

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023/24



ONE WORLD

APPROACHING
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY



UWC DILIJAN IS THE 14TH MEMBER OF THE UWC 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 SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD, UWC DILIJAN IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOL IN ARMENIA FOR STUDENTS AGED 16 TO 19. LOCATED IN DILIJAN ON THE ANCIENT SILK ROUTE AND AT A CROSSROADS OF EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST, UWC DILIJAN SYMBOLISES THE IDEA OF INTERNATIONALISM AND FRIENDSHIP AND IS THE ONLY UWC IN POST-SOVIET SPACE. OFFERING THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME, UWC DILIJAN HAS A STUDENT BODY OF 220 FROM 80 COUNTRIES AND AN INTERNATIONAL FACULTY OF 35 FROM 15 COUNTRIES.



CLASS OF 2024

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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD



“

The 2023/24 academic year marked the beginning of my journey at UWC Dilijan. What I discovered was a dynamic environment with an engaged international community of students, staff, alumni, parents and volunteers, all contributing to a vibrant school life. Like all newcomers to the country, I faced the task of learning about Armenia, our host country. The geopolitical complexity, including the exodus from Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) in September 2023 and the illegal arrest of our Co-Founder Ruben Vardanyan by the Azerbaijani regime, gave me a primer on the situation in the region.

The stories in this Annual Review reflect our academic achievements and meaningful activities. You will find analyses of the IB results and university admissions and descriptions of landmark events such as UWC Day, DiliMUN, and TEDxYouth. There are items connected to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and activities we organised to help the refugees in Dilijan.

Nagorno-Karabakh features among examples of giving too. Founding Patrons Noubar and Anna Afeyan, who have been supporting the school from the very start, provided scholarships for children from the region both, to attend UWCD and the JDI summer camp.

For the first time this year, we include items about the role UWC Dilijan has inadvertently undertaken in representing Armenia globally in events such as the FIRST Global international robotics competition and the World Schools Debating Championships. The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) of COP Climate Change and the BrainBee Armenia and Georgia international neuroscience competition were launched on behalf of Armenia involving local youth. And we continue to take pride in being a site of the Samsung Innovation Campus programmes for Armenian children.

All these stories and more weave a rich fabric of life at UWC Dilijan.

As UWC is new to me, I have immersed myself in understanding its mission, and was fortunate to participate, along with the UWCD delegation, in the UWC Congress in Thailand. To this end, I would like to quote Kurt Hahn, the UWC founder, who said, **“There is more to us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less.”**

”

Adam Armanski
Head of School



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

“

As we reflect on the past academic year, with its ups and downs, successes and challenges, my heart fills with pride. Together with my life partner and school co-founder, Ruben Vardanyan, we have established a truly unique school.

With the location in Armenia, a country still navigating its post-Soviet identity amidst complex political conditions and the ongoing challenges of war and peace, our school's setting is a double-edged sword.

On the one hand, our students and staff gain a profound understanding of the daily struggles of the Armenian people and the efforts to peacefully resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This firsthand experience is an invaluable life lesson. On the other hand, those of us responsible for the school and the wellbeing of our students and staff must remain vigilant and preempt any situations that could pose a risk.

The experiences of the past few years have made us stronger, and resilience is the word that best describes our school.

This resilience did not come about on its own. It is the result of the hard work of the Board of Governors, the school's senior leadership, and our dedicated staff. We must also commend our parents, who understand the value this school adds to their children's future. Most importantly, we must acknowledge our engaged student body, who continue to inspire us in all we do.

Providing access to quality education is the best gift we can give our young people. I want to express my gratitude to all those who have supported the school financially, especially during the 2023/24 academic year. Without your trust and belief in transforming the lives of young people through education in the name of peace and understanding among nations, our school would not have become the oasis of teaching and learning it is today.

Despite the challenges we have faced and continue to encounter, we can all look forward to marking the school's first decade in the autumn of 2024 with resilience, confidence, and the knowledge that together we can make a difference and realise our hopes for a better future for everyone on this planet we all share.

”

Veronika Zonabend

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees of UWC Dilijan

WHO WE ARE

220

students and
their families



35

teaching staff



917

alumni



118

countries



750

supporters



70

staff



21

board &
committee
members



10

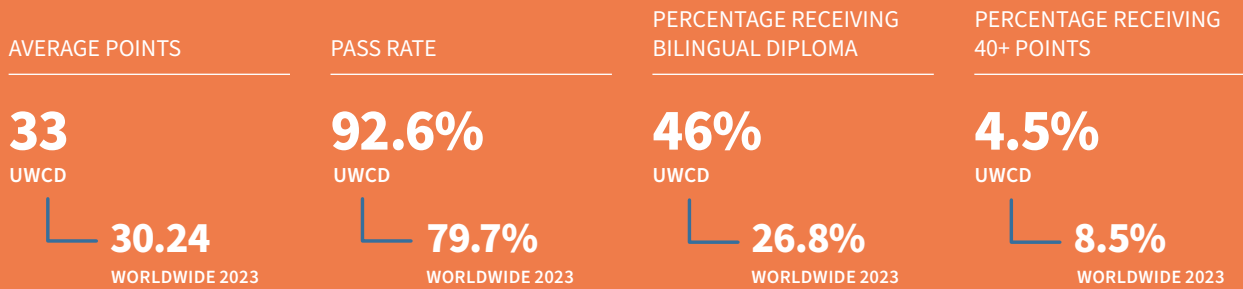
international
partners



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

IB RESULTS

109 IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS



CLASS OF 2024 UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS

Out of 108 students of the class of 2024, six students are taking a gap year while the rest are proceeding to start university education. University acceptances include:

USA:

- Brown University
- Cornell University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of Chicago
- Northwestern University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Middlebury College
- University of California Davis
- University of Rochester
- Trinity College
- University of Florida
- Ringling College of Art and Design
- SCAD

France:

- Sciences Po

The Netherlands:

- Utrecht University College
- University of Groningen
- Leiden University
- Unknown University of Applied Sciences

UK:

- London School of Economics
- University of Warwick
- University of Manchester
- King's College London
- University of St. Andrews
- University of Edinburgh
- University College London

Canada:

- McGill University
- University of Toronto
- McMaster University
- University of Ottawa

Middle East:

- Northwestern Qatar
- New York University Abu Dhabi

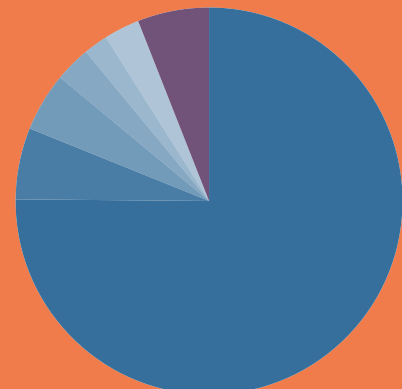
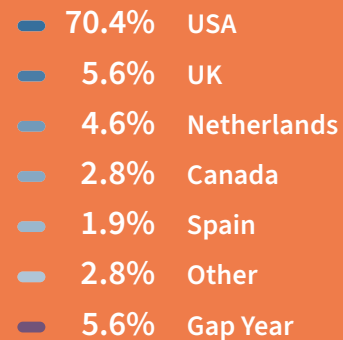
Spain:

- ESADE
- CEU Cardinal Herrera

UNIVERSITIES DESTINATIONS

Total:

95%



Many UWC graduates become Davis Scholars, attending one of almost 100 partner institutions in the USA as part of the Shelby Davis scholarship programme. Among the Class of 2024 UWC Dilijan has 67 Shelby Davis Scholars.

LEARNING AND LEADING



Tamanna Akter

Bangladesh, UWCD'25

Tamanna Akter who comes from a marginalised community in Bangladesh, began her educational journey at the JAAGO Foundation School, a non-profit organisation that empowers underprivileged individuals and communities in Bangladesh through education. At the age of 16, Tamanna represented her country in an international VEX robotics competition in the USA and served as a Bangladesh delegate at the OIC High School Model Summit 2022 in Turkey. She is a member of our robotics team and has been involved in helping refugees.



Lara Wong Hee

Mauritius, UWCD'25

Last October Lara Wong Hee participated in the 16th Chinese Bridge Global Competition for secondary school students from 93 countries in Kunming, China. Of Chinese origin, Lara attended a French Lyceum in Mauritius, studying the Chinese language and culture outside school. Lara's performance at the competition in the global top 30 was outstanding and secured her a year-long scholarship at a Chinese university.



Sil Zoethout

Netherlands, UWCD'24

A committed learner, Sil managed time well and was involved in a variety of activities. He was on the TEDx organising team and was also one of the most active members of Hands for Youth Armenia, which raised funds through activities such as “Bald for Cause” and selling refreshments. As a result, over US\$900 was contributed to City of Smile, an organisation dedicated to serving children with cancer. Sil is a student in Leiden University, The Netherlands.



Andrea Mendez Aguirre

Mexico, UWCD'24

As a member of the Student Council, Andrea took the responsibility of taking minutes, a task that can be tedious and time consuming. She acted as a communications liaison on the Sustainability Committee and also found time for Hands for Youth, which required community outreach. Andrea especially enjoyed visiting and helping, together with a group of students, a displaced family from Nagorno-Karabakh. Andrea is doing a BA in Cornell University in the US.



Puri Goyo

Uganda, UWCD'24

With funding from “Go Make a Difference” allocated via the UWC movement, cousins Puri Goyo, who is studying at St Olaf’s in the US, and James Achuli (South Sudan, UWCD’21), a student at the University of British Columbia in Canada, developed a project “Pads to keep them in school” addressing the lack of sanitary pads in Kiryandongo refugee settlement in Uganda where they grew up. The settlement is home to more than 75,000 refugees from five countries. They distributed sanitary pads to teenage girls in the camp and explored ways to make it a sustainable project.

TEACHING, CARING AND INSPIRING



Zara Tumanyan

Head of Modern Languages
Russian Language Teacher
Armenia

One of the ten or so people who have been at UWC Dilijan from the very start, Zara committed herself to the school fully. With an MA in Linguistics from Melitopol State University, Ukraine, she had vast experience teaching and working as a translator at the Embassy of Ukraine and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Armenia. Zara also translated “The History of Ukraine” by Orest Subtelny” from Ukrainian to Armenian. “The best advice to a student learning a new language is regular practice. Here students have a fantastic opportunity to practise the target language with native speakers.” Zara has been at UWCD since the very start.



José René Sandoval Sánchez

Wellbeing Counsellor
Costa Rica

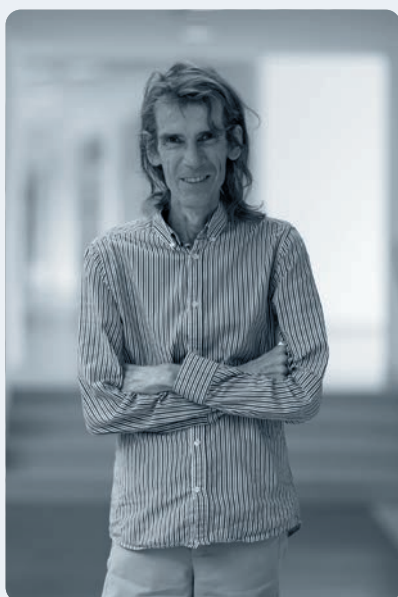
René joined our community in August 2023 after years in Costa Rica. With two Master’s degrees - in Children and Adolescent Psychology and Coaching and in Coaching and Emotional Intelligence for Children and Teenagers - René has over 25 years of experience working with teenagers in different settings, schools, camps, radio and therapy, and enjoys the energy and creativity each of them brings into his life and those around them. René defines wellbeing as follows, “It is a continuous pursuit for an overall healthy life, including physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual, to keep a balanced and positive outlook for life and opportunities.”



Diya Paul

Teacher of Environmental Systems
and Societies (ESS) and Geography
India

With a PhD in Geography from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Diya describes herself as a conservationist and social scientist who strives towards a more sustainable and just world for humans and non-humans through research and education. Prior to her work in academia, Diya worked in the development sector in India with a focus on natural resource management and climate change adaptation in rural farming communities. Having switched to teaching Diya shares her passion for understanding the earth with the students and says that “one of the best things about being a teacher of geography and ESS is the ability to evoke in students a deep care for the world that we share”.



Marcel Groot Koerkamp

Head of Mathematics
The Netherlands

Having received an MSc in Physics, Marcel started his career as a physicist in The Netherlands and worked at a university and in an affiliated hospital. He then transitioned into teaching physics and mathematics and has been working in international schools around the world ever since. Discovering new countries and cultures and interacting with international students and colleagues has brought an extra dimension to Marcel’s life. Together with his wife Jolanda, who works in the Arts Department at UWC Dilijan, they enjoy new experiences exploring the world.

GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION IN ARMENIA AND THE WORLD

THE MICROCOSM OF THE WORLD, THE UWC DILIJAN COMMUNITY IS AFFECTED BY THE GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD. IN THIS SECTION OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW 2023/24 WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS BY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL AS ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT HERE IN ARMENIA.



REFLECTIONS ON THE WORLD AT WAR

By **Madhuchhanda Banerji**
Head of Residential Life

I strongly believe that in this community, we all stand for peace. This is the path to sustainable development for the future. While we may hold different viewpoints and perspectives, this diversity is our strength, not a weakness. The world is currently experiencing turbulent times. Regardless of who the aggressor is or who is aggrieved, innocent lives are being lost. We all understand that there are no winners in wars and conflicts. As the saying goes, you may conquer a kingdom on horseback, but you can never rule it on horseback.

Our basic human right is the right to live, and when this is violated, we feel compelled to take sides. In this community, we live alongside individuals whose families and friends are experiencing anxiety and fear of losing loved ones. These are real people in our lives, not just stories in the media. Let us not forget that there are others, unknown to us, who are enduring the same anxiety and fear. Their emotions are just as genuine. There is no absolute right or wrong in their feelings. The roles of aggressor and defender blur, merging into a single human experience. Whether we are on one side or the other, we all need support because we all suffer from the pain of human loss.

In this situation, more than ever we should support each other and avoid hostility. In our ignorance, we might inadvertently hurt others whose sufferings we are unaware of. We have Palestinian and Israeli, Russian and Ukrainian alumni who

are in touch with me, and they all express the same sentiment: We do not support violence. We do not stand for war. We condemn violence and should respect suffering regardless of nationality.

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has an immediate impact on our school. On 27 September 2023, UWC Dilijan Co-Founder Ruben Vardanyan, an Armenian citizen, was illegally detained and arrested by Azerbaijani authorities at the border while attempting to leave Nagorno-Karabakh with thousands of Armenians fleeing the area. Our community, including our alumni and friends, stand firmly with Ruben and other detainees and demand their release. We are for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through dialogue and negotiations.

Shushanik Hayriyan the 2024 Alumni in Action Awardee

Shushanik Hayriyan (Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, UWCD'19) demonstrated her commitment to the fate of her people by fundraising for Nagorno-Karabakh refugees. She exemplifies the UWC spirit in action. Shushanik is now a student in the US, and, despite distance, is actively involved in supporting the forcibly displaced.



GIVING BACK TO ARMENIA

Nina Pharsenadze (Georgia, UWCD'21)

Nina, who is currently studying architecture at Brown University, joined the team of the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) Providence Chapter to raise funds for The Families of Fallen Soldiers. With the generous support of the Armenian community, they raised \$900.

Samuel Ruiz Flanagan (UK, UWCD'21)

Samuel, who is currently pursuing a bachelor degree in Politics, Sociology & East European Studies at the University College London (UCL), wrote a series of articles about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and is making a documentary about the plight of refugees.

Lucia de la Torre (Spain, UWCD'16)

Lucia, a London-based multimedia producer, journalist and documentary filmmaker, upholds humanitarian values through her work. Lucia's award-winning directorial debut, "The Dream of Karabakh", is about Shushan, a refugee, a mother of five, who lost her home in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region during the war with Azerbaijan.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



UWC DAY “SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”

21 September is the UWC Day, which aptly coincides with the UN International Day of Peace. They are marked together as the UWC mission is “to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and sustainable development”. The theme of the last UWC Day was “Shaping a Sustainable Future”. Striving for peace also means coping with the consequences of natural disasters, a different type of conflict - between man and nature. On UWC Day we had a chance to reflect on what peace means and how “Shaping a Sustainable Future” is an urgent matter as issues connected with climate create many more injustices in our already fragile world.

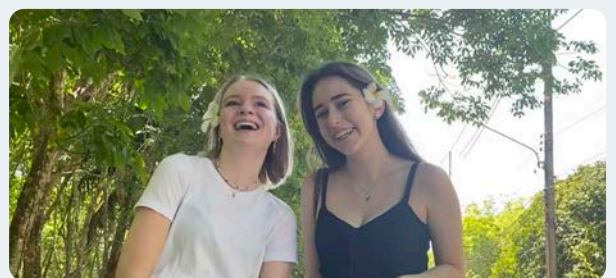


THE COMBILI PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Having become winners of the IB Global Youth Action Fund with the award of \$3,000, the COMBILI team participated in the IB Global Conference. Last October four members of the team, Jake Gates (UK, UWCD'24), Kaitlin IP (Canada, UWCD'24), Alda Aflatuni (Finland UWCD'24) and Satoe Tohi (Japan, UWCD'24) travelled to Dublin and presented their composting-focused project to the worldwide audience. Initiated in 2022, the COMBILI project aims to create a model for small gardens, designed to turn biowaste into fertile soil using modern composters.

THE ANNUAL JOHN HICK ESSAY COMPETITION

On the initiative of Dan Silfwerin, our Philosophy Teacher, and with the support of Paula Leguisamo, Philosophy Teacher Assistant, UWC Dilijan launched The Annual John Hick Essay Competition to promote a deeper interreligious and intercultural understanding. John Hick (1922-2012) was the world leading theologian and philosopher known for his religious pluralism. Students across the UWC movement were invited to write a 1,200-word essay reflecting on a quote from John Hick based on their UWC experience. An international panel judged 31 entries from 10 UWC schools. Kirabo Krystal Mwesige (Uganda, UWC Thailand'25) was the winner.



UWC CONGRESS

In early March 2024 the UWCD delegation participated in UWC Congress “Education as a Force”. Held in Phuket, Thailand, the event was the culmination of the UWC movement’s 60th anniversary celebrations. UWCD students were represented by Valeria Mihalachi (Moldova, UWCD'25) and Ingrid Braastad (Norway, UWCD'25).



A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES

In February we hosted Baraa Shiban, the Middle East and North Africa caseworker for Reprieve, a London-based human rights group. Baraa is a member of the Aurora Prize Expert Panel of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, a partner organisation of UWCD. During the session, Baraa presented a BBC documentary "Yemen's Secret War". The discussion that followed focused on topics such as the involvement of UAE mercenaries in Yemen, the Red Sea situation and Middle East geopolitics.



DILIMUN

DilimUN - Dilijan Model United Nations - hosted 150 delegates from our school and other local and international schools in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Eswatini, Georgia, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, and UAE. Under the theme "Breaking the Cycle of Conflict: Cooperation for Lasting Peace," it focussed on the importance of multilateralism and diplomacy for conflict resolution. The objective is for the young people to learn to engage in discourse with the aim of fostering lasting peace.



TEDxUWCDILIJAN YOUTH "SOLVING FOR X"

Under the theme 'Solving for X', TEDxYouth UWCDilijan featured a diverse lineup of 12 speakers from around the world representing different age groups. From motivational to thought-provoking talks, the event showcased diverse perspectives as well as artistic performances. Catering was generously provided by LOSH, one of the students' favourite eating places. TEDxYouth@UWCDilijan was initiated in 2022 as part of the Creativity Activity Service (CAS) programme.



FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF ARMENIA (FFA) AMATEUR LEAGUE

For the second year, UWC Dilijan proudly participates in the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) Amateur League. Being in the league is a wonderful opportunity for our students, and the whole community to be part of a sport loved by Armenians.

DILIJAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL RECEIVES CAMBRIDGE ACCREDITATION

The Board of the Dilijan International School of Armenia (DISA) Foundation was pleased to announce that in May 2024 Preparatory Years Centre Dilijan (PYCD) of DISA was awarded a Cambridge International accreditation as a school for primary, middle and high school students.



Cambridge International School

Co-located on the territory of UWC Dilijan, it was originally started as a teaching facility for the children of UWCD staff and has grown into a fully-fledged KG-Grade 10 school with over 70 children. With the campus designed for 650 students, this expansion had been planned.

UWC DILIJAN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

HELPING THE FORCIBLY DISPLACED FROM NAGORNO-KARABAKH

THROUGHOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR, WE PUT EFFORTS IN HELPING REFUGEES FROM NAGORNO-KARABAKH. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES.

- During the Project Week students organised a variety of activities, including a basketball camp and a movie club for children from Nagorno-Karabakh.
- A group of students brushed up their knitting skills to make scarves and hats, which they donated.
- The leaders of filmmaking CAS devoted two days to film a short documentary about refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh currently living in Dilijan and Tavush region with the aim of raising awareness about their present lives, hopes, and past experiences.
- The school community raised funds to acquire ovens for refugee families and provided facilities for the initiative “Wings” designed to help rehabilitation of children.
- The team of students working as Hands for Youth has been supporting a family from Nagorno-Karabakh with funds raised during the Winter Carnival event last December.



“

A family of six being housed in a single room with a small kitchen has basic needs. Therefore, we decided to use the funds raised to purchase an oven and a fridge for them. Spending time with them, drawing with their 6-year-old son, Gorik, and playing with their baby daughter, Maria, was incredibly rewarding.

”

Sil Yorn Zoethout
(Netherlands, UWCD'24)

&

Andrea Mendez
(Mexico, UWCD'24)

2024 CLASS GRADUATION SAMSUNG INNOVATION CAMPUS

In June Samsung Innovation Campus, a technology-based educational IT programme by Samsung Electronics with its Armenian campus at UWC Dilijan, celebrated the graduation of the 2024 class. A class of 90 youngsters from Lori, Tavush, Yerevan, Gyumri, Gegharkunik and other communities of Armenia have successfully completed the training course and presented their individual projects - mobile applications on the Android OS. Four of our participants became finalists of the annual global Samsung Innovation Campus Contest, with two of them achieving impressive third-place results.



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION OF ARMENIAN MONUMENTS IN CYPRUS

In April the photography exhibition “Armenian Monuments in Cyprus” by Antonia Maria Zonia (Cyprus, UWCD’25) was held at the National Centre of Chamber Music. With captions in Armenian and English, 35 photographs featured all the Armenian monuments located throughout Cyprus, including the ones in the occupied area. Antonia said, *“I’ve been immersed in the rich Armenian culture since childhood and want to celebrate the relationship between Armenia and Cyprus, while emphasizing the importance of remembering our shared history.”*

TEACHING CHINESE TO ARMENIAN KIDS

As part of our Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) programme, each week our Chinese speaking students teach local children at the Dilijan Community Center. They give lessons in basic Chinese and introduce them to Chinese culture. The sessions foster a meaningful bond and create a wonderful experience for both our students and the children in the community.

Our students who are teaching are: **Ruizi Guan** (China, UWCD’24), **Hanyu Xie** (China, UWCD’24), **Yutong Tang** (China, UWCD’24), **Junyue Xiao** (China, UWCD’25), **Yinuo Li** (China, UWCD’25), **Yuyang Weng** (China, UWCD’25), **Zilu Jin Jin** (China, UWCD’25), **Chun Hon Chan** (Hong Kong, UWCD’25) and **Ole Ruhaven** (Norway, UWCD’24).



PROUD TO REPRESENT ARMENIA

WORLD SCHOOL DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

UWC Dilijan acted as the National Debate Team of Armenia and in the summer of 2023 participated in the World Schools Debating Championships in Vietnam. This annual event is widely considered to be the biggest and most prestigious debate competition in the world. The team was paired up against top teams like Ireland, Taiwan, Bangladesh and moved from 65th position in 2022 to the 27th.



FIRST GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Representing Armenia, our Robotics CAS team took part in the FIRST Global Challenge in Singapore. Led by Jaime Gonzalez, our Physics Teacher, team mates Nazmus Sakib (Bangladesh, UWCD'24), Gurami Mgebrishvili (Georgia, UWCD'24), and Asilbek Ismatilloev (Uzbekistan, UWCD'24) achieved an impressive 65th place out of 191 countries! Congratulations to Team Armenia on their remarkable accomplishment!

ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD IN SLOVAKIA

Having gone through the national competition, Shogher Galstyan (Armenia, UWCD'24) and Cedar Wink (Canada, UWCD'24) represented Armenia in the final of the Economics Olympiad in Slovakia in September 2023.

COP28: LCOY ARMENIA

Our school became a site for the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Armenia. About 80 young people, including 65 from Armenian high schools, participated in LCOY "Climate Crisis: How We Can All Contribute to Solving It" held last October. The conference focused on the climate change in Armenia. LCOY is an initiative of YOUNGO, the Official Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Its aims are to be a space to boost youth climate action locally and create an input into the international conferences.



BRAIN BEE ARMENIA AND GEORGIA

Patryk Stelmaszek (Poland, UWCD'25) and Jakub Ziarko (Poland, UWCD'24) initiated an international Brain Bee Armenia and Georgia neuroscience competition. With participants from many regions and schools in Armenia and Georgia, there were five winners. Two first-place winners will advance to the international level. The best performing UWCD student was Natali Apridonidze (Georgia, UWCD'25), who was among the final eight. In partnership with the Yerevan State Medical University COBRAIN Scientific-Educational Center for BRAIN Research, the competition provided students with the opportunity to explore their interest in neuroscience.

STRONGER TOGETHER

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our 220 students come from 80 countries and are represented by the Student Council which:

- Serves as a full representational body of all students, accommodating all voices, views and amplifying stances of “silent minorities”;
- Acts as the medium between the student body, the staff, and the leadership team;
- Addresses different concerns raised by students in daily, academic, and residential life and proposes solutions to them;
- Oversees the implementation of new solutions and proposals;
- Advocates for and builds upon the ideas and initiatives of the student body;
- Shares all relevant information between the Toons and Student Council meetings.



ALUMNI COUNCIL

Our alumni represent UWC Dilijan in every corner of the world. We follow their post-UWC journey with great interest and welcome them back to the campus. The Alumni Council is a body liaising between the school and our graduates. Current members of the Alumni Council include:

Ani Gevorgyan
Armenia, UWCD'16

Francesco Casucci
Italy, UWCD'18

Luis Cerave
Mexico, UWCD'17

Lynn Sleiman
Lebanon, UWCD'20

James Achuli
South Sudan, UWCD'21

Nele Schulz
Australia/Germany, UWCD'22

OVER 40 ALUMNI GATHERED AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION



PARENT COUNCIL

We have a very engaged parent community. The Parent Council serves as a conduit for the parents and families to get involved and work in partnership with the school in order to provide the best possible educational outcomes for our students. The Parent Council includes a diverse group of parents, who help new families with onboarding, participate in career advice sessions, host students and provide internship opportunities, to name just a few activities. Our deep gratitude to Majella Skansebakken, who chaired the inaugural Parent Council from 2021 to 2024.



BOARD

UWC Dilijan was established by and is governed under the terms of the Dilijan International School of Armenia (DISA) Foundation. DISA is a non-commercial legal entity registered under the Foundation Law of the Republic of Armenia.

It is managed by the Board of Governors, which has the responsibility for the approval of strategy and the academic, legal, fiduciary and financial affairs of UWC Dilijan. It consists of up to 15 members who meet at least three times a year. There are more volunteers serving on the committees working throughout the year.



ANNA
AFEYAN



PHILIP
COUZENS



ELISABET
ENGELLAU



PIERRE
GURDJIAN



JOHN
GUYATT



ARMAN
JILAVIAN



KATHERINE
MERSETH



ANDREW
MKRTCHYAN



RICHARD
OGDON



ALICE
PETROSSIAN



VERONIKA
ZONABEND



ALEXANDER
TYNKOVAN

FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023 AUDIT REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

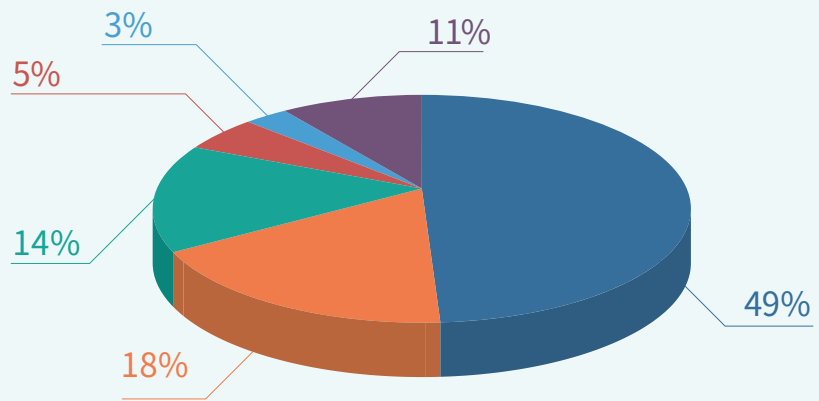
	2022	2023
TUITION FEES	4,27	4,82
DONATIONS	2,49	2,23
OTHER NET INCOME & FX NET	(0,23)	0,64
TOTAL REVENUES	6,53M	7,70M
HUMAN RESOURCES	(3,28)	(3.53)
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	(3,22)	(4.18)
DEPRECIATION & AMORTIZATION	(0,20)	(0.20)
TOTAL EXPENSES	-6,70M	-7,91M
NET INCOME	-0,16M	-0,21M
FX RATE	435.8	392.46

in USD

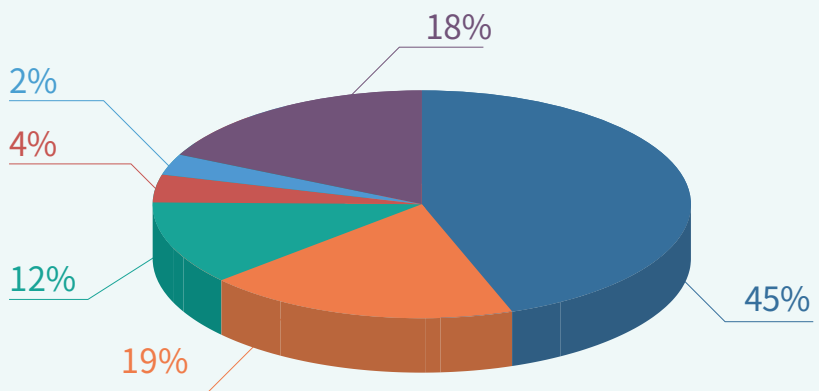
EXPENDITURES BREAKDOWN

	USD	
	2022	2023
HUMAN RESOURCES	3,275 K	3,529 K
FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE	1,184 K	1,472 K
SERVICES	923 K	953 K
MEMBERSHIP FEES	344 K	355 K
DEPRECIATION & AMORTIZATION	196 K	205 K
OTHER EXPENDITURES	772 K	1,396 K
TOTAL	6,695 K	7,908 K

2022



2023



- Human Resources
- Facilities & Maintenance
- Membership Fees
- Services (Meals, Transport, etc.)
- Other Expenditures
- Depreciation & Amortization

GIVING TO SUPPORT NAGORNO-KARABAKH YOUTH



NOUBAR AND ANNA AFEYAN

With the exodus from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, UWCD Founding Patrons Noubar and Anna Afeyan, through the Afeyan Initiatives For Armenia Foundation, have decided to focus on helping youth from the region. They provided scholarships to UWC Dilijan and funded the costs of the JDI summer camp for children from Nagorno-Karabakh. In total, this year 22 children are benefitting from their generous gift.

Noubar and Anna Afeyan have been supporting the school since its opening financially and by being actively involved in its development. They are both members of

the UWCD Board. Anna is also Co-Chair of the Advancement Committee, which is focused on fundraising activities and on broadening the base of supporters of UWCD.

Both biochemical engineers, Noubar and Anna are passionate about education and its transformational power. They represent internationalism in action – Anna is from Sweden, and Noubar, of Armenian origin, was born in Beirut and grew up in Montreal, Canada. They live in Boston, USA.



Anna received her M.S. in Biochemical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Before moving to the US in 1988 to take on a position in biotechnology process development for the Schering Plough Corporation, Anna worked as a process engineer at Alfa-Laval, Sweden. Having taken a career break to raise the couple's four children, Anna has been engaged in educational non-profit work for the past 25 years. Anna has been involved with Beacon Academy as a Science teacher and trustee, striving to close the achievement gap in education for a cadre of bright and determined Boston students.

Noubar did his undergraduate degree at McGill University and completed his Ph.D. in biochemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is CEO of Flagship Pioneering, a firm he

founded in 2000. During his over 25-year career as inventor, entrepreneur and CEO, he has co-founded and helped build over 50 life science and technology start-ups. He has also been senior lecturer at MIT's Sloan School and at Harvard Business School since 2000, teaching graduate-level courses on entrepreneurship and innovation. Noubar was at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. Moderna Therapeutics, a firm he co-founded, developed a vaccine.

Believing in giving back and the importance of philanthropy, Noubar and Anna established the Noubar and Anna Afeyan Foundation, which supports educational and cultural projects primarily in the USA and Armenia. They are also Co-Founders of the YerazArt Foundation which since 2006 has supported young Armenian talents performing in the classical music field. Apart from UWC Dilijan, Noubar is also actively engaged in several development projects related to Armenia. He co-founded early initiatives such as Armenia 2020 and the National Competitiveness Foundation. He is also a Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, the Foundation of Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), and the Future Armenian.



2023/24 SUPPORTERS

FOUNDERS AND DREAMERS

Ruben Vardanyan & Veronika Zonabend

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY CIRCLE OF BENEFACTORS

- Anna & Noubar Afeyan – lead gift
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 - Evgeny Demin & Elena Belous
 - Dar Foundation/Nikita Mishin
 - Karen & Anna Sarkisov
 - Sergey Sarkisov & Rousudan Makhshvili
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-

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- | | |
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SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND/OR CONSIDERABLE IN-KIND SUPPORT

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • The Afeyan Initiatives For Armenia Foundation | • RVVZ Foundation |
| • Aurora Humanitarian Initiative | • Scholae Mundi Armenia |
| • IDeA Foundation | • Scholae Mundi Russia |
-

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UWC Dilijan is an independent not-for-profit international boarding school belonging to a charitable trust registered in Armenia solely for educational purposes and overseen by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees.



For further information please visit
www.uwcdilijan.org

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