This is the story of the 5-year long journey of United World College Dilijan that is still unfolding.

This is a story of challenges, moments of joy, personal achievements and staggering discoveries of people who embody the spirit of UWC Dilijan.
UWC Dilijan is a diverse international community working towards a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world through a challenging education based upon high academic standards and strong intercultural understanding. The College is an integral part of Dilijan and Armenia, and aims to have both a transforming personal effect as well as make a positive local and regional impact. UWCD strives for excellence in an innovative and inspirational educational experience within a joyful, open multi-cultural community that will contribute towards a peaceful and sustainable future.
It is a world where talented, multifaceted and well-educated people become the epicenter of progress. A world where the integration of diversity will eradicate the dividing lines of the past that triggered conflict amongst people and communities. A world where traditional hierarchies have found a harmonious balance with new networks, all based on trust. All this may sound like a dream, but such a world is a distinct possibility. In fact, its foundations are being laid here and now.

A few years ago, a group of people with a common vision united around the idea to build a unique school in Armenia. Their dream was for talented and socially active teenagers from various countries, often in conflict with each other, to study and grow together, to become future leaders of change under the wise and caring guidance of their teachers and mentors. Everyone from this group believed this vision was possible, however crazy it seemed, and contributed greatly to its realisation both financially and intellectually.

Five years ago, our common vision became a reality when UWC Dilijan opened its doors to its first students and we were delighted to share this long-awaited moment with you. This year our “common child” celebrates its first landmark birthday as we all follow its progress full of hope and pride. Every child needs a degree of independence but also careful and caring guidance of parents and teachers to develop and grow. And so, the success of our school primarily depends on its community — the students, their parents, teachers and staff. And we, the founding patrons, governors and trustees, donors and friends — everyone who cares for the future of this “child” — will always be ready to lend a helping hand.

We would like to thank all of you for being with us and hope that our community will only keep growing, moving towards the future we see so clearly.

Yours sincerely,

VERONIKA ZONABEND
AND RUBEN VARDANYAN
on behalf of the Board of Governors
and Trustees of UWC Dilijan

How do we see the world of tomorrow?
During the 5 years of its existence, UWC Dilijan has been home to more than 500 students from 105 countries. Behind these numbers there are inspirational personal stories such as the Yezidi refugee who experienced significant hardship in his personal life, the young man who could barely speak English when he joined us and is now studying in one of the world’s best universities, or two students whose grand uncle, a French vice-admiral, rescued more than 4,000 Armenians in Musa Dagh in 1915.

A walk around the shops in Dilijan shows products – such as Asian noodles – that I suspect were not there not that long ago. Our host city has changed a lot in five years and Dilijanians are now used to having students from all over the world amongst them. Our presence is having an impact here, in the region of Tavush and all over Armenia.

We are a community living and learning together with an ever-growing number of alumni who have also become ABCs (Armenians by Choice) and ambassadors of Dilijan and Armenia around the world. Many of them return to Armenia as volunteers and interns to give back to our College. More and more of them are now graduating from universities and will start to work in a myriad of places inspired by their experience here.

So what is next? As Head of College, I sometimes wish I had a crystal ball that would allow me to look at the future. Every time I think that I conclude that it is better not to have it, and to engage all the stakeholders in conversations about the future of our College. We are working with our Board on a new Strategic Plan that will guide us. Meanwhile, we have become the first member of the Council of International Schools in Armenia and are preparing to undergo their accreditation. We are working with the other UWC schools and colleges developing a new curriculum that we believe will fit better the needs of our future students. We are expanding our student support services. We are reviewing our sustainability as a community... and the list goes on. Why? Because we want to be a caring and learning community that is committed to continual improvement. Let me conclude, therefore, with a call to all of you to be part of our planning for our UWCD.

GABRIEL ERNESTO ABAD FERNÁNDEZ,
Head of College

What next?
OUR STORY

In 2014, impact investors and social entrepreneurs Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend, with the support of other Founding Donors, established UWC Dilijan, an international boarding school located on the ancient Silk Route and at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East and Russia. It became the 14th United World College among the 18 schools and colleges now established in the global education movement. The Founders’ aim was to bring the transformational power of education to young people from diverse geographies, cultures and backgrounds. They envisaged creating a school that combines the best practices of today’s education and embodies the future of education.

The founders, together with an international group of people who believe in the power of education, financed the school construction and the start-up costs of up to $180 million, making the investments that would result in a high-engagement and long-term approach to creating social impact. They also ensured the quality and sustainability of the infrastructure.

"You must believe in your dreams! You have to believe that anything is possible! You have to believe that you can change the world! You have to believe that everything is in your hands!"

RUBEN VARDANYAN, FOUNDER OF UWC DILIJAN
My help for the school is a need to express my sincere gratitude for taking care of the vitally important period of a child’s life when all the basic views, character traits, abilities and skills are being formed under the guidance of mentors and teachers, when a child begins to realize himself or herself as a person and determine his or her own way.

It is the modest contribution to the development of a civilized society where current students will be able to fully realize their talents and needs, with enormous benefit to themselves and to others.

VLADIMIR AVETISSIAN, Founding Patron of UWC Dilijan

I remember the enthusiasm of the people who came from all over the world for the inauguration of UWC Dilijan, all infected with this wonderful idea of trying to make a better world through education.

ELISABET ENGELLAU, Member of the Board of Governors of UWC Dilijan

I proudly support many UWC students and I am especially thrilled to contribute to UWC Dilijan due to their abiding appreciation for Armenian culture.

DR. NICOLAUS WEICKART, Benefactor of UWC Dilijan
Every teacher in the world has one dream in their life, and that is to start and open a new school. After 15 years or more of teaching, I was lucky enough to have that experience here at United World College Dilijan. And arriving as the first group of teachers and the first cohort of UWC students in a school with nothing in place — white walls, no culture, no previous history that will shape or form you, was a transformational experience.

That year, not only did I interact and feel that a real community was emerging, but the level of idealism and the fact that we had a blank canvas to produce, design and develop any of our ideas, shape and construct from nothing something really meaningful and valuable.

And that is something that is unique and one of a kind and only happens once in your life. It cannot be repeated, and even after 5 years of being here, I still have nostalgia and remember how incredibly powerful it was, how, with just a building, we managed to create a whole culture and a way of being, a way of living together and learning from each other.

JAIME MIGUEL NIEMAN GONZALEZ,
Global Politics teacher, USA
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

UWC Dilijan’s grounds extend over 8 hectares of sloping and wooded countryside, located in the Dilijan National Park. The college’s architectural design aims at providing access to knowledge anywhere at any time through technology that fuels a continuous, relevant and adaptive learning environment. The highest international standards, most advanced environmentally friendly and renewable technologies employed in the construction include harvesting of natural springs, using rainwater for irrigation and recycling of greywater.

UWC Dilijan has received numerous awards for the quality of the construction, including BREEAM sustainability assessment certification, prizes at the 2016 FIABCI World Prix d’Excellence Awards and the Build School 2017 Silver Award.

“Simply building an international school in Armenia was too easy, so I decided to do things differently. My thought was, ‘I am not building an international school in Armenia, I am building an Armenian international school’. That’s why the architecture is informed by Dilijan, and contains many traits of the town’s own historical architectural tradition, which was influenced not only by the Armenian culture but the Georgian as well.”

TIM FLYNN,
Founder of Tim Flynn Architects, the architect of UWC Dilijan
There is something truly extraordinary in these types of environments where you are encouraged to think as big as you want to, and while there are a few of those in the world, they make a very big difference.

HOVHANNES,
Armenia, UWCD’17
UWC DILIJAN IN NUMBERS:

- 55% of students on partial scholarships
- 31% of students on full scholarships
- 229 students from more than 88 countries
- 388 alumni from 105 countries
- 80 staff
- 45 from Armenia
- 36 teachers from 15 countries, 3 from Armenia
Like all UWC schools, UWC Dilijan adheres to a principle that everyone deserves a chance — we are proud that students are accepted based on their abilities and not their parents’ financial situation. Almost all our students are on some form of scholarship, enabling true cultural, geographic and socio-economic diversity. National, cultural and religious diversity within our student body is achieved with the help of the selection conducted by UWC national committees located in 155 countries.

One of my first memories from the college was a speech made by our deputy head. She said: ‘Make sure you always keep in your mind the following — someone is paying 74,000 dollars for you to be here not just to party and have fun’. Wow. It seems to me that before that moment I have never felt such a responsibility on my shoulders. Someone made a huge investment in me. Someone decided that the best way to make this world better is to make a huge investment in ME.

ALEXANDRA, Russia, UWCD’17

SUPPORT FOR UWC DILIJAN:

500+ donors and supporters

$180 million contributed in total for capital costs and operations

$8 million school’s operational budget is met by US$3 million in fees and US$5 million in philanthropic support

$26 million contributed for scholarships

5 YEARS OF GIVING
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ALL DONORS

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• Shelby Davis
• Andrey Donskikh
• Sergey & Alfia Kogogin
• Mark Kurtser
• Ziyavudin Magomedov
Charitable Foundation PERI
• Eduard Sarkisov and colleagues
• Oleg Zhukov

PATRONS ($1,000,000 AND ABOVE)

• Eduard Sarkisov

ARCHITECT
• Tim Flynn

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
• Udo Dagenbach

The list continues on page 22
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• Levon & Ana Afeyan
• Nuna Alekian
• Armenia Group
• Armenia Team
• ARBY Construction
• Armenian General
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• Ameria Team
• Ameria Group
• Levon & Ana Afeyan
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SUPPORTERS
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Alexander Zemtsov  
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Boris Zimin  

UWC Dilijan College also acknowledges the support of the donors who chose to remain anonymous.
UWC Dilijan was the home that provided me with the updated version of my open personality that is looking at the world in an open-critical way. Being a student at UWC Dilijan was a life-changing experience, I can still picture how limited my way of thinking and my willingness to accept new ideologies were. Now, I can clearly see the real tangible outcomes of my actions that developed through my experience here. It always comes as flash memories, seeing charming faces fading gradually when I remember UWC Dilijan. I have seen how all the countries possess a great culture and great citizens; I have realized that everyone deserves the best.

RABIEA,
Aurora scholar, Syria-Palestine, UWCD’2019

If I had to describe UWCD in one phrase, I would say it is a whole world in just one place. And it is really interesting to be here, to see all those different nationalities, backgrounds, ways of thinking. This place has challenged me a lot in a good way. And I learned a lot from my students. I learned that I cannot judge by appearance, even by the way they behave, which I used to do. Actually, you cannot judge by any standards or about anyone because all the stereotypes are broken here. My experience really helped me discover myself and think openly about other people, other cultures, other religions in general.

GAYANE LALAYAN,
Spanish ab initio teacher, Armenia
BEYOND TOLERANCE

I have worked in an international environment before UWC Dilijan. But this one is more genuinely international, there is more equality of experience and it is not the case where people have to adapt to one dominant culture. People can bring their culture and it goes beyond the word tolerance because tolerance means being satisfied and not having objections to other people. But if you are talking about the celebration of difference, you are concentrating much more on learning, opening your own mind, developing yourself as a person by experiencing different points of view and that is a very important part of the daily work that we do together as groups in our classrooms.

SUZANNE GASKELL,
Head of Faculty of English and Learning
Support Coordinator, UK

For me, UWC has always been about shared humanistic values and the desire to make the world a better place. We come here to engage in discourse with people from diverse backgrounds, to learn from each other and to find common solutions to our problems. As the world slips towards conflict, UWC’s model of education remains one of the best antidotes to racism and ignorance.

LIAM GOODACRE,
Philosophy/ ToK teacher, UK
At UWC Dilijan, students follow the IB Diploma Programme — a two-year educational programme primarily aimed at students aged 16-19. The diploma is recognized by universities worldwide with the curriculum taught in English.

**IB Diploma Programme international-mindedness:**

- **Group 1**
  - STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
    - English Literature / Language and Literature
    - Spanish Literature
    - SSST Languages A

- **Group 2**
  - LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
    - Russian, Spanish

- **Group 3**
  - INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES
    - Economics, Geography, Global Politics, History, Philosophy, Environmental Systems & Societies

- **Group 4**
  - SCIENCES
    - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems and Societies

- **Group 5**
  - MATHEMATICS
    - Analysis and Approaches, Applications and Interpretation

- **Group 6**
  - THE ARTS
    - Music, Visual Art, Theatre

**Extended essay**

**Theory of Knowledge**

**Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)** is fundamental to the UWC Dilijan experience and is meant to extend the educational programme and impact. It is focused on student skills development and engaging with the local community and environment.

- **Six subjects** are chosen from Languages, Literature, Individuals and Societies, Science, Mathematics and Arts
- **A range of other languages** (Russian, Spanish) and mother-tonguover
- **Theory of Knowledge** permeates the curriculum and leads to a critical analysis of all subjects
- **The Extended Essay** is a supervised, student-researched 4000-word report on a topic which each student chooses
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

IB World School
First Armenian school to become member of the Council of International Schools (CIS)

90% UWCD students pass the IB exam

79% worldwide average pass rate

47 courses and subjects taught

41 world average

34 average UWCD Diploma score

29 average worldwide

96% University enrolment for graduating classes
MORE THAN LEARNING – THINKING
MORE THAN TEACHING – ENGAGEMENT

UWC Dilijan endeavours to strike a balance between rules and standards, between external requirements and invitations to voluntary participation. Learning cannot be merely intellectual: it must accommodate all aspects of our lives. Accordingly, the curriculum needs to be experiential.

To learn from experience is to learn from success and failure, from things we are fascinated by and things that do not interest us. It is to learn to work as part of a team and to work alone. Experience is not only about formal learning: learning to organise ourselves, to motivate ourselves, to argue with ourselves are all abilities we derive from experience.

Experiential learning is above all challenging and transformative: it takes us outside our comfort zone in a stretch-cycle through imbalance to the unfamiliar and potentially challenging before returning us to balance and comfort. As we repeat this cycle we grow stronger, able to engage with ever more challenging projects as we learn that we can do things we thought were beyond us.

Our classroom is no longer a classroom. It has transformed into something different. It is an educational environment driven by authenticity, empowerment and deep experiential learning. Learning happens through collaboration. My role as a teacher is to facilitate and frame students’ interactions and make sure that the space is one where everyone feels like their presence matters.

JAIME MIGUEL NIEMAN GONZALEZ,
Global Politics teacher, Spain/USA

UWC DILIJAN TODAY

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JAIME MIGUEL NIEMAN GONZALEZ,
Global Politics teacher, Spain/USA

UWC DILIJAN TODAY
Javier is a member of the founding generation of UWC Dilijan students. He now holds a Bachelor of Science degree from UCL, where he will start his academic career as a PhD student undertaking biomedical research.

I remember working on my extended essay and trying to design my own experiment from scratch, learning to be creative and innovative, thinking critically, being efficient — everything that science is about. When I reflect on it now, I realize how much I learned back then and how valuable those early experiences with science were for shaping my future.

The UWC experience is not universal — it will be different for everyone. It is challenging and at times difficult. But having all the different venues to experiment, being exposed to all the opportunities handed to you at that certain age when you learn so much about yourself and others — this is what, I believe, makes it such a beautiful environment. Through my research and lab work, I hope to find new treatments that will have an impact in the future. And this is how I see my contribution to the UWC mission: when within the scope of your own field, no matter big or small, your skills and knowledge are used for any cause others can benefit from — this is what UWC mission is for me.

JAVIER,
Spain, UWCD’16
UWCD is a special place where the unexpected can still come and find you! When several aspects seem to be or make things homogeneous all over the world, something different can surprise you: encounters, conversations, events make time a cloud of possibilities for learning to share experiences and projects. This «happens» in UWCD. Diversity is the key: different people, different cultures, different desires. Learning to recognize the diversity that is in others and inside ourselves and to listen to it can be an immensely powerful transformational experience.

MICHELE GIOVANNI LAQUALE, Pastoral counselor, Italy

I never thought that I would like to become a teacher. My mom, grandmother and two aunts are teachers and when they were talking about students and schools, I was feeling so unconnected to the system where everyone is demotivated and does not have much freedom of expressing opinions. But, interestingly, UWCD has been the complete opposite of what I thought the schools are.

Being a teacher at UWCD is more of a lifestyle than a profession. It is, at the same time, the most interesting and motivating job I could ever have. I remember when I was at school, I was never asked to analyze things critically or express my own opinion. So, I would say that working at UWCD was a chance to develop my own outlook and to facilitate students at the same time. I learned to value my own culture and be open to other cultures. For me, UWCD is a place where you challenge yourself and discover your inner self.

LILIT OBADASHYAN, German ab initio teacher, Armenia
TEACHING CREATIVE THINKING

The Arts Faculty at UWC Dilijan is focused on unleashing its students’ creativity, revealing hidden talents, empowering students to create through collaboration, critical thinking and effective communication of ideas and concepts. UWCD Dilijan offers Music, Theatre and Visual Arts. Staff are all experienced and specialists in their fields and Arts education. They deliver their courses by building on the experiential and holistic ethos of the International Baccalaureate. Working in outstanding facilities enhances students’ potential to produce their best possible work. These include a Black Box, music rooms, visual-arts studios, a dark room, a ceramics studio and a workshop.

One of the main enemies of creativity is fear, whether it is the fear of the unknown or fear of failure. My task as a teacher is to explain that there are no failures, only experiments. We ask our students to keep all of their sketches and experimentation as valuable evidence of the creative process.

YARO ZABAVSKIY,
Teacher of Visual Arts, Russia

For me, the Arts are a travel around the world without a plane ticket. I explore new cultures at different periods and never get bored of how fascinating people’s creations can be.

MARGARITA,
Armenia, 2019

Since my early childhood, I have always been interested in the Arts. I used to paint on absolutely everything — paper, notebooks, even the walls in our house. Visual Arts is the universe where I lose myself and my sense of time. Visual Arts is a reflection of reality, the main purpose of which is to introduce a person to a beautiful, interesting, sometimes even to the inexplicable and contradictory world.

ANAHIT,
Armenia, 2019
OUTDOORS: LEARNING FROM NATURE

I joined UWC Dilijan in November 2016 and since then we have increased the number of outdoor activities. We organise hiking and biking, caving in an amazing underground world, alpine and cross-country skiing, sailing on Lake Sevan, rock climbing, mountain biking, camping and horse riding. Through these activities, the students are not only doing sports and breathing the fresh mountain air but also exploring Armenia and its beautiful nature, meeting its hospitable people. Our trips are also for learning about the environment in a scientific way: biology, geology and so forth. I strongly believe that adventures are the best way to learn.

GOR HOVHANNISYAN,
Outdoor Instructor, Armenia

Classroom studies are just one side of knowledge; the rest comes through learning from what’s out there.

TATJANA,
Austria, UWCD’16

Discovering Armenia was a great experience for me. One of the most fascinating things here is being exposed to such beauty. The harmony in this nature truly has had a great impact on me.

One of the most energizing things for me was the trip to Sisian; we went to an abandoned monastery high up in the mountains. There was a cliff, we stood there with our group, and it was so high you couldn’t see the bottom. I remember the feeling when we were all together standing above that cliff in the beautiful landscape, and that feeling was priceless.

MARIA,
Estonia, UWCD’16.
Understanding teenage thought processes with empathy where needed, commitment to achieve in turn a holistic growth of the pupil, international-mindedness and the ability to put the students first are key to our success in such roles. Crucial support also comes from the dedicated medical team and the college counselor. As a part of the pastoral team, they see that the Toon parents (House Parents) get the best advice for keeping the emotional and physical health of their pupils in shipshape.

Each Toon Parent looks after a certain number of students and assumes the role of a parent figure for them at the college. The relationship is built upon mutual trust. A Toon Parent guides, mentors and acts as a role model for the students, takes a genuine interest in not only the academic growth of the student but also provides the inspiration for personal growth.

MADHUCHANDA BANERJI,
Senior Residential House Parent and Science teacher

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

At UWC Dilijan, every student is a full boarder. In the evenings and at weekends, boarders are in a «home away from home» environment with teachers and staff living in residences attached to the boarding houses.

UWC Dilijan has a carefully designed student support system, that involves adults in the residencies and academic subjects, as well as a medical team, school counsellor and peer support.
UWC DILIJAN ALUMNI: GIVING BACK WITH TIME, TALENT, TREASURE

- UWC Dilijan has four generations of alumni – 388 people from 105 countries. UWC Dilijan graduates continue their education in the leading universities worldwide.

- Universities by geography:
  
  - Canada: 6%
  - Asia: 13%
  - UK: 12%
  - Europe: 6%
  - USA: 68%

- University admissions examples – Leiden in the Netherlands; McGill in Canada; Cambridge, University College London, King’s College and Edinburgh in the UK; Princeton, Brown, Berkeley, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Wellesley, Yale in the USA; and the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

- 25% of alumni return to volunteer. Interns work in UWC Dilijan’s development office as well as in different partner organisations in Dilijan and Yerevan: Central Bank of Armenia, Community Centre, Cafe #2, IDeA Foundation, Aurora. Alumni also come to help with the major events such as UWC Dilijan graduation, Aurora prize, etc.

I still have doubts about my future profession. There are so many paths that opened up for me. I have a clear plan. I will preserve my family values; I will study hard; I will become a well-educated, open-minded, serious life-learner, and one day I hope I will be able to support someone else to keep up this chain of kindness.

ALBERT, Armenia, UWCD’18
BEING A PART OF ARMENIA

Dilijan revival through education, art and culture.

UWC Dilijan has a mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. The ambition is to make an impact personally — on the students; locally — on the Dilijan community; and globally — contributing through the power of education to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world.

UWC Dilijan reinforces the best of Armenia — its hospitable people welcoming a diverse international community enhancing both the school’s and the country’s values. With the opening of UWC Dilijan in 2014, the development of the town received new impetus in the form of creative, talented, altruistic and idealistic students from all over the world who find in Armenia their second home, fall in love with Dilijan and want to give back and contribute to its development.
As I embarked on this journey, which I so foolishly and selfishly thought was going to merely contribute to my own development, I started seeing how the environment around me was changing along with me. Dilijan — the calm and silent town in the north of Armenia, suddenly gained its’ own heartbeat, and day by day that heartbeat became more dynamic and exciting. The residents of Dilijan were getting more engaged and involved in the daily life of the school, whether it would be through open lessons for the locals, football games with the Dilijan community or other activities with local organisations. The school was truly merging with the town, and the local community benefited massively from that. Soon after, I had one of the most important revelations of my life — education was changing people for the better. It was this revelation that pushed me into thinking about the power that UWC gives to each and every one of its students, the power to change people.

HOVHANNES,
Armenia, UWCD’17

While studying in at UWCD, Hovhannes initiated the Dilijan Leadership Camp for international participants. The project that started as a CAS turned into a global initiative organised in partnership with widely recognized educational institutions and organisations. Now Hovhannes is continuing his studies at Minerva Schools at KGI.
UWC DILIJAN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- 37 community projects
- 9000 community hours
- 3000 local children attend activities at UWC Dilijan

- established the annual service day at Dilijan

- 80 public events and festivals in Dilijan
- 280 permanent jobs created at UWC Dilijan
- 1700 temporary jobs created at UWC Dilijan

3000 public events and festivals in Dilijan

37 community projects

9000 community hours
PUBLIC EVENTS IN DILIJAN

Every year UWC Dilijan expands its cultural and educational activities within the Dilijan community and increases the number of events held in the college. The number of residents of Dilijan and the region who come to college on different events from 2014 to 2019 has reached 10,000.
CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE PROGRAMMES

Art and ceramics with the community

These projects are aimed at engaging the community in collaborative artistic endeavours. During the weekly meetings in the UWC Dilijan ceramics studio, the students together with up to 10 locals from Dilijan learn how to work with clay, paint and produce souvenirs. Arts with the Community is a CAS organized on the basis of the Dilijan Community Centre (DCC), founded by Scholae Mundi Armenia and IDeA Foundations. DCC aims at creating a platform of open information and contemporary education, helping local youth to obtain additional knowledge and skills. Collaboration with UWC Dilijan remains an important part of the Community Centre’s programmes.

For me, UWCD first of all is a platform that has had a huge impact on the Dilijan community. The opportunities it gives to youth in Dilijan help them to develop their skills, have intercultural experiences and also provides study opportunities. For me personally, UWCD was a door to a world where I could develop my professional skills. I have been working with students through CAS activities where we held many joint events, and from every student and teacher, I have tried to learn something new to use in my daily work. Communication with people from different countries and backgrounds is one of the key points of personal and professional development.

TAGUHI KHARATYAN,
DCC Volunteer Project Coordinator

“BEING A PART OF ARMENIA”
Cafe #2

Cafe #2 is the region’s first youth and community cafe, founded in collaboration between IDeA Foundation and Tumo Centre for Creative Technologies. This social enterprise brought together local teenagers and students from UWC Dilijan to develop an eclectic space where they could engage and gain their first work experience. Cafe #2 is a base for UWC Dilijan CAS (service in the cafe) and a venue for student concerts, poetry nights, master classes and many other projects.

It is easy to build a school and isolate it from the community. But thanks to the efforts of the founders and donors, Dilijan community got a chance to be part of the UWC movement and develop equally with UWCD. If all these ideas hadn’t turned into reality then I wouldn’t be the person I am now and I’d never believe in a bright future for my town and my community.

After serving in the Armenian armed forces I understood a simple thing. We need a developed country where students would study instead of going to the army. For making changes like this in our country we need changemakers. Students from Armenia who study at UWCD are the ones who will bring the changes into their communities.

VAZGEN,
MUWCI alumni, waiter at Cafe #2
Travel Foodie

Travel Foodie is a culinary project of UWC Dilijan students which aims to reveal Armenian culture and heritage through familiarity with Armenian national cuisine. Culinary master classes organized by students are conducted by professional chefs throughout the city of Dilijan and beyond. One of the venues for this project is Toon Armeni B&B — a modern boutique hotel founded by IDeA, with the aim of improving the range of options available to travellers and creating authentic hospitality and a genuine cultural experience.

MADE platform

MADE is a platform that revives, directs, teaches and encourages artisanal skills among locals. It was created in 2018 by IDeA Foundation with co-funding from the European Union and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of Armenia. Through workshops, community members are taught how to create items that are affordable and sellable. UWC Dilijan students and staff attend MADE workshops as teachers and participants. Their involvement increases the variety of ideas and artisanal products created at MADE.
Sports with the community

As the campus is equipped with excellent sports facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, gym, football field, tennis and basketball courts, UWC Dilijan hosts local youth for sport classes and tournaments. As part of their CAS programmes, UWC Dilijan students participate in and supervise swimming classes for local kids, football classes for girls from the community, dance clubs and many others.

ORRAN

ORRAN is one of the oldest CAS projects at UWC Dilijan. Orran (translated from Armenian, it means «heaven») is an organization that provides a safe space for children in need by acting as a support structure. Students from UWC Dilijan organize educational activities, games and bring donations to help kids from other areas.

Science with kids

Science with kids is a social service CAS that aims at bringing young children as close to the natural sciences as possible. The main objective is to increase curiosity and trigger scientific interest in local children.

Dilinglish project

Dilinglish is a platform through which the students are attempting to make a change in their nearest community by teaching English to the staff children. This initiative has been successful from the very beginning with many local kids attending lessons.
Project weeks at UWC Dilijan

During project weeks, the routine of the college is interrupted for students to undertake projects within Armenia or in the neighbouring countries. This enables students to establish links and cooperate with other organizations, to learn from a number of very different community contexts, as well as to contribute to the town’s development. Students organize workshops and support for local kids and youngsters, renovate houses in the villages, help Armenian orphanages, explore different parts of the country and participate in many other projects that impact the communities of Armenia.

Armenia has become home to me and my family. It means a lot to me, it makes me feel very safe and very happy. I fell in love with Armenian culture, nature, arts and crafts, fantastic food, but above all with Armenian people. Armenians love life and I am learning from them, kamats-kamats (arm. — one step at a time). UWCD has both challenged and guided me throughout the three years I have been here. I think UWCD has enough challenges for anybody who happens to be here, but the key thing is that there are always people around who can support you and help you find the inner strength to first accept the challenges and then overcome them.

YAROSLAV ZABAVSKYIY, Visual Arts teacher, Russia
V I S I O N F O R  D E V E L O P M E N T

Over the 2019-2020 academic year, as the school celebrates its 5th anniversary, it has an opportunity to look back at its achievements so far and to chart the course for the next stage of its development, including:

• Maintaining and improving a world-class quality education aimed at the development of each student’s potential in harmony with an international student body rooted in Armenia

• Implementing the second phase of the school’s campus development

• Maintaining and supporting diversity of the UWC Dilijan student body through scholarships

• Reaching financial sustainability by expanding the college’s support base globally
DILIJAN EDUCATIONAL CLUSTER

UWC Dilijan is envisaged to play a major role in the Dilijan Educational Cluster (DEC) — a strategic programme that will have a transformational effect on the educational system in Armenia and become a regional centre for teaching excellence and educational innovation across science, music, the arts and the humanities. The Cluster will become an open platform for sharing expertise and a methodological centre for the design and implementation of educational innovation.

The Performing Arts Centre is planned to be the heart of musical and social events, as well as become the hub of cultural activity for Dilijan and the region. PAC is a complex multi-functional project designed to the highest international standards. An unprecedented project in the region, PAC will serve a much larger audience bringing renowned international performers to Dilijan.
UWC Dilijan is continuing to look to all who believe in the transformational power of its education to support it by contributing to its operation and ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of this pioneering venture.

Please join us in supporting this unique educational journey

Support the unique UWC Dilijan journey

Support a scholarship programme

Over 70% of our students are on some form of scholarship, enabling a true cultural, geographic and social diversity. The UWC Dilijan enrolment for the 2019-2020 academic year is 229 students from more than 80 countries, with 31% of them on full scholarships of US$74,000 over two years and more than 55% of the student body on partial support.

• Contribute the full scholarship amount of US$74,000 over two years.

Support Student Hardship Fund

While the scholarship covers tuition and all school costs, many students require assistance with travel costs and pocket expenses while at school. Please contribute to the student hardship fund to cover four trips (winter and summer each year) over two years and help the students with their pocket expenses on school trips and outings.

• Depending on the distance to home US$2,000 to $4,000 per year is needed for each student on a full scholarship.

Support Summer School Bursary

UWC Dilijan runs a summer camp. It allows more students to experience Armenia and also give some of them a flavour of what to expect if they apply to UWC Dilijan. To maintain the diversity of the students availing of the summer camp, we provide summer school bursaries to students from disadvantaged families.

• The cost of a two-week summer camp is US$3,000.

Support the Endowment Fund

Currently, the UWC Dilijan endowment fund has about US$60,000. It is of paramount importance to build an endowment that can help the school achieve sustainability while maintaining the diversity of its student population.

Support the Performing Arts Centre

PAC is a multi-functional project designed to the highest international standards. It will contain a Theatre and a Concert Hall, a Dance Studio and a Music School.

• The cost of construction is US$50 million

VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT
Life after UWC has been full of changes. I am studying Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. Saying thank you is by far not enough to express how grateful I am. I would rather show it through my actions. I want to engage in the activities organised in the community not just out of my gratitude and appreciation, but also because I want other people to be given this unbelievable opportunity that I was blessed to be offered.

ALEXANDRE, GEORGIA, UWCD’17

"
Making the world a better place is easier if we join our efforts.

What is a small accomplishment for one, might be a milestone for humanity...

I know for sure that the names of people that I have met here will sparkle again in the future while reading articles under the title: «People who are working to make the world a better place». May we meet again...

RABIEA, Syria-Palestine, UWCD’19
THANK YOU FOR STANDING BY OUR SIDE!

2019