

**ANNUAL REVIEW 2024 / 2025**



**Knowledge • Harmony • Peace**

**Celebrating 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 2025

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# WELCOME FROM THE HEAD



“

The 2024/25 academic year has been truly special for UWC Dilijan, marked most notably by our 10th anniversary celebrations in October. It was a powerful moment for our community—supporters, volunteers, friends and the local residents of Dilijan—coming together to celebrate not only what the school has achieved over the past decade but also the meaningful impact it has had on our town.

Under the theme Knowledge, Harmony, and Peace, the three-day celebration featured Reflections & Conversations, Celebrations, and a Community Festival. It was a joyful, thoughtful, and unforgettable experience—one that will be remembered for years to come by all who were present.

This Annual Review not only highlights those special events, but also shares stories that reflect our academic accomplishments, as seen in our IB results and university placements. In true UWC spirit, we also spotlight some of our most meaningful activities, including UWC Day, DiliMUN, TEDxYouth, and the Global Issues Forum.

We take great pride in UWC Dilijan’s growing role in representing Armenia on the global stage. Our students have participated in high-profile events such as the FIRST Global international robotics competition and the World Schools Debating Championships. National initiatives

launched on behalf of Armenia—including the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) for COP Climate Change and the BrainBee international neuroscience competition—have helped empower local youth and extend our impact beyond campus. We also continue to host the Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC), providing Armenian children with opportunities to be part of a world-class IT training program. In return our SIC graduates achieve stellar results compared to other Samsung sites.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Governors, led by Veronika Zonabend, Co-Founder of UWCD and Chair of the Board, to my dedicated colleagues, to our engaged alumni, to the donors and friends, and to our parents whose support makes our mission possible.

While the dedication of staff provides the foundation, it is the energy, curiosity, and compassion of our students that breathe life into our school. This is especially true at a UWC, where we hold fast to the belief that education can unite young people from all backgrounds around their shared humanity, empowering them to pursue social change through courageous action, personal example, and selfless leadership.

I hope this Annual Review allows you to feel the spirit of our school and see our students shine through every story.

”

**Adam Armanski**  
Head of School

# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND CO-FOUNDER



“

It is hard to believe that 10 years have passed since UWC Dilijan first opened its doors, and we marked the anniversary in October 2024.

Together with our dedicated board members, loyal supporters, talented staff, wonderful parents, and inspiring students, we have built a truly unique institution—one where young people from all over the world come together to grapple with the pressing challenges facing humanity.

In line with the UWC mission, our students learn to listen, to understand, and to respect diverse perspectives and cultures in all their richness. Located in a geopolitically complex region, UWC Dilijan provides students with invaluable, real-world insight into the dynamics of peace and conflict resolution—an education that extends far beyond the classroom.

One of the clearest indicators of our success is our continued ability to attract bright and motivated students from a wide range of backgrounds and countries. Every year, we welcome students from 80 nations, united by a shared belief in the transformative power of education.

Over the past decade, 88% of our students have received full or partial scholarships—something made possible only through the generosity of supporters around the world.

Your belief in this pioneering project and your commitment to building a more harmonious inclusive world is admirable. We are grateful to all who joined us for our 10th anniversary celebrations last October.

For my family and me, the celebrations were bittersweet. We deeply missed Ruben Vardanyan—my husband, my soulmate, and the school’s co-founder. Since 27 September 2023, Ruben has been unjustly imprisoned in Baku under false accusations. His absence was deeply felt. Yet, his unwavering commitment to making the world a better place continues to motivate us.

At a time of global uncertainty and personal hardship, it was especially moving to witness the impact of our shared efforts through UWC Dilijan—and to celebrate alongside individuals who, like Ruben, believe in education as a means to build a more peaceful and harmonious world.

On behalf of the Board—and on behalf of Ruben and myself as founders of UWC Dilijan—I ask you to remain with us on this journey. By investing in education, you are investing in the future. You are investing in Knowledge, Harmony, and Peace—the values we must uphold in today’s fragile world.

”

**Veronika Zonabend**

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

# Our Story so Far: 2014-2024

STARTS  
in 2006



The founders Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend conceived the idea to build an international school in Armenia.

2012



Construction starts!  
Costs \$180 mln.



2013



John Puddefoot  
founding head

2014

14th UWC

\$28 mln  
committed to  
scholarships  
330 donors



UWCD  
officially  
opened in  
October  
2014



25 teachers  
from 12  
countries

First cohort  
94 students  
from 49  
countries

Became  
a member  
of UWC  
International  
IB World School

UWC



DILIJAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF ARMENIA



FOUNDING PATRONS



Gagik Adibekyan  
Noubar and Anna Afeyan  
Vladimir and Anna  
Avetissian



FIABCI

World Prix d'Excellence Awards

2015

UWCD  
participated  
in the inaugural  
**AURORA**  
HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

**BREEAM**

received  
certificate of  
an ecological  
construction  
standard

2016



Denise Davidson  
appointed head







While the **10th anniversary of UWC Dilijan** was marked across two academic years, the main festivities took place from **4 to 6 October 2024**. We came together as a community of students, staff, board members, supporters, volunteers, friends, and local residents of Dilijan to celebrate the school's achievements and its decade-long presence in Armenia and Dilijan. Centred around the theme **Knowledge, Harmony, and Peace**, the three-day celebration included *Reflections & Conversations, Celebrations, and a Community Festival*.

Here are some images to tell the story and you can watch the video capturing the main events by scanning the **QR code**.

# 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN OCTOBER 2024



Alice Petrossian, UWCD board member with the alumni Ani Gevorgyan (Armenia, UWCD'16) and Jeppe Strands (Denmark, UWCD'18) during the open session with the board



Faith Abiodun, Executive Director of UWC International, at the alumni forum



Noubar Afeyan, Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, UWCD Founding Patron, spoke about his vision for an uncertain future



Gudmundur Hegner Jonsson, founding principal of the Lisbon International School; Caroline Faraj, CNN Vice President and CNN Arabic Editor-in-Chief; Tim Flynn, the Tim Flynn Architects; Artsiom "Arty" Karankevich (Belarus, UWCD'18) at the session on creativity



Adam Kabanian, CEO of CYNORA; Sebastien de Halleux (Belgium, UWC-USA'96), COO at Field AI; Suren Markosian, CEO and co-founder of Epic!; Svetlana Yun, head of educational programmes at Samsung R&D Institute Russia addressed opportunities and challenges in the technological advancement



Musimbi Kanyoro, Chair of the UWC International Board, led the session on global perspectives with Vahan Zanoayan, writer, retired executive and anti-trafficking advocate; Dele Olojede, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and writer; Dorothy Gordon, Board Member of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education; Luis Moreno Ocampo, Founder Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (2003-12)



Lusine Manucharyan, Chair of Environment and Energy, International Chamber of Commerce Armenia, Chair of Climate. Change and Sustainability European Business Association Armenia; and Maren Fosser (Norway, UWCD'18) discussed issues related to sustainability



The formal celebration on 5 October was opened by the Founding Patrons Noubar & Anna Afeyan



Musimbi Kanyoro, Chair of the UWC International Board; Veronika Zonabend, UWC Dilijan Co-Founder and Chair of the Board and her daughter Maria Vardanyan



UWCD alumni took centre stage during the celebrations



The Board of Governors and other volunteers, working behind the scenes, were given credit for stewarding the school over the decade's highs and lows, with Co-Founder Ruben Vardanyan illegally imprisoned in Azerbaijan



Currents students carried the flags of 121 countries represented at the school over ten years



A Prayer for Peace, organised by Dan Silfwerin, our Philosophy Teacher, with Kento Suzuki (Japan, UWCD'19), taking part in the prayer



A parallel chess tournament for the community with the Armenian Chess Federation's two grandmasters, Hayk Martirosyan and Shant Sargsyan, made it an exciting experience for the lucky participants



A women's football match, organised by Erik Cunelius, our Health and Sports Instructor, symbolised our commitment to inclusivity of sports



## WE STAND WITH RUBEN VARDANYAN, THE UWCD CO-FOUNDER

**The UWC Dilijan Board of Governors is protesting the illegal arrest and detention of Co-Founder Ruben Vardanyan by the Azerbaijani authorities. We call for his immediate release.**

Ruben Vardanyan is an evolutionary visionary who, for over 30 years, has brought together people with different backgrounds, experiences and capabilities to implement partnership projects that transform the socio-economic environment.

Ruben and his family, together with a diverse group of partners around the world, have made more than \$1.5 billion in commercial and philanthropic investments in key areas for human development—global education, healthcare, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), humanitarian issues, succession and philanthropy. His projects to date have brought together a wide range of participants and had a tangible social and economic impact at local and global levels. Of these, the best known are the investment company Troika Dialog, SKOLKOVO Business School, UWC Dilijan, the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), the Wings of Tatev cable car in Armenia and the global Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Ruben was part of a group that initiated a public discussion on the future of Armenia within the framework of the “Armenia 2020” project launching The Future Armenian public initiative to foster a dialogue around sustainable development for Armenia and Armenians as a nation.

Ruben is the recipient of numerous international awards, including the AIB Presidential Award for his contribution to education and the Common Ground Awards to honour his outstanding accomplishments in conflict resolution, community development and peacebuilding. In 2001, Fortune magazine listed Ruben as one of the “25 Rising Stars of the New Generation” and the World Economic Forum named him one of the 100 Global Leaders of Tomorrow. In 2023 he, together with his wife Veronika Zonabend, the UWC co-founder, was recognised with the UWC Award for Peace and Sustainability in Education.

Ruben has been unjustly imprisoned in Baku since 27 September 2023—the day of the exodus from Nagorno-Karabakh.



With great friends Vartan Gregorian (1934-2021), far left, and Charles Aznavour (1924-2018), centre, with Nicolas Aznavour, Veronika Zonabend, Noubar Afeyan



Veronika Zonabend and Ruben Vardanyan with Founding Patrons Gagik Adibekyan and Vladimir Avetissian on the first day of school in September 2014

# 2024/25 SUPPORTERS

## 14 FOUNDERS AND FOUNDING DONORS

**Ruben Vardanyan & Veronika Zonabend**

## FOUNDING PATRONS

**Gagik Adibekyan, Noubar & Anna Afeyan, Vladimir & Anna Avetissian**

## THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CIRCLE OF BENEFACTORS

- Ameriabank
- Ameria Leadership Team
- Ruben Arutyunyan & Anahit Antonyan
- Blavatnik Family Foundation
- Dar Foundation / Nikita Mishin
- Evgeny Demin & Elena Belous
- Dobrov & Family Group
- H. Hovnanian Family Foundation
- ISTOKI Foundation / Vladimir Yakunin
- Karen & Anna Sarkisov
- Sergey Sarkisov & Rousudan Makhashvili
- Star for Life Foundation / Dan Olofsson
- Alexander Tynkovan

## INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING FULL SCHOLARSHIP

- DeepWhite
- Svet Foundation / Alexander Svetakov & Ksenia Sharoeva
- ZCMC Foundation

## ALUMNI “TEN FOR TEN” CIRCLE

- Thao Van Adjemian
- Nalina Ali
- Dalia Atallah
- Georgiana Illsley Garcia
- Ani Gevorgyan
- Maren Fosser
- Manana Hakobyan
- Maria Ivanova
- Lusine Keshishyan
- Ben Kuyvenhoven
- Luca Kuziel
- Sona Markosyan
- Nour Moussa
- Maike Pfeiffer
- Petar Pirizovic
- Fernanda Pohla
- Nikola Ranitovic
- Marcos dos Santos
- Jeppe Strands
- Uladzimir Treihis
- Eliza Vardanyan

## INDIVIDUALS & ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING SUPPORT

- Binh Adjemian
- Samvel Aghababyan
- Suren Amirbekyan
- Arthur Andreyan
- Emilia Arakelyan
- Armenian General Benevolent Union
- Azurit
- Andranik Barseghyan
- Arman Barseghyan
- The Brouwer Family
- Olga Bugaeva
- C Quadrat Ampega
- Alessandra Lenner Ciuti
- Montserrat Garcia Closas & Jeronimo Zettelmeyer
- Arzuman Dallakyan
- José Manuel Cruz & Ana Maria Sierra
- Maria Diachenko
- DigiFence
- Liesl Eisenbeiss
- Renita Esayian
- Azom Faruk
- James Macbeth Forbes
- Gevork Gaboyan
- Bank of Georgia
- Arpenik Ghahriyan
- Armine Ghazaryan
- Artak Ghukasyan
- Gleb Groshenko
- Norayr Gyuzalyan & Anna Mazmalyan
- Diana Hakobyan
- Lusine Hakobyan
- Rebecca Hakobyan
- Samvel Hakobyan
- Artak Hanesyan
- Davit Hovhannisyan
- David Howarth
- Stephanie Jones
- Tigran Jrbashyan
- Artashes Kazakhetsyan
- Andranik Khachatryan
- Gohar Khachatryan
- Chris Kibarian & Gohar Kuriyan
- Marina Kiseleva
- Artem & Natalia Konstandian
- Anastasiia & Timofey Makarov
- Artur Makaryan
- Nieves Mantecon Lopez
- Melante
- Yari Miniero
- Lernik Mirzakhanyan & Hasmik Agabekyan
- Andrew Mkrtchyan
- Marie Montille
- Gema Gutiérrez Moreno
- Arno Mosikyan
- Bakur & Gayane Melkonyan / Artlunch
- Zhanna O'Clery
- Richard Ogdon
- Adriaan van Otterloo
- Alice & Vahak Petrossian
- Artyom Petrosyan
- Movses Pogossian & Varty Manouelian
- Alexander Renaud
- Olga Fuentes de Rivas
- Gagik Sahakyan
- Sargis Sargsyan
- David Sargsyan
- Yerem Shahbazyan
- Katerina Shakhbazyan
- Elena Song
- Michael Song
- Hovhannes Toroyan
- Anna Vardanyants
- Prof. Dr. Saad Faik Abbas Al-Wakel
- The Zainetdinova Family
- Marianna Khachatryan & Grigori Zakaryan / Dilijazz
- Tina Zhang
- Junhong Zhu

## SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND CONSIDERABLE IN-KIND SUPPORT

- The Afeyan Initiatives for Armenia Foundation
- Aurora Humanitarian Initiative
- IDeA Foundation
- RVVZ Foundation
- Scholae Mundi Armenia
- Scholae Mundi Russia

## WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE DONORS WHO CHOSE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS



## STORIES OF GIVING

106 universities across 31 U.S. states, shaping a diverse and vibrant academic community.

### CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE DAVIS UWC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The year 2025 marks a significant milestone—25 years since Shelby Davis, American entrepreneur and philanthropist, together with his partner Philip O. Geier, co-founded the Davis UWC Scholars Program. Motivated by a desire to create meaningful impact in both individual lives and educational institutions in the 21st century, they recognised the importance of expanding educational opportunities for promising young people from around the world. They also envisioned transforming U.S. college campuses into more globally inclusive communities.

Since its inception, and thanks to Shelby Davis's extraordinary generosity, the Davis UWC Scholars Program has supported over 15,000 UWC graduates, offering them life-changing opportunities to pursue higher education in the United States. Today, the program partners with

Reflecting on this legacy, Veronika Zonabend, Co-Founder and Chair of the Board at UWC Dilijan, shared: “When Ruben and I were exploring school models and ultimately chose the UWC movement, Shelby Davis’s unwavering commitment was a true source of inspiration.”

In addition to the university scholarships for UWC graduates, since 2018 Mr. Davis has also provided Dare to Dream scholarships to enable young people from around the globe to attend UWC schools—including UWC Dilijan. During the 2024-25 academic year, UWC Dilijan proudly hosted 26 Dare to Dream Scholars, a testament to Mr. Davis’s enduring vision and belief in the power of education to change lives.

As we celebrate this 25-year anniversary, we honour the profound and far-reaching impact of the Davis UWC Scholars Program and the Dare to Dream initiative—both of which continue to transform the educational landscape and empower the next generation of global changemakers.

## CHAMPIONING GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING: THE BLAVATNIK FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

We are proud to announce a significant milestone in UWCD's 10-year journey: the introduction of two new scholarships for Israeli students, generously funded by the Blavatnik Family Foundation. These are the first scholarships at the college specifically designated for Israeli nationals and mark a powerful step forward in our mission to broaden access and foster intercultural dialogue.

"Providing quality education promotes knowledge, understanding, and prosperity throughout the world," said Len Blavatnik, Founder of Access Industries and the Blavatnik Family Foundation.

This belief is at the heart of the Foundation's support, which enables UWC Dilijan to continue shaping a future where education bridges divides and empowers youth to become global citizens.

Len is among the world's most prominent philanthropists, dedicated to advancing science, education, and culture through charitable giving. Over the past decade, the Blavatnik Family Foundation has contributed more than \$1.3 billion to over 250 world-class institutions and charitable organisations.

The Foundation is a major supporter of scholarships, fellowships, and internships at leading global institutions and universities that help the next generation excel. In providing opportunities to the brightest Israeli individuals to study at UWC Dilijan, the Foundation is furthering its commitment to ensuring that education remains a force to unite people, nations, and culture. These scholarships offer a unique opportunity



for Israeli students to join a vibrant community of learners from over 80 countries. Within this truly global environment, students are not only challenged academically but are also inspired to engage in meaningful conversations, develop empathy, and live the values of peace and mutual understanding.

"Now, more than ever, our world needs spaces where young people from different backgrounds can come together to learn, engage, and understand one another," said Veronika Zonabend, Co-Founder and Chair of the Board at UWC Dilijan. "This initiative is a testament to the power of philanthropy and the enduring impact it can have on fostering global understanding and resilience through education."

At a time of rising global tensions and uncertainty, support like that of the Blavatnik Family Foundation underscores the essential role that education plays in building bridges between cultures. UWC Dilijan remains deeply committed to the UWC mission: to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

These new scholarships are more than financial aid—they are a statement of values and a call to action. They reflect our unwavering belief that inclusivity and access to transformative education are critical to shaping a more harmonious and just world.

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded that such impact is only possible through the continued support of visionary partners and donors. The generosity of the Blavatnik Family Foundation is a powerful example of how philanthropy can open doors, change lives, and strengthen the foundation for a better future.

**BLAVATNIK**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

*Together, through education, we build peace—one student at a time.*

# WHO WE ARE



# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

## IB RESULTS

### 105 IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS

#### AVERAGE POINTS

**34**

UWCD

**30.32**

WORLDWIDE 2023

#### PASS RATE

**94%**

UWCD

**80.5%**

WORLDWIDE 2024

#### PERCENTAGE RECEIVING BILINGUAL DIPLOMA

**46%**

UWCD

**27.1%**

WORLDWIDE 2024

#### PERCENTAGE RECEIVING 40+ POINTS

**13%**

UWCD

**9.3%**

WORLDWIDE 2024

## CLASS OF 2025 UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS

Out of 105 students of the class of 2025, nine students are taking a gap year while the rest are proceeding to start university education. University acceptances include:

#### USA:

- Barnard College
- Bennington College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Colorado College
- Concordia College at Moorhead
- Connecticut College
- Cornell University, Duke University
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- Goucher College
- Hampshire College
- Lake Forest College
- Macalester College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Middlebury College
- Northwestern University
- Oberlin College
- Pratt Institute
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Santa Clara University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)
- St. Lawrence University
- St. Olaf College
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of the South
- Tufts University
- Tulane University of Louisiana

- University of California Riverside
- University of Chicago
- University of Florida
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Richmond
- University of Rochester
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Whitman College

#### Canada:

- McGill University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Guelph
- University of Ottawa
- University of Toronto

#### UK:

- King's College London
- University College London
- University of the Arts London

#### The Netherlands:

- Amsterdam University College
- Maastricht University
- University of Amsterdam
- University of Groningen

- Utrecht University
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

#### Belgium:

- Catholic University of Leuven

#### Germany:

- Bard College Berlin

#### Italy:

- Bocconi University

#### Spain:

- Esade Barcelona
- IE University (Madrid and Segovia campuses)
- Institute of Arts Barcelona

#### China:

- New York University Shanghai

#### Denmark:

- MARTEC—Maritime and Polytechnic College

#### Qatar:

- Georgetown University Qatar

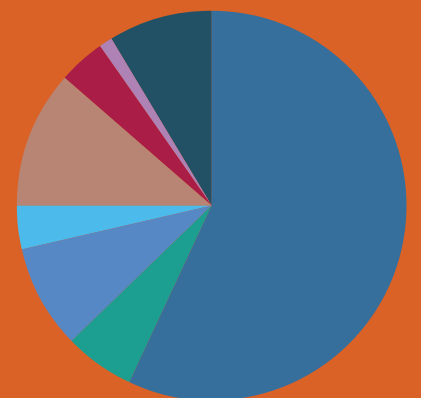
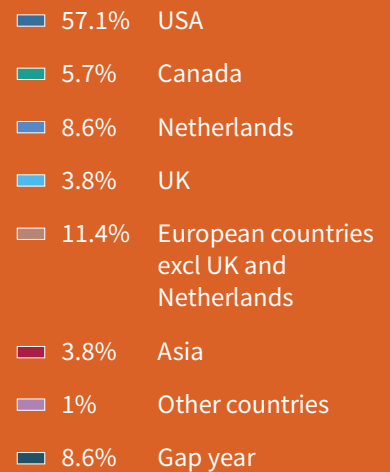
#### Singapore:

- James Cook University

## DESTINATIONS

Total:

**100%**



# LEARNING AND LEADING

Petr has been a dedicated and active member of the UWC community, consistently stepping up to take on tasks both big and small. Over his two years at the school, he played a key role in planning and executing graduation ceremonies, demonstrating strong organisational skills and a collaborative spirit.

Always eager to contribute, Petr frequently volunteered to lead campus tours for visitors, approaching each opportunity with sincerity and a genuine passion for sharing his UWC experience. He is beginning his university studies in the United States.



**PETR GROSHENKO**

RUSSIA, UWCD'25

Apart from her active involvement in the school's sustainability started, Morgane initiated an exchange of letters between Hovhannes Tumanyan School in Margahovit and her former middle school, Saint-Gilduin, in Combours, France. As a result 19 students, aged 13 to 15, took part in this interesting initiative to foster links among Armenian and French kids. Morgane is hoping to create opportunities for these students to visit each other.



**MORGANE ROBERT**

FRANCE, UWCD'25

Among Ayham's achievements is winning the GoMakeADifference competition, which will enable him to set up a summer camp aimed at improving physical and emotional wellbeing of children in Gaza. "Wars and conflicts are some of the major causes of stress and anxiety. My friend Anas and I are planning to create a summer camp to address this problem. It will provide a holistic approach that combines informative sessions, stress management techniques, drama therapy, and a space for creative expression."



**AYHAM KHLEIF**  
PALESTINE, UWCD '25

Elen Manukyan served as the Social Media Manager on the Student Council team, where she managed the council's Instagram account with creativity and strategic insight. Through engaging content and fresh ideas, she helped strengthen the connection between the Student Council and the school community.



**ELEN MANUKYAN**  
ARMENIA, UWCD '25

One of her standout contributions was co-launching the "73 Questions" interview series—an initiative inspired by Vogue—that featured teachers and staff, adding a fun and personal touch to campus life.

Yuyang has made valuable contributions to the school community through both consistent involvement and standout achievements. As a core member of the Student Council, he proved himself to be a respected and effective leader. He also surprised and impressed us with his performance talents, taking on a lead role in the Theatre CAS major production of Hometown. His acting and singing captivated audiences across all three nights of the show.



**YUYANG WENG**  
CHINA, UWCD '25

## TEACHING, CARING AND INSPIRING

Originally from the Philippines, Van developed a deep enthusiasm for science early in his academic journey. During secondary school, he discovered a passion for physics, captivated by the elegance of how equations can model the physical world.

He holds a Bachelor of Secondary Education in Physics from the University of the Philippines-Diliman. Before joining UWC Dilijan, Van taught integrated science and physics at both exclusive and international schools in the Philippines.

**VAN MANABAT**  
TEACHER OF PHYSICS



From Serbia, Milan Miljkovic is our English teacher, having joined UWC Dilijan this academic year. He holds a PhD in Literary Studies from the University of Belgrade. Although teaching was not his original plan, Milan began his career as an IB teacher of Serbian Literature and soon found his calling in education.

Before coming to UWCD, Milan taught History and Theory of Knowledge at Anatolia College in Greece. In addition to his teaching duties, he supervises the Debate Club and has demonstrated his own oratory talents at TEDxUWCDilijan—one of the school's most anticipated annual events.

**MILAN MILJKOVIC**  
TEACHER OF ENGLISH



Elizabeth, a dual citizen of Armenia and Syria, brings a strong background in both scientific research and international education. Born in Syria to an Armenian family, she earned her Master's degree in Analytical Chemistry from the American University of Beirut and initially worked in the field of scientific research.

After relocating to Armenia, Elizabeth joined UWC Dilijan, where she served for six years as a laboratory technician and IBDP Chemistry teacher. She later spent two years teaching Chemistry at UWC Adriatic.

Elizabeth is passionate about making science accessible, engaging, and meaningful for her students. Beyond the classroom, she is an active contributor to our community, participating in school life and leading various one-off activities that enrich the UWC experience.

**ELIZABETH SEPETDJIAN**

**TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY**



Originally from Sweden, Dan began his career in 2014 and has been part of the UWC movement for over a decade, having joined UWC Red Cross Nordic in 2015. Over the years, he has taught Swedish Literature, English Language and Literature, and Theory of Knowledge. At UWC Dilijan, he currently teaches Philosophy while also serving as a house parent.

Beyond the classroom, Dan is deeply engaged in fostering community spirit through initiatives close to his heart, such as leading the choir and organising prayers for peace. He also founded the annual UWC-wide John Hick Essay Competition, which promotes deeper interreligious and intercultural understanding.

**DAN SILFWERIN**

**TEACHER OF PHILOSOPHY,  
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE PARENT**





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## UWC DAY

On 21 September 2024, we celebrated UWC Day, a special occasion for the UWC community that coincides with the UN's International Day of Peace and the Armenian Independence Day. Under the global theme "Together We Change", we donned our national costumes and held a flag parade representing 80 countries with the accompanying music. We then welcomed around 200 Armenian youth to our school, where we offered tours and participated together in an art project, creating peace signs to form a banner. The day culminated in the Caucasus Regional Evening, a vibrant celebration of Georgian and Armenian cultures through various performances. The event ended on a somber note, with Armenian students reminding us that a year prior Azerbaijan forced over 100,000 of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) Armenians to flee through the Lachin corridor.



## NOUR MOUSSA GIVES A KEYNOTE ADDRESS FOR YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

In November 2024, Nour Mussa (Sudan, UWCD'18), who is now a mathematics teacher at UWC Dilijan, delivered a keynote address at the 10th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Yerevan. Nour emphasised the transformative opportunity provided to him by UWC Dilijan when he came to study at UWC Dilijan as a refugee from Sudan. UNHCR helped Nour obtain a laissez-passer so that he could travel to Armenia, which became Nour's safe haven.



## A VISIT TO THE ARMENIAN PARLIAMENT



During the October Project Week a group of 30 students and staff had a chance to visit the Armenian Parliament. The three-hour visit included being in the parliamentary chamber to observe the sitting of the Parliament from the gallery and a meeting with one of the parliamentarians. In the meeting, the students learned about Armenia's foreign policy and asked questions about the Armenian political scene.

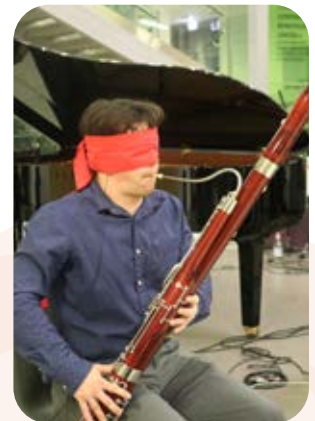
## VISIT BY AGBU URUGUAY

In November 2024 we hosted the Uruguayan delegation from the National Agency of Public Education and AGBU Uruguay's Director of Education Javier Polatian. They introduced Romina Fajardo, the winner of the 2024 Uruguay National Essay Competition. Romina presented her essay dedicated to the history of the recognition of the Armenian genocide in Uruguay, with the first act of recognition passed in 1965.



## SPB BLIND ORCHESTRA IMPROVISATIONAL SHOW

Saint Petersburg's Blind Orchestra made a special appearance in November 2024 with a unique blindfolded performance. Our students, Sarah Kassab (Syria, UWCD'26), Jason Sheepo (Namibia, UWCD'26), Steven Chen (China, UWCD'25), Inaya Huq (UK, UWCD'25) and Benoit Kelly-Coderre (Canada, UWCD'26) joined the orchestra in performing blindfolded. The concert, produced by George Averin, the artistic director and conductor of the Blind Orchestra, provided a new and challenging experience that sparked creativity among our students.



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## DILIMUN



Under the theme “Peace and Justice: Fostering Cooperation in a Multipolar World”, DiliMUN (Model United Nations) took place 12-13 March and was an exceptional opportunity for our students and their peers from Armenia and other countries to engage in thought-provoking discussions on a wide range of global issues. We had about 100 participants from Armenia, Georgia, Middle East and Russia, with keynotes delivered and workshops led by, among others, a representative of our parent community—Natalia Voutova, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia. The objective is for the young people to learn to engage in discourse with the aim of fostering lasting peace.

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## TEDXYOUTH@UWC DILIJAN “ECHOES OF THE FUTURE”

TEDxYouth@UWCDilijan took place under the theme “Echoes of the Future”. A flagship event led by UWC Dilijan students, it brought together 13 speakers from around the world, representing different age groups and backgrounds. From inspiring to thought-provoking talks, the event highlighted diverse perspectives and was enriched by our students’ artistic performances. We’re grateful to our sponsors Melante, Dilijazz, and ArtLunch for supporting this year’s TEDxYouth@UWCDilijan event. Zara Tumanyan, Head of Modern Languages, supported a team of committed students.



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## MAURO RAMIREZ AZOFEIFA, THE 2025 ALUMNI IN ACTION AWARDEE

Mauro Ramirez Azofeifa (Costa Rica, UWC Dilijan '18) was selected as the 2025 Alumni in Action Awardee. In true UWC spirit, Mauro has committed himself to promoting environmental education and credits UWC Dilijan for giving him impetus for pursuing his passion. After graduating from UWC Dilijan, he pursued a degree in Human Ecology at College of the Atlantic (Bar Harbor, Maine, USA) and is currently finishing his Master of Science in Management in Entrepreneurial Leadership at Babson F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business. From Palmichal in Costa Rica, Mauro, together with his colleague Rebeca Morales, co-founded Visionarios de Paz, an environmental education organisation based in his hometown.



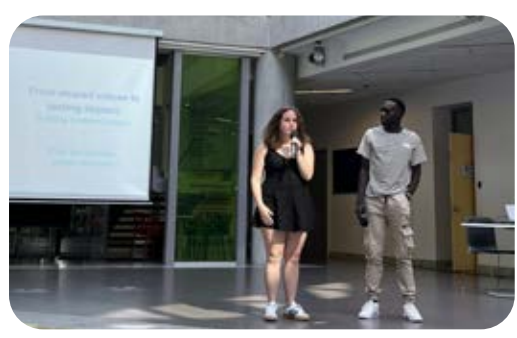
## FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF ARMENIA (FFA) AMATEUR LEAGUE



For the third consecutive year, UWC Dilijan is proudly participating in the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) Amateur League. Erik Cunelius, our Health and Sports Instructor, said, “These matches are incredibly valuable learning experiences, and the opportunities for growth go far beyond the footballing aspects. It’s fantastic to see how both the players and the team as a whole continue to develop.”

## GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Global Issues Forum (GIF) is a CAS that focuses on raising awareness on global issues. Supervised by Madhu Banerji, Assistant Head Residential Life, and led by a team of students headed by Makur Akech Aluk (South Sudan, UWCD’25) and Milla Brouwer (The Netherlands, UWCD’25), it had monthly all-school sessions on issues like peace and conflict resolution, mental health, and global issues like human rights.



## THE NEW ART OBJECT A BOOK—UNVEILED



This academic year, with the support of a generous donor, we launched an artist-in-residence programme in collaboration with Space. Under the theme “Common Senses” this initiative fosters new local and international artistic connections, resulting in unique art installations. In April 2025 we unveiled on the school campus the object named ‘A Book’. It symbolises Papanino, the Molokan village that previously stood on the site where UWC Dilijan is now located. Molokans are a Russian Spiritual Christian sect of about 2,000 in Armenia known for their distinct practices, including consuming milk (‘moloko’) during Christian fasts. Through

their work, architect Kirill Pernatkin and artist Alexandra Volodina, celebrate the contribution of this special ethnic group to Armenia, the country, known for its homogeneous population.



## UWC DILIJAN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



### PLASTIC COLLECTION IN DILIJAN

In early 2025 the Sustainability Committee launched the initiative to collect plastic bottles in Dilijan. Collection points were set up at four separate locations coordinated with the municipality. SustCo members have been regularly collecting plastic bottles from these trash cans for a move to the recycling facility.

### BALD FOR A CAUSE

Hands for Youth CAS organised the “Bald for a Cause” initiative, in which students cut and donate their hair to support a meaningful cause. This year, we had 18 volunteers including 16 students and 2 staff members join the effort. Together, they raised 250,000AMD,



which was donated to the City of Smile Armenia, an NGO in Yerevan dedicated to treating children with cancer.

### KIDS LIBRARY MAKEOVER

During the March Project Week, our students came together to transform the library’s kids’ section into a more inviting and engaging space for our younger students at DIS and local children who are often guests of the library for special readings. They made brand new shelves in the workshop and installed them in the library, decorated the space with colourful posters, handcrafted ceramics, and crocheted pieces to create a warm and inspiring environment. It was a truly collective effort.



## DILIJAN BUS TRANSPORTATION PROJECT



Students from UWC Dilijan, led by Dan Song (China, UWCD'26), Stefan Hau (Romania, UWCD'26) and Azizbek Chanaev (Uzbekistan,

UWCD'26) designed a multilingual map of the bus system in Dilijan and installed links to the information in over 20 bus stops and tourist destinations across Dilijan. Tausif Zaman (Bangladesh, UWCD'26) worked with several businesses to put posters in their stores and with the Dilijan Tourist Information Center to gather accurate information about the transportation system. Michael Trelawny-Cassity (US, UWCD'26), Ilinca Banu (Romania, UWCD'26), and Jason Sheepo (Namibia, UWCD'26) made the map design as accessible as possible. With this information, tourists and residents alike can easily avail of their travel options.



## TENNIS CAMP FOR LOCAL CHILDREN



Tomas Ochoa Franco (Colombia, UWCD'25) led the effort to set up a 3-day tennis camp for the kids during the March Project Week. Eleven kids from the Dilijan Community Center and fifteen from DIS attended the camp, which was made possible with the help of UWCD students who coached the children.

# SAMSUNG

## THE 2024 SAMSUNG MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION FOR YOUTH

Four Armenian students, who graduated from the Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) programme at UWC Dilijan, were among 19 finalists chosen from 64 entries for the 2024 Samsung Mobile App Development Competition "IT School Chooses the Best!" held 3-4 July. Two of them were awarded prizes in two of the three categories: 3rd place in "Programming" category: Levon Nazinyan, "Day Buddy" app, supervisor—Mikayel Elizbaryan, our IT teacher; 3rd place in "Social Application" category: Arsen Anoyan, "Librant" app, supervisor—Arsen Davtyan, our SIC instructor.



# PROUD TO REPRESENT ARMENIA

## WORLD SCHOOL DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

Asharah Jaman (Bangladesh, UWCD'24), Anam McCartney (USA, UWCD'25), Daryl Tan (Malaysia, UWCD'25), Mari-Elena Arutyunova (Russia, UWCD'25), and Irene Arbelo García (Spain, UWCD'25) represented Armenia at the 2024 World Schools Debating Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, in July 2024. Our team members delivered outstanding performances, coming close to reaching the final rounds. They also had the honour of meeting the Armenian Ambassador Mr. Ashot Hovakimyan at the closing ceremony, making the experience even more memorable.



## INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Team Armenia participated in the FIRST Global Challenge 2024, an international robotics competition that this year was hosted in Athens, Greece. We ranked 125 among 193 countries. This year four students travelled in representation of our robotics club: Artyom Jhangiryan (Armenia, UWCD'25), Eva Kudryavtseva (Russia, UWCD'25), Movses Hovhannesyanyan (Armenia, UWCD'25) and Kyuri Nam (South Korea, UWCD'25). They were led by their mentors, Mikayel Elizbaryan and Paula Leguísamo (Uruguay, UWCD'18). UWC Dilijan has represented Armenia in the competition since 2019. DigiFence, a cybersecurity technology and IT support company, provided generous sponsorship of our robotics team. Our special thanks to the Co-Founder and CEO Artur Martirosyan.



## ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to our students Graco Rossanigo (Argentina, UWCD'25), Santiago Leon Garavito (Colombia, UWCD'25) and Artyom Jhangiryan (Armenia, UWCD'25) for winning bronze medals at the 2024 Economics Olympiad Final in Olympia, Greece! This prestigious competition gathered 85 students from 18 countries, selected from over 97,000 global competitors.



## COP28: LCOY ARMENIA

About 140 young people, including 120 from 20 Armenian high schools, participated in the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) "Climate Justice: What it Means for the World and for Armenia" held on 27 October 2024 at UWC Dilijan. Our



school hosted LCOY Armenia for the second year in a row. In partnership with and the support from UNDP, the conference focused on climate change and climate justice issues. LCOY is an initiative of YOUNGO, the Official Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Erdni Mangutov (Russia, UWCD'24), who participated in COY17 in Egypt in 2022, initiated establishing LCOY Armenia in 2023, and in 2024 it was led by Manvel Hovhannisyan with the support of the Sustainability Committee.



## BRAIN BEE ARMENIA AND GEORGIA



In 2024, Patryk Stelmaszek (Poland, UWCD'25) and Jakub Ziarko (Poland, UWCD'24), supported by Madhu Banerji, Biology Teacher, initiated an international Brain Bee Armenia and Georgia neuroscience competition. In the spring of 2025 it took place at the Yerevan State Medical University COBRAIN Scientific-Educational Center for BRAIN Research. Saulė Griškutė (Lithuania, UWCD'26) came up second in the hardest and final round based on application and skills in neuroscience.

# TOGETHER WE CAN

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Our diverse student body is represented by the Student Council, which has the following remit:

- 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 TOON

“Toon” means “house” in Armenian. At UWCD, students live in toons. During the 2024–25 academic year, a group of alumni initiated the establishment of the Alumni Toon.

The purpose of the UWCD Alumni Toon is to serve as a bridge between the alumni community and the school, in alignment with the UWC Dilijan Charter and values. The UWC Dilijan Alumni Toon works both to bind the

alumni body together socially and professionally, while also engaging them in school- and student-related projects for the betterment of the future of UWCD and its unique culture. It further seeks to inspire a culture of giving back, reinforcing the alumni community’s commitment to supporting the school’s growth and sustainability.

### Alumni Toon initiative leaders:



**Ani Gevorgyan**  
Armenia, UWCD’16



**Marcos Dos Santos**  
Brazil, UWCD’16



**Anshika Singh**  
Nepal, UWCD’17



**Silviya Hovnanyan**  
Armenia, UWCD’17



**Dalia Atallah**  
Lebanon, UWCD’18



**Jeppe Strands**  
Denmark, UWCD’18



**Nonna Madoyan**  
Armenia, UWCD’24

## PARENT COUNCIL

We are fortunate to have an engaged and supportive parent community.

The Parent Council acts as a vital link between families and the school, fostering collaboration to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our students. Comprising a diverse group of parents, the Council plays an active role in welcoming and onboarding new families, participating in career guidance sessions, hosting students and offering internship opportunities, to name just a few of their contributions.



We would like to especially acknowledge the efforts of Parent Council Co-Chairs, Teresa Mead and Lama Samman, for their dedicated support throughout the 2024-25 academic year.

# SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

## 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 and conduct ongoing work via a number of committees.

This 10th anniversary year we would like to recognise the work of all past and current board and committee members:

### Inaugural Board

Ruben Vardanyan, Veronika Zonabend, Noubar Afeyan, Elisabet Engellau, Tim Flynn, Andrew Mkrtychyan, Michael Obermayer, Grant Pogosyan, Ralph Townsend, Vartan Gregorian, Armen Sarkissian

### Past Board Members

Ruben Vardanyan, Noubar Afeyan, Tim Flynn, Michael Obermayer, Grant Pogosyan, Kamal Rahman, Ralph Townsend, Tim Toyne Sewell, Vartan Gregorian, Colin Jenkins, Armen Sarkissian, Carol Aslanian, Rafi Baghdjian, Svetlana Garipova, Gregory Jones, Edgar Manukyan

### Supporters of the School's Governance

Manfred Kets de Vries, Dmitri Levonyan, Hakob Sarkissian, Udo Dagenbach, Deana Arsenian, Manana Hakobyan, Hoa-Binh Adjemian



ANNA AFEYAN



PHILIP COUZENS



ELISABET ENGELLAU



PIERRE GURDJIAN



RICHARD OGDON



ALICE PETROSSIAN



JOHN GUYATT



ARMAN JILAVIAN



KATHERINE MERSETH



ANDREW MKRTCHYAN



VERONIKA ZONABEND



ALEXANDER TYNKOVAN

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## JANUARY-DECEMBER 2024 AUDIT REPORT (IN USD)

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

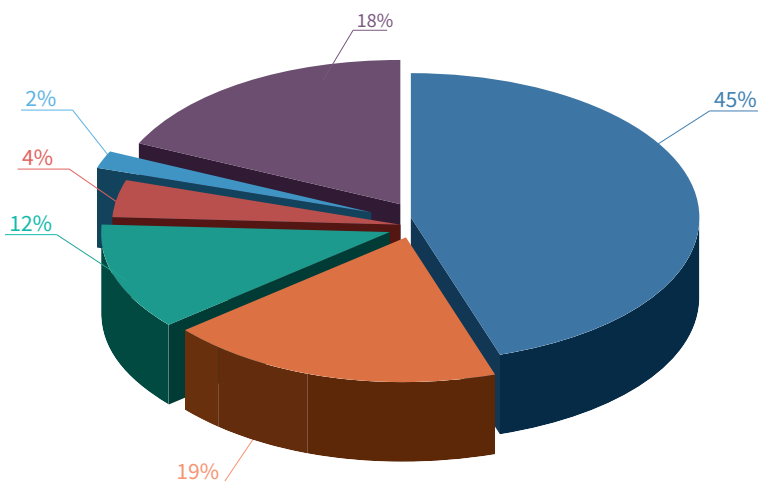
	2023	2024
TUITION FEES	4.82	4.51
DONATIONS	2.23	2.41
OTHER INCOME & FX NET	0.64	0.71
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>7.70M</b>	<b>7.64M</b>
HUMAN RESOURCES	-3.53	-3.69
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	-4.18	-3.82
DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION	-0.20	-0.16
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-7.91M</b>	<b>-7.67M</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-0.21M</b>	<b>-0.04M</b>
FX RATE	392.46	392.73

in USD

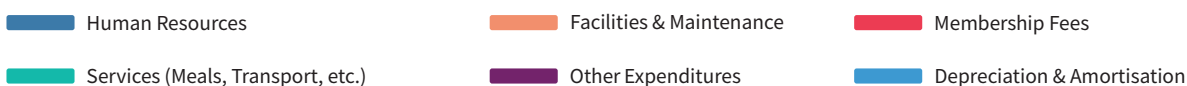
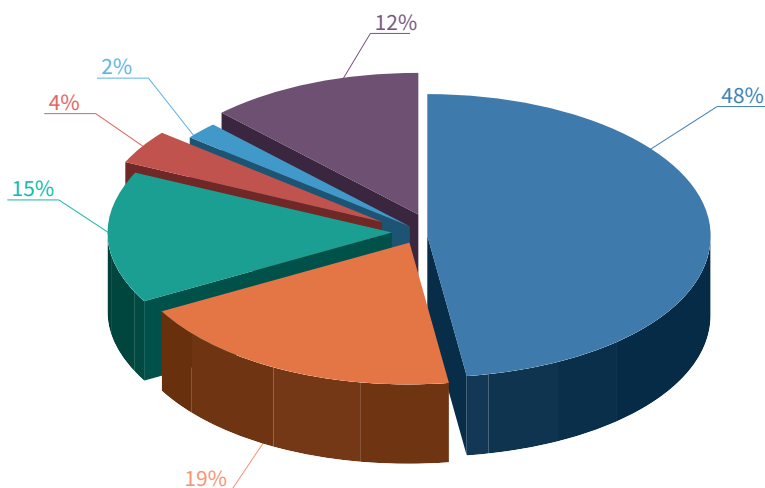
# EXPENDITURES BREAKDOWN

	USD	
	2023	2024
HUMAN RESOURCES	3,527 K	3,687 K
FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE	1,472 K	1,461 K
SERVICES	953 K	1,067 K
MEMBERSHIP FEES	355 K	340 K
DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION	205 K	162 K
OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,396 K	942 K
TOTAL	7,908 K	7,659 K

## 2023



## 2024



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.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[www.uwcdilijan.org](http://www.uwcdilijan.org)

CONTACT  
[welcome@uwcdilijan.am](mailto:welcome@uwcdilijan.am)

