



Parent Handbook 2025-2026



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Introduction

We are delighted to have your families as part of the UWC Dilijan community. We hope that we can work together to keep your children happy and healthy and to encourage them to avail of the opportunities our school offers and to reach their potential. This handbook is designed to help you understand the ethos and values of our school and to navigate through its system for mutual benefit.

Mission & values

UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. The UWC is a unique global educational movement that brings together students from all over the world – selected on personal merit, promise and potential, irrespective of race, religion, politics and the ability to pay – with the explicit aim of fostering peace and international understanding. UWC believes that to achieve peace and a sustainable future, the following values are crucial:

- International and intercultural understanding
- 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

Our story

UWC Dilijan is a philanthropic venture of the founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend. Founded in 2014, UWC Dilijan is the 14th member of the United World Colleges (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 only such school in the Caucasus region and post-Soviet space.

Located in Dilijan on the ancient Silk Route and at a crossroads of Europe and the Middle East, it symbolises the idea of international cross-fertilisation and friendship. Offering the IB Diploma Programme to 16 to 19 year-old students, UWC Dilijan has a student body of 220 from 80 countries and an international faculty of 33 from 16 countries.

Based in Armenia, a country that is reimagining itself in the post-Soviet period, UWC Dilijan is an incubator for intercultural education, which is crucial for today's fragile world. It inspires students to respect each other and to become global citizens and is focused on developing each student's potential following the UWC founder Kurt Hahn's educational principle: “*Plus en vous*” (“There is more in you than you think”).

Facts about UWC Dilijan

- 220 students from 80 countries
- 1021 alumni in 125 countries
- 80 staff, 50 of them from Armenia
- 33 teachers from 16 countries

Our school has credentials with the following organisations:

- [UWC](#) (United World Colleges) movement with a mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.
- [IB](#) (International Baccalaureate) school offering the IB Diploma Programme (DP), an assessed programme for students aged 16 to 19. It is acknowledged by leading universities across the globe.
- [CIS](#) (Council of International Schools) - a membership organisation that accredits international schools benchmark their performance through an iterative process.
- [Eco-Schools](#) - one of the largest global sustainable schools programme. It starts in the classroom and expands to the community by engaging the next generation in action-based learning.

Governance

UWC Dilijan was established by and is governed under the terms of the Dilijan International School of Armenia Foundation (DISA). DISA is a non-commercial legal entity established and registered under the Foundation Law of the Republic of Armenia. The managing bodies of the school are the Board of Governors and the Head who is also known as the Director.

The Board of Governors is the highest managing body of DISA and has the collective and ultimate responsibility for the approval of strategy and the academic, legal, fiduciary and financial affairs of the UWC Dilijan. It consists of up to 15 members who meet at least three times a year. The Board approves the budget and appoints the Head. The Board is chaired by Veronika Zonabend.

For more information please visit our [Governance](#) webpage.

Facilities

UWC Dilijan's grounds extend over 8 hectares of sloping and wooded countryside, located in the Dilijan National Park.

The school's architectural design provides access to knowledge anywhere at any time through technology that fuels a continuous, relevant and adaptive learning environment. School spaces are designed to encourage collaborative learning, which is crucial for the development of a well-rounded student. The highest international standards, most advanced environmentally friendly and renewable technologies are employed in the construction.

UWC Dilijan has received numerous awards for the quality of the construction, including:

- 2015 BREEAM certificate of an ecological construction standard
- 2015 GRA GREEN ROOF LEADERSHIP AWARD in the "Trend Setting Architecture" category
- 2015 EUROPEAN PROPERTY AWARD in the "Public Service Development" category
- 2016 FIABCI World Prix d'Excellence Award in the "Public Infrastructure" category
- 2017 Build School Silver Award

The campus includes the following facilities:

- School Main Academic and Administration Building (*atrium, classrooms, labs*), Library and Resource Centre, Integrated IT Facilities
- Boarding Houses
- Medical Centre
- Art Studios
- Outdoor Sports Facilities, Playing Fields (*FIFA standard football pitch, tennis courts, squash courts, volleyball pitch*)
- Sports Complex (*gymnasium, swimming pool, fitness centre*)
- Workshop (ceramics, 3D printing, woodwork etc)
- Staff Accommodation
- Outdoor Learning Areas / Pods
- Multi-Functional Centre (*dining hall and performance space*)
- Private Residential Area

Library resources

Our library is open for study, browsing and lending from 7.30 in the morning until check-in. The library collection currently includes books, DVDs, journals, and databases. The material is selected to support the curriculum and CAS activities and to encourage wider reading both of classic and contemporary fiction and non-fiction. Collection languages are mostly English, then Armenian and other languages taught at the school. In addition to the collection, library services include research and project support, information literacy training as well as the management of textbooks and other teaching material. The library is managed by two full-time librarians and supported by student staff. The Library is well equipped with computers which are available to students.

Policies & guidelines

Student Code of Conduct

UWC Student Code of Conduct (2019) Pursuing the UWC mission – to make education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future – requires a commitment to the following values: international and intercultural understanding, 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.

At the heart of the UWC ethos is respect for self and others in all our actions and words in all circumstances, including online. This means that we must think about the common good and be able to rise above our individual desires and needs in order to create fully integrated communities. In short, our ideals require good-heartedness from all members of the UWC community and a recognition that cultural norms are diverse.

The common Code of Conduct is required to make expectations clear. Students who accept a position at a UWC school commit to the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle, one that avoids potential harm to self and to others.

Therefore, the following are not acceptable:

- Consumption, possession and/or distribution of
 - drugs for recreational or other non-medically prescribed purposes
 - tobacco, vaping and other related products
 - alcohol on school property and school sponsored activities
- Sexual activity in student rooms and any other shared or public as well as school trips, events, etc.
- Violence of any kind including hazing, bullying, harassment or any other form of abuse
- Assault, including but not limited to verbal, physical and sexual
- Stealing or “borrowing without permission”

Each school will have clear expectations regarding:

- Attendance (at all classes and activities)
- Academic integrity
- Respect for curfew and/or quiet times
- Alcohol ‘off campus’

Individual UWC schools may have additional standards on these issues that reflect the laws, cultural norms and circumstances of the country in which they are located. UWCD has its UWCD Students Residential Code of Conduct. The expectation is that the UWC Common Code of Conduct will be followed both in action and spirit. Those who breach the Code may lose the right to remain in their UWC school.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to learning and promote student wellbeing, the use of mobile phones during school activities is regulated. Students may use mobile phones as educational tools only with approval from a teacher. This ensures that devices contribute positively to learning activities without causing distractions. If a mobile phone is used without permission, or is deemed disruptive to the educational process, it may be confiscated by school staff. This policy helps ensure that technology enhances, rather than detracts from, the educational experience.

[Student Handbook](#)

[Safeguarding](#)

[UWC Common Standards for Safeguarding](#)

[Complaints Procedure](#)

[Medical Centre Procedure](#)

[Residential Code of Conduct Policy](#)

[Permitted Day Protocol \(On-Campus Absences\)](#)

[Search Protocol](#)

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Admissions Policy](#)

[Assessment Policy](#)

[Data Use & Protection Policy](#)

[Language Policy](#)

[Special Education Needs Policy](#)

[Students Leaving Campus on their Own and Unsupervised Weekends](#)

[VisitorsGuest and Staff Members](#)

[Staying on Campus](#)

Student administration

Open Apply

UWC Dilijan uses OpenApply for collecting and storing students' personal information. Parents should use [this link](#) to log in to OpenApply. You can also easily restore your password if you have forgotten it.

While OpenApply is mostly used during admission and enrollment processes, UWC Dilijan will rely on information in OpenApply throughout the two years of students' studies and it is important to keep this information up to date.

In case any of the information provided changes (passports, contact information, parent custody situation etc.), UWC Admissions team should be informed immediately to amend the information.

ManageBac

Please refer to our support article that helps guide both parents and students how they can access their ManageBac account in case you have forgotten login details.

[Accessing Your ManageBac Account](#)

For all support articles we have available for the parents at your school, you can refer to our [Getting Started with ManageBac as a Parent](#) page that includes all links to support articles for parent accounts.

REACH

UWC Dilijan uses the REACH Boarding Management system as a part of the school's duty of care. The software enables the staff to monitor safety and wellbeing of the students in the residences. To ensure that students' whereabouts off campus are known to the residential staff as well as parents, parents/legal guardians of each student will be provided with login details. This will enable parents to approve their children's unsupervised leave requests out of campus. Please see the [REACH Guide](#) for instructions on how to create an account and use REACH. In case of parents and legal guardians with difficulty using the online platform of REACH an authorisation will be sought during the Admission process to authorise the Head of Residential Life to act on behalf of the parents/guardians.

All unsupervised overnight leave dates and respective deadlines are published at the beginning of the year and students can access them through the residential calendar. They are also available for parents through the school calendar on our website. Please note that parents/guardians need to agree to abide by the Terms & Conditions before approving any leave request by ticking a box on the online platform. Therefore it is important that parents/guardians read the document carefully before ticking the box.

Please note that all leave approvals are discretionary and the final decision lies with the school management team whether a student will or will not be allowed to go on such leaves due to concerns relating to academic and behavioural reasons. We will be communicating with students regarding any unfavourable decision in advance to avoid last minute disappointment.

Leave Types

The following list of different leave types is sorted by who will be initiating a leave request. For each leave type it is explained when it should be used and what the steps are in getting a request approved, as well as the time frame/deadlines which must be met. As a rule of thumb, earlier is better, and last-minute requests may not receive final approval on time. Staff are not expected to work 24/7 and will need time to respond to leave requests within regular weekday working hours, even if the requests pertain to weekends or break times.

In extraordinary circumstances or emergencies, students should always contact the Toon parent on duty on the duty phone number, but requests will only be approved if there is a genuine reason why the last-minute request is unavoidable.

Students Only

The leave types below are to be initiated by students - other “actors” who will need to be involved in the approval process are explained for each type.

Unsupervised Overnight (Parent/Guardian approved): *Please note that we do not allow the DP1 cohort to go on overnights unless they are in groups of three in the first term*

- Must be created by students if they plan to leave campus overnight during scheduled Unsupervised overnight weekends or Project weeks.
- Leave requests must be created by students no later than 7 days before scheduled departure.
- Must be approved by parents/legal guardians(as registered on REACH), terms and conditions apply.
- Parental approval must be given no later than 3 days before scheduled departure.
- Must be approved by Toon parents after parents/guardians approval.

Home - Abroad:

- Must be created by students when they are leaving Armenia or returning back to campus, either for going home on breaks or for other reasons.
- Must be approved by parents/legal guardians before being approved by Toon parents.
- Must be created by the deadline given by the school authority before scheduled departure and arrival and duly approved by parents/guardians no later than 5 days before scheduled departure.
- Final approval must be given by the Toon parent or the Head of Residential Life on REACH

- In case of out of ordinary Home Abroad leave i.e during term time Toon Parent will notify the facility manager.

Home - Armenia:

- Must be created by students whose home is in Armenia. Students who are staying in Armenia during breaks, but are not under school supervision, should use the “Home - Abroad” leave type.
- Must be approved by parents/legal guardians before being approved by Toon parents.
- Must be created by the deadline before scheduled departure for breaks (5 days before in case of exceptional circumstances) and approved by parents/guardians no later than 3 days before scheduled departure.
- The Head of Residential Life will need to approve in all cases regardless of the circumstances.
- Final approval must be given by the Toon parent on REACH.
- Toon Parent will notify the facility manager.

Weekdays out of campus/Dilijan unsupervised on academic days:

- Must be created by the student and approved by parent/legal guardian 7 days before the scheduled departure.
- Before creating the leave request written permission must be sought by the student from the Assistant Head Academic Development.
- Assistant Head Academic Development must communicate in writing to students, parents and the Head of Residential Life no later than 5 days before scheduled departure.
- Must include information about who the student is travelling with (if any), where they are going and how they will get there and back, in addition to which working Armenian phone number the student can be reached on and the purpose of such visit with evidence.
- Each student participating in a group trip must create individual leave requests.
- Toon parents and security personnel at the gate are automatically informed once parents and Head of Residential Life approve the leave request on REACH.

Weekends or Non-Academic Weekdays out of Dilijan unsupervised:

- Must be created by the student and approved by parent/legal guardian at least a day before the scheduled time of departure.
- Must include information about who the student is travelling with, where they are going and how they will get there and back, in addition to which working Armenian phone number the student can be reached on.
- Each student participating in a group trip must create individual leave requests.
- Toon parents are automatically informed once parents approve the leave request on REACH.

Weekdays and Weekends in Dilijan unsupervised on non-academic days:

- Do not require a leave request or approval.
- Requires students to sign out choosing the location **Dilijan Students Off Campus unsupervised.**
- Requires students to sign back in choosing the location **On campus.**
- Must sign out and in within the permitted time otherwise students will be gated for 3 days.
- Students must be in groups after 5pm and must avoid walking alone in the dark.

Permitted Day Protocol (On-Campus Absences)

A **Permitted Day** refers to a scheduled or approved weekday during which a student may be excused from some or all academic classes, while **remaining on the UWC Dilijan campus**, due to personal, mental health, or recovery needs.

1. Eligibility

- Permitted days are available only to students in special circumstances like exhaustion, emotional distress, bereavement, family situations, etc.
- Students must not be under disciplinary review or on academic and cocurricular probation such as gating.
- Permitted days are limited to **three (3) per year** unless extended with Well-Being Counselor recommendation in exceptional circumstances or by Toon Parent in consultation with the Head of Residential Life in emergency situations like bereavement.

2. Permitted Day Scope

- Permitted days will not be approved the week before or during any exam period (end-of-year exam, mock exam, orals, GloPo presentations)
- Students **must stay on campus** and may only move between their residence, the academic building, the Dining Hall, and other designated quiet spaces.
- Students may not participate in off-campus travel or non-academic events unless approved.
- Attendance at mandatory health appointments or counseling sessions on campus is allowed and encouraged.
- Mentors will be automatically notified via REACH notification system and must inform teachers and CAS supervisors.
- Toon Parent approved permitted day will not be granted in term one.

3. Request Procedure

Submit a **Permitted Day (Parent approved) Leave Request** for **home related** reasons or a **Permitted Day (Toon Parent Approved) Leave Request** for **campus related** reasons on **REACH** at least **24 hours in advance i.e 8.30 am (AMT) the previous day** (exceptions for emergencies). **The parents must approve by 6 pm (AMT) on the day the leave request is made** for Toon Parents to give the final approval.

- 1) Requests must be approved by:

- Parent and Toon Parent in case of home-related reasons
- Toon Parent only in case of campus-related reasons

2) The request must include:

- Reason for the absence (in the general note section of the leave form on REACH)
- Intended location(s) on campus during the day (in the destination section as well as the general notes section of the leave form on REACH)
- If any of the above details are missing or parent approval is missing the leave request will be invalid and permitted day will not be approved.

4. Check-In Requirements

- Students must check in with Day Toon Parents once during the day if in the residences.
- Students must check in with mentors once during the day if in the academic building.
- Students must check in with the Well-Being Counsellor in case the permitted day is approved on mental health grounds.
- Students must remain reachable via phone or internal communication platforms at all times.

Parents/Guardians Only

The leave types below are to be initiated by parents/guardians - other “actors” who will need to be involved in the approval process are explained for each type.

- **Extraordinary leave** (Parents/Guardians visiting Armenia): *Please note that academic absences will not be authorised unless permission is sought in advance from the Assistant Head academic development*
- Must be created by parents if they are visiting Armenia and want their child to stay with them, whether on a weekday or on a weekend.
- Must be submitted no later than 7 days before the scheduled departure, prior written permission must be obtained by the student earlier than this submission from the Assistant Head Academic Development.
- Assistant Head Academic Development must inform the Head of Residential Life in writing 3 days before the scheduled departure date.
- The Head of Residential Life will approve the leave request on REACH.
- Toon Parents and gate will automatically be informed.

Step-by-step instructions for leave requests on Reach are available [here](#) and Unsupervised Overnight (Exeat) weekends 2025-26 are below as well for your convenience.

All deadlines end at 23:55 AMT

Students will not be approved for the leaves if deadlines are not met. The school's decision is final.

Term 1:

1st overnight

Friday 26th September after classes and CASes to Sunday, September 8pm (DP2s only as DP1s need orientation about the country, and only after Explore Armenia week they will be allowed off campus unsupervised)

- **Monday 22nd September** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 24th September** - Parents approval deadline

2nd overnight

Friday 31st October after classes and CASes to Sunday November 8pm

- **Monday 27th October** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 29th October** - Parents approval deadline

3rd overnight

Friday 21st November after classes and CASes to Sunday November 8pm

- **Monday 17th November** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 19th November** - Parents approval deadline

4th overnight

Friday 5th December after classes and CASes to Sunday December 8pm

- **Monday 1st December** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 3rd December** - Parents approval deadline

Term 2:

5th overnight

Friday 6th Feb after classes and CASes to Sunday February 8pm

- **Monday 2nd February** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 4th February** - Parents approval deadline

6th overnight

Friday 27th February after classes and CASes to Sunday March 8pm

- **Monday 23rd February** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 25th February** - Parents approval deadline

7th overnight

Friday 3rd April after classes and CASes to Sunday April 8pm

- **Monday 30th March** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 1st April** - Parents approval deadline

8th overnight

Friday 24th April after classes and CASes to Sunday April 8pm only DP1s as DP2s are in exams

- **Monday 20th April** - Student leave request deadline

- **Wednesday 22nd April** - Parents approval deadline

9th overnight

Friday 15th May after classes and CASEs to Sunday May 8pm only DP1s as DP2s are in exams

- **Monday 11th May** - Student leave request deadline
- **Wednesday 13th May** - Parents approval deadline

Health & wellbeing

To have our students achieve good academic results, one of our top priorities is to ensure their health and wellbeing. UWC Dilijan has adequate provisions to provide medical and psychological care to all students.

Medical Care

UWC Dilijan has access to top medical facilities providing world-class care in the capital Yerevan, such as [Nairi Medical Center](#) and [Erebouni Medical Center](#). The campus also has a modern, well-equipped medical centre on campus to provide high quality health care for students and staff. The centre has several hospital beds including an isolation ward. It also has a dental room to provide students and staff with regular dental checks.

A team of qualified nurses ensure that the medical centre is manned 24 hours per day, and there is an experienced doctor available to staff and students for consultation. They are Dr Narine Okonyan and nurses Lusine Atoyian, Karine Baldryan, Lilit Khachikyan, Narine Madatyan, Lilia Sarukhanyan.

In addition to this exceptional facility, Dilijan is well-served by the Tavush Medical Centre, located only a few minutes from the school campus. The Tavush Medical Centre can provide first-class support for more serious medical issues should they arise.

Psychological Counselling

The service implements activities to provide psychological support, prevent distress and promote emotional wellbeing. This document provides information and describes the policies and procedures of psychological counselling and psychotherapy which are offered to students. You're welcome to share any questions or concerns you have about the information below.

The counselling team includes: René Sandoval, Wellbeing Counsellor, and Hasmik Harutyunyan, Consultant psychologist/psychotherapist.

UWC Dilijan has a full-time Psychological Counselling Service. The overall goal of the service is to provide students and staff with the [psychological facilitation](#) and support as required.

The service includes activities that promote the psychological wellbeing of individuals and of the entire community, fostering self-awareness, resilience, personal development and improving the quality and effectiveness of interpersonal relationships. In order to reach these goals, individual psychological counselling, group counselling, psychotherapy, group mediation, experiential groups and formal presentations are used.

Academics

The academic offering revolves around the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is an assessed programme for students aged 16 to 19. It is acknowledged by leading universities across the globe.

Students study the IBDP Core subjects-

Theory of Knowledge, Creativity, Action & Service, and the Extended Essay, as well as six subjects chosen from Studies in Languages and Literature, Language acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics and the Arts. Most subjects offered can be studied at Standard (SL) or Higher Level (HL).

The diploma is based on a point system. Each subject is graded on a scale of 1 to 7, whether it is at Standard or Higher Level, and the Core can earn a further 3 points, so 45 points are available in total. The world mean score is usually just below 30. Students must attain 24 points to pass the diploma and earn at least 12 on their three HL subjects with no HL being scored as 1 or 2.

On the UWC Dilijan timetable each HL subject is given about 280 hours of contact time, 40 hours more than the IB strictly requires; and each SL subject is given about 160 hours of contact time, 10 hours more than the IB requires.

The Core of IB

Made up of the three required components, the DP core aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge is a unique course and is only taught as part of the IBDP. The course involves discussions, activities and other learning opportunities, which help develop skills for an exploratory essay and an "Exhibition" of objects linked to a knowledge question. Students reflect on what counts as knowledge in each subject, as well as the methods and tools that we use in each area of knowledge, leading to final assessments involving an essay and a presentation.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

CAS is an exciting part of the IB Diploma Programme here in Dilijan. It encourages you to try new activities, learn new skills and to engage with the community. All students must take part in activities over the course of two years that involve different parts of CAS. (Please see more information below.)

The Extended Essay

All students must write an essay of 3600-4000 words on a topic of their choice, linked to a Diploma Programme subject. Through writing the Extended Essay students learn to develop independent research skills and the formal written communication skills that are required for university study.

The Subject Choice Guide

Available [here](#).

IB Subject Outlines

Can be accessed via the [Parent Portal](#) (new parents will receive login details) or [here](#).

Assessment Overview

Provided in this [document](#).

University & Career Counselling

At UWC Dilijan, the goal of university & career counselling is to help our students to gain access to post-UWC opportunities that will allow them to continue their educational development, find personal fulfilment and contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable future.

To accomplish this, we work closely with each student to understand their goals, context and strengths, to help them understand and navigate the full range of post-UWC opportunities available to them. In addition to individualised counselling, we provide group sessions on topics such as the university search process, financial aid and scholarships, US, British and European university systems, the SAT and standardised testing, essay writing and application preparation.

UWC students are fortunate to benefit not only from an excellent and globally recognised educational experience, but also to have access to a number of UWC specific bursaries, scholarships and financial-aid opportunities. The largest of these is the Davis UWC Scholars Program, which provides financial aid opportunities to UWC graduates at more than 90 excellent universities in the United States.

University Counselling at UWC Dilijan also includes hosting dozens of visitors each year from various universities around the world. Staff build relationships to help promote UWC Dilijan and to be able to effectively advocate for our students.

Lastly, we work closely with faculty and external partners to support the holistic educational and personal development of UWC Dilijan students, allowing them to make the most of their UWC experience and their opportunities afterwards.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

CAS - Creativity, Activity, Service - has always been at the core of the UWC education, and at the same time, it is one of the three essential elements that every student must complete as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Co-curricular activities are the most important part of the UWC Dilijan experience. CAS helps UWC Dilijan students to identify personal strengths and areas of growth, build on their potential to challenge themselves and move beyond their comfort zone. It also helps them to become more familiar with the Armenian context, develops the ethics of community service, engages with issues of global significance and develops skills for teamwork and project management.

Here are some examples.

Creativity - Experiences that Involve Creative Thinking and Doing

- Art in the community
- Ceramics with the community
- Carpentry
- Film making
- Debate club
- DiliMUN (Model United Nations)
- Coding
- Web programming
- Robotics
- TEDx Youth UWCD

Activity - Physical Exercise and Physical Challenge

- Basketball
- Volleyball/Football
- Girls football
- Swimming club
- Dance clubs
- First aid

Service - Engagement with the Local Community through Direct Interaction

- Language courses - English, Russian, Chinese, Spanish
- Science with the community
- Swimming for community members
- Red Cross club
- Service in Bridge of Hope NGO
- Cineclub for local kindergarten kids
- Peer to peer

CAS Handbook is available [here](#).

Sustainability

The UWC movement aims to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. Respect for the environment is also at the core of the values that guide and shape the educational curriculum. We encourage our students to live locally and think globally. Our efforts in working towards a sustainable future are therefore guided by local initiatives, working closely with local communities, while at the same time linking them to the larger Sustainable Development Goals that the international community stands committed to achieve globally. We make every effort to coordinate our work on sustainable development with the local community in Dilijan and Tavush Region. We also liaise with schools across UWC and other systems to learn about best practices and apply them here. Here are some examples of the ongoing projects:

- **Energy and Water Saving Campaign** - Our fossil fuel consumption on the campus is relatively high due to the harsh climatic conditions through prolonged and severe winter months. Added to this, the Tavush Region as a whole and Dilijan town in particular experience severe potable water shortage through spring and early summer before the snow in the higher reaches melts and flows down the streams to the reservoir that feeds the water supply network. Our Energy and Water Saving Campaign is motivated by the need to find reliable and sustainable long-term solutions.
- **No to Plastics** - As a policy, UWC Dilijan is committed to phasing out the use of plastics on its campus. As a first step in this direction, the College caterer has been persuaded to replace plastic bags for packaging with biodegradable paper bags. Moreover, the has dispensed with providing bottled water in single-use plastic bottles. Students are now encouraged to bring their reusable water bottles to carry water on school trips. In addition, a project is currently underway to eliminate the use of household plastic bags from circulation and replace them with reusable cloth bags. The main goal is to turn the campus into a zone free from household plastic bags. It is planned to gradually extend this practice to the Dilijan community.
- **Solar Energy** - In 2022 as a first we installed solar panels connecting to the general campus power supply system. As a result, during the summer months, solar panels made it possible to cover about 10% of the total energy consumption of the campus. In the next stage we are planning to install street and outdoor lights supplied through solar energy. We plan to continue and expedite this work in order to use a wider range of renewable energy sources and reduce the carbon footprint created by burning fossil fuels.

Outdoors

Out of any window we can see forested mountain slopes, which offer us a range of fantastic outdoor and adventure opportunities and within an hour's drive we have access to watersports at Lake Sevan and winter sports at Tsaghkadzor ski resort.

Outdoor activities are offered throughout the week as part of the CAS programme, and on weekends when we are able to venture further afield for day and overnight trips to camp and explore. Outdoor programmes are also part of our project weeks and include trekking in Goris, hiking in Vayots Dzor, climbing in Noravank Canyon and sailing on Lake Sevan.

Safety comes first and foremost for all of our outdoor activities. We have qualified and experienced staff. All activities are appropriately risk managed and backed up with the right equipment.

On campus we have a very well-equipped outdoor store complete with boots, waterproofs, backpacks and tents as well as our full winter equipment section of skis, poles, snowshoes and helmets. Our aim is to provide students with a full set of outdoor equipment, so everyone can take part in all activities. In addition, we have a fleet of specialised mountain bikes and a large workshop for repairs and maintenance.

Finances

Contracts

Education Services Provision Contract is made and entered into by and between the School, Parents/Legal Guardians, the Student and the respective National Committee if applicable. The contract defines the scope of the services being provided, specifies the legal rights and responsibilities of the Parties, financial information, and payment terms as well as provides details about all the aspects of the student's life and education at the UWCD.

Deposit

All students must pay a deposit of USD 300 at the beginning of their first year as caution money. Should this deposit be used up at any time before the end of the school year, it must be topped up so that you have that balance before you start your second year. Amounts will be deducted for damage to the school property, unreturned books, and so on; any remaining balance is returned at the end of the second year after departure. Students are given the choice to donate their balance to the Student Fund to support other students in need of additional financial support. If you are making your payment from a bank account outside of Armenia, please send your payment to UWC Dilijan.

Online Payments

You can make online payments using our [website](#).

Bank Transfers

With the amounts over USD 3,000 it is recommended to make a transfer, which can be made in AMD or USD. Please contact us at finance@uwcdilijan.am for more details about the transfers.

Post & Parcel Deliveries

You can send parcels to your children. To do so, please note the information below.

Address and Recipient

Name and surname of your child - do not put "UWC Dilijan"

7 Getapnya st., Dilijan, 3903

Armenia

Tel: 0037460750800

If UWC Dilijan is stated on the address, customs officials will identify UWCD as a recipient and not an individual, which will create difficulties in retrieving a parcel.

Every individual can receive a parcel without paying duty if the total value does not exceed Euro 200 and/or the weight is under 30kg. If the value is over Euro 200 and/or total weight is more than 30kg, the shipment will be subject to customs clearance. The customs fee is calculated based on the value and it is usually 15% of the total cost or weight calculation, minimum Euro 2 per kg. Please note that this refers to personal use products only - limitations of specific products and extra fees are set by the government of RA and EAEU.

Please note that DHL, UPS, TNT and some other companies usually do not make deliveries to Dilijan unless special provisions are made. In such cases Haypost - a local postal service - provides interregional delivery service for additional cost. Such arrangements should be made locally by the receiving side.

Calendar

The school calendar is available on the top banner of the website [here](#). The key dates for the academic year 2025/26 are below:

9-10 August - Second-year students arrive on campus
11 August - Lessons begin for second-year students
23-24 August - First-year students arrive on campus
24 August - Parents Welcome Day (first half of the day)
25-29 August - Orientation for first-year students
1 September - Lessons begin for first-year students
12 December - Last day of lessons
13-14 December - Students leave for winter break
10-11 January - Students return on campus
12 January - Lessons begin
22 May - Parents Welcome/Community Day
23 May - Graduation
23-24 May - All students depart

News

You can access all UWC Dilijan news on the [News & Events](#) webpage which also includes social media posts.

All our newsletters are available on the [Newsletters](#) webpage. You should be automatically added to our newsletter subscribers' list but if you are not receiving the newsletter please email us at communications@uwcdilijan.am.

Events

Information about the forthcoming events and the recordings of the past public events are available on the [Events](#) webpage.

Partner organisations

UWC Dilijan has close links with a number of organisations in its ecosystem and is delighted to have an opportunity to work with them for the common good locally and globally.

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. For more information on our sister schools please visit <https://www.uwc.org/schools>.

UWC Dilijan, like other UWC schools, depends on the dedication and expertise of a network of

volunteers in the **UWC National Committees** to identify and select students in over 150 countries worldwide. We work especially closely with volunteers from UWC National Committees in [Armenia](#), [Georgia](#), [Russia](#) and [Uzbekistan](#). For more information on UWC national committees please visit [here](#).

UWC Dilijan is fortunate to have a close working relationship with **Scholae Mundi** (cio), a charity registered in the United Kingdom which, in addition to its worldwide educational activities, supports the school financially and by promoting it and working closely with the UWC national committees. The Board of Trustees of Scholae Mundi are all associate members of the Board of Governors of UWC Dilijan and at least three Scholae Mundi Trustees are full Board Members.

The RVVZ foundation was established in 2007 by philanthropists Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend, UWC Dilijan Founders. The RVVZ Foundation is striving to build a community of people aware of their influence and responsibility, ready to implement projects aimed at improving the world and building a future in which we would all like to live. The three priority areas of the foundation are Global Education, Territory Development and Philanthropy Infrastructure. Apart from UWC Dilijan, the projects initiated by the Foundation in Armenia are the [Tatev Revival Project](#) and the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

UWC Dilijan is a beneficiary of the [Initiatives for Development of Armenia \(IDeA\) Foundation](#), which is a private, non-profit foundation that focuses on the implementation of large-scale projects, designed to advance Armenia – with its ancient history and rich culture – as a modern nation. The IDeA Foundation was established by UWC Dilijan Founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend. IDeA engages both local community and international stakeholders in the creation of sustainable programmes that have long-term positive socio-economic impact for Armenia.

UWC Dilijan has access to humanitarian work by [the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative](#) and welcomes opportunities to participate in its activities. Founded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviours, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative seeks to empower modern-day saviours to offer life and hope to those in urgent need of basic humanitarian aid anywhere in the world and thus continue the cycle of giving internationally. The Initiative's programmes include: The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, the Aurora Dialogues, the Aurora Humanitarian Index, the Gratitude Projects and the 100 LIVES Initiative. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative is the vision of philanthropists [Vartan Gregorian, Noubar Afeyan and Ruben Vardanyan](#) who have been joined by thousands of supporters and partners.

Our students and staff benefit from the activities of the **Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST)**, an ecosystem facilitating innovation to lead scientists, technologists, and innovators in Armenia and beyond to success on the global stage.

[Matena](#) is an Armenia-based international school that contributes to the development of professional skills and leadership qualities through collecting and sharing the best knowledge

and the leading world practices for those who permanently pursue improvement and excellence in their professional fields. In cooperation with the world-renowned partners and through combining the best local expertise with the top-level international experience, Matena seeks to become one of the leading centres of professional education both for Armenia and for the region.

To learn more about UWC Dilijan partners please visit our [Partners](#) webpage.

Community Engagement

UWC Dilijan students and staff are involved in the local initiatives through the [Dilijan Community Centre](#), which provides resources, expertise, knowledge and information to drive the development of the Dilijan city. The Centre's educational initiative includes language courses, art and performing arts classes. The Centre also provides training programmes and special seminars for teenagers, women, teachers and other groups. The Centre has become a meeting place for UWC students and the local youth, and a platform for the discussion of new ideas, initiatives and shared problems. Therefore, conditions were created for the exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as for building mutual understanding between members of different cultures.

How to Donate

Established in 2014, UWC Dilijan is an independent not-for-profit international boarding school belonging to a charitable trust registered in Armenia and overseen by an all-volunteer board. It is a philanthropic endeavour of a group of far-sighted individuals, led by its Founders, [Ruben Vardanyan](#) and [Veronika Zonabend](#). Over 700 [supporters](#) have contributed to the school financially. UWC Dilijan relies on the generosity of donors to maintain its diverse international student body and to enhance education. Please consider giving to UWC Dilijan. Every contribution counts.

To donate please visit our [Giving](#) webpage.

Parent Engagement

Given that our school has students from around the world and that our location is somewhat remote, parent engagement in the day-to-day life of UWCD is limited. Despite that, we actively seek parents who are willing to contribute time and knowledge to make the learning experience for their child and other students richer and broader.

We invite parents to:

- Participate in our regular town hall meetings.
- Follow the latest developments by subscribing to our newsletter, following the social media and visiting the website (which has a Facebook feed on [home](#) webpage).
- Contribute by speaking at our events and offer expertise as appropriate.
- Provide feedback via surveys or by corresponding directly with the relevant staff.
- Join us for in-person gatherings where possible.

- Participate in the activities of the UWCD parent organisation – the Parent Council.

Parent Portal

Our Parents Portal, which can be accessed via the top bar of the website, brings together resources related to the education of your children and other useful information.

If you are interested in offering your assistance, please contact us on communications@uwcdilijan.am.

Parent Council

Over the 2020/21 academic year, through a survey followed by a consultative process with the parent community, the UWCD Parent Council was established. Even though our parent body is dispersed around the world, during the pandemic we all learnt that distance is not always a problem and that technology can facilitate productive interactions.

The aim of the Parent Council is to serve as a conduit for the parents and families of students attending UWCD to work together, in partnership with the Head, Leadership Team and the whole school community, to help provide the best possible educational outcomes for our students.

The Parent Council's role:

- Be a forum for representing the parent community. Serve as a conduit to liaise with the UWCD leadership in relation to the issues that might be of relevance to the parent community at large.
- Create networking opportunities for the UWCD parents.
- In consultation with the Head, support the school with events and activities.
- Upon request by the Head, advise the Head and the Leadership Team on any matters relating to the school.

One does not need to be a member of the Parent Council to participate in the work of the committees or perform once-off tasks. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the activities above or would like to propose other areas, please contact the Parent Council at parentcouncil@uwcdilijan.am

Dilijan Visitor Information

Useful information for visiting Dilijan is available [here](#).

Contacts

General enquiries welcome@uwcdilijan.am +374 60 750 800

UWC Dilijan Emergency Phone: +374 98 146098. Please only use this number in case of a real emergency. If your issue is not urgent, please use another number or email us. It is essential that this line is available for real emergencies only.

Head, Adam Armanski, head@uwcdilijan.am

Safeguarding & Residential Life, Assistant Head of Residential Life, Madhuchhanda Banerji, Head of Residential Life & Designated Safeguarding Lead, m.banerji@uwcdilijan.am, safeguarding@uwcdilijan.am

Medical Centre, Dr Narine Okonyan, Senior Doctor n.okonyan@uwcdilijan.am

Wellbeing Counsellor, René Sandoval, R.Sandoval@uwcdilijan.am

Assistant Head of the IB Programme, Dinithi Bandaranayake d.bandaranayake@uwcdilijan.am

Assistant Head of Academic Development, Kassandra Fineberg, K.Fineberg@uwcdilijan.am

University & Career Counsellor, Roza Jeladyan, r.jeladyan@uwcdilijan.am

English Department head_of_group1@uwcdilijan.am

Modern Languages Dept head_of_group2@uwcdilijan.am

Humanities Department head_of_group3@uwcdilijan.am

Science Department head_of_group4@uwcdilijan.am

Mathematics Department head_of_group5@uwcdilijan.am

Arts Department head_of_group6@uwcdilijan.am

CAS cas@uwcdilijan.am

Sports sports-and-outdoor@uwcdilijan.am Admissions admissions@uwcdilijan.am

Communications communications@uwcdilijan.am

Contact information of all teaching & residential staff is provided on the [Parent Portal](#).