



UWC  
DILIJAN  
ARMENIA

2014-2024

*WORLD-CLASS,  
VALUES-DRIVEN EDUCATION  
ANCHORED IN DIVERSITY*

UWC DILIJAN IS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> 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**

Matenadaran



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*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



Dilijan National Park



UWC Dilijan Campus

## 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**.



CAMPUS  
VIRTUAL  
TOUR



FIABCI  
World Prix d'Excellence  
Awards 2016

BUILD  
SCHOOL  
2017

## 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  
80 COUNTRIES

35  
TEACHERS  
FROM  
15  
COUNTRIES

75  
STAFF  
45  
FROM ARMENIA

30% OF STUDENTS  
ON FULL  
SCHOLARSHIPS

50% OF STUDENTS  
ON PARTIAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS

# TEACHING AND LEARNING AT UWC DILIJAN



## 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](mailto:admissions@uwcdilijan.am)

# 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



## ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS



## DELIBERATE DIVERSITY



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*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

## CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE PROGRAMMES

**Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)** is fundamental to the UWC Dilijan experience and is meant to extend the educational programme focusing on student skills development and allowing them to engage with the local community and environment.

CREATIVITY	ACTIVITY	SERVICE
Plays and performances	Sports – competitions between schools	<b>Environmental projects</b> - making Dilijan a greener place to live
Visual art	Walking, hiking, exploring	<b>Languages</b> - helping one another to learn new languages
Writing	Fitness and development of a healthy lifestyle	<b>Culture</b> - sharing experiences from different parts of the world
Debating		<b>Social Service</b> - teaching local students with special educational needs



## 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 culinary traditions**, **explore different parts of the country** and **participate in many other projects that impact the communities of Armenia.**

## TEACHING CREATIVE THINKING

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**.



*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**

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.*

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**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.*

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**GOR HOVHANNISYAN**

Outdoor Instructor, Armenia



—  
**OUTDOOR  
EDUCATION  
AT UWC DILIJAN**  
▶



## HOME AWAY FROM HOME - RESIDENTIAL LIFE AT UWC DILIJAN

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 residences 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



## BEING A PART OF ARMENIA AND DILIJAN

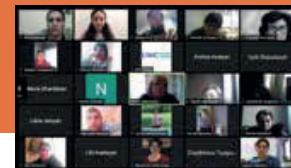


*The school was truly merging with the town, and the local community benefited massively from that. Here I had one of the most important revelations of my life – education was changing people for the better. It was this revelation that pushed me into thinking about the power that UWC gives to each and 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



**300**  
PERMANENT JOBS  
IN DILIJAN



**1700**  
TEMPORARY JOBS  
IN DILIJAN





## UNIVERSITY & CAREER COUNSELLING

OUR UNIVERSITY & CAREER COUNSELLOR PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER UWCD

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



## LIFE AFTER UWC DILIJAN

- **UWC Dilijan has alumni** from over **100** countries.

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.

- **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**



*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*

**PRIYANKA**  
Nepal, UWCD'20



*I discovered a dynamic environment with an engaged international community of students, staff, alumni, parents, and volunteers. Everyone contributes to a vibrant school life and a shared understanding of the role each person can play in building a more peaceful and harmonious world.*

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**ADAM ARMANSKI**  
Head

*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.*

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**DENZEL**  
Zimbabwe, UWCD'2020

*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.*

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**ELISABET ENGELLAU**  
Member of the Board of Governors

*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.*

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**RABIEA**  
Syria-Palestine, UWCD'2019

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