner that reflects the UWC values and mission. Once they are selected, and as appropriate, national committees will be encouraged to support the students from their country in preparing them for UWC.