WORLD-CLASS, VALUES-DRIVEN EDUCATION ANCHORED IN THE DIVERSITY
UWC DILIJAN IS THE 14TH MEMBER OF THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGES MOVEMENT WITH A MISSION TO MAKE EDUCATION A FORCE TO UNITE PEOPLE, NATIONS AND CULTURES FOR PEACE AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. ONE OF EIGHTEEN UWC COLLEGES AROUND THE WORLD, UWC DILIJAN IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOL IN ARMENIA FOR STUDENTS AGES 16 TO 18. UWC DILIJAN OFFERS A TWO YEAR IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME. LOCATED IN DILIJAN AT A CROSSROADS OF EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND RUSSIA, UWC DILIJAN SYMBOLISES THE IDEA OF INTERNATIONALISM AND FRIENDSHIP AND IS THE ONLY UWC SCHOOL IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE.

OUR MISSION

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 its ambition is to make an impact:

PERSONALLY - on the students
LOCALLY - on the Dilijan community
REGIONALLY - on Armenia and the Caucasus
GLOBALLY - contributing through the power of education to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world

OUR VALUES

• International and intercultural understanding
• The celebration of difference
• Personal responsibility and integrity
• Mutual responsibility and respect
• Compassion and service
• Respect for the environment
• A sense of idealism
• Personal challenge
• Action and personal example
ARMENIA AND DILIJAN

• A mountainous country in the Caucasus region at the juncture of Asia and Europe lying in the highlands surrounding the biblical Mount Ararat

• The country has a population of less than 3 million people, a million of which live in the vibrant capital of Yerevan

• Dilijan is a 16th century town on the outskirts of a large national park in northeastern Armenia situated between two capitals – 90 km from Yerevan and 200 km from Tbilisi

• It is a safe and hospitable country sustained by closely-knit family ties

• The population of the larger Dilijan community is about 23,000 residents

How do we see the world of tomorrow?

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.

RUBEN VARDANYAN AND VERONIKA ZONABEND
Founders

• The idea of creating the Dilijan International School of Armenia was conceived by impact investors and social entrepreneurs Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend

• The Founding Patrons - Gagik Adibekyan, Noubar and Anna Afeyan, Vladimir and Anna Avetissian - and many other donors from around the world joined the Founders

• United World College Dilijan was officially opened on 11 October 2014
OUR CAMPUS

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 and adaptive learning environment**.

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.

KEY STRATEGIES

- By creating a world-class international school which is part of the world-wide UWC movement, **we put Armenia on the world educational map**.

- By combining world-class facilities with the best teaching and outstanding opportunities for activities in Dilijan and the surrounding countryside, **we create a model for balanced, ethical, internationally-minded education of world-class standard**.

- By integrating the school into the Dilijan community, **we bring the experiences and cultures of over 100 different countries to the city and provide a living window into the rest of the world**.

UWC DILIJAN IN BRIEF

UWC Dilijan is an independent not-for-profit international boarding school overseen by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees. The selection process to the United World Colleges is run by more than 155 National Committees around the world.

- **220 STUDENTS** from more than **72 COUNTRIES**
- **35 TEACHERS** from **16 COUNTRIES**
- **845 STAFF** from **16 COUNTRIES**
- **8451 FROM ARMENIA**

- **31%** of students on full scholarships
- **43%** of students on partial scholarships
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

A UWC education enables students to learn through experience by:

DEVELOPING RESILIENCE
• Encouraging students to move beyond their comfort zone and engaging with new challenges
• Supporting students in recognising their limits
• Allowing them to learn from failures as well as successes

CREATING DIVERSITY
• Immersing students in a culture of international pluralism
• Challenging students with new and controversial ideas
• Fostering open-mindedness, debate and respectful dissent

TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE

At UWC Dilijan, students follow THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME – a two-year educational programme. The diploma is recognized by UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE with the CURRICULUM TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

Please note that the list of subjects might slightly vary. For the exact list of subjects offered for a given academic year please write to admissions@uwcdilijan.am

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

Please note that the list of subjects might slightly vary. For the exact list of subjects offered for a given academic year please write to admissions@uwcdilijan.am
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
The Arts Faculty at UWC Dilijan is focused on nurturing and developing its students’ creativity, revealing hidden talents, empowering students to create through collaboration, critical thinking and effective communication of ideas and concepts.

UWC Dilijan offers Theatre and Visual Art. 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 art studios, a dark room, a ceramics studio and a workshop.

TEACHING CREATIVE THINKING

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 ZABAVSKYIY
Head of Arts, Teacher of Visual Art, Russia

OUTDOORS: LEARNING FROM NATURE

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

TATJANA
Austria, UWCD’16

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
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.

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 counsellor. As a part of the pastoral team, they see that the Toon parents (House Parent) 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.

MADHUCHHANDA BANERJI
Head of Residential Life and Science teacher, India

The school was truly merging with the town, and the local community benefited massively from that. Here 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

Online training for the teachers of the Tavush region about effective online teaching tools

UWC DILIJAN
IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

9000
COMMUNITY HOURS PER YEAR

1700
TEMPORARY JOBS IN DILIJAN

300
PERMANENT JOBS IN DILIJAN
LIFE AFTER UWC DILIJAN

With the graduating class of over 100 annually, UWCD graduates usually choose to continue their education in the leading universities worldwide.

Geographically, about 60% of the students continue their studies in North America, 30% in Europe and 10% in other regions of the world.

Many UWC graduates become Davis Scholars, attending one of the 99 partner institutions in the USA via the Shelby Davis scholarship programme.

UWC Dilijan has alumni from over 100 countries. As part of the programming available, students are offered:

- One-on-one meetings to discuss university & career options and university applications
- Presentations on different aspects of the application processes at universities around the world, e.g. writing personal statements and other application essays, applying for financial aid, etc.
- Visits from university representatives each year
- Interviews with university representatives
- UWC Dilijan is a registered SAT Test Center

Our University & Career Counsellor provides students with individual guidance on planning for Life After UWCD.

As I look to the future, I am incredibly grateful to the college for providing excellent avenues that have given me a strong foundation to gain acceptance to my college of choice, Brown University. I wish to study political science & international relations in order to develop the skills necessary to make change. I want to take my skills back to my community and make efforts in mitigating the gross violations upon human lives caused by socio-economic inequalities.

PRIYANKA
Nepal, UWCD’20

University admissions examples:
Leiden in the Netherlands; McGill in Canada; Cambridge, University College London, King’s College and Edinburgh in the UK; Princeton, Brown, Berkley, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Wellesley, Yale in the US; the University of Auckland in New Zealand

Alumni actively participate in the life of UWCD
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 to make a better world through education.

ELISABET ENGELLAU
Member of the Board of Governors

Coming to UWC has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of myself. It involved separating what I truly feel inside from who I thought I was. This has changed the way I interact with people.

DENZEL
Zimbabwe, UWCD’2020

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.

RABIEA
Syria-Palestine, UWCD’2019

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