



Supporting Your Child Through University Applications

DP2 Parents' Town Hall

UWC Dilijan
September 2026

Inna Ghabulyan | University Counsellor



Today's purpose

A shared understanding of the process and the support each student needs.

Understand the process

How applications, school documents, recommendations, testing and financial aid fit together.

Clarify responsibilities

What students own, what the University Counselling Office manages, and where families can help.

Reduce avoidable stress

Key deadlines, realistic planning and communication habits for the busiest months.

Questions are welcome at the end. Please note individual student cases may require a separate conversation.

University Application Support Team



Adam Armanski
Director



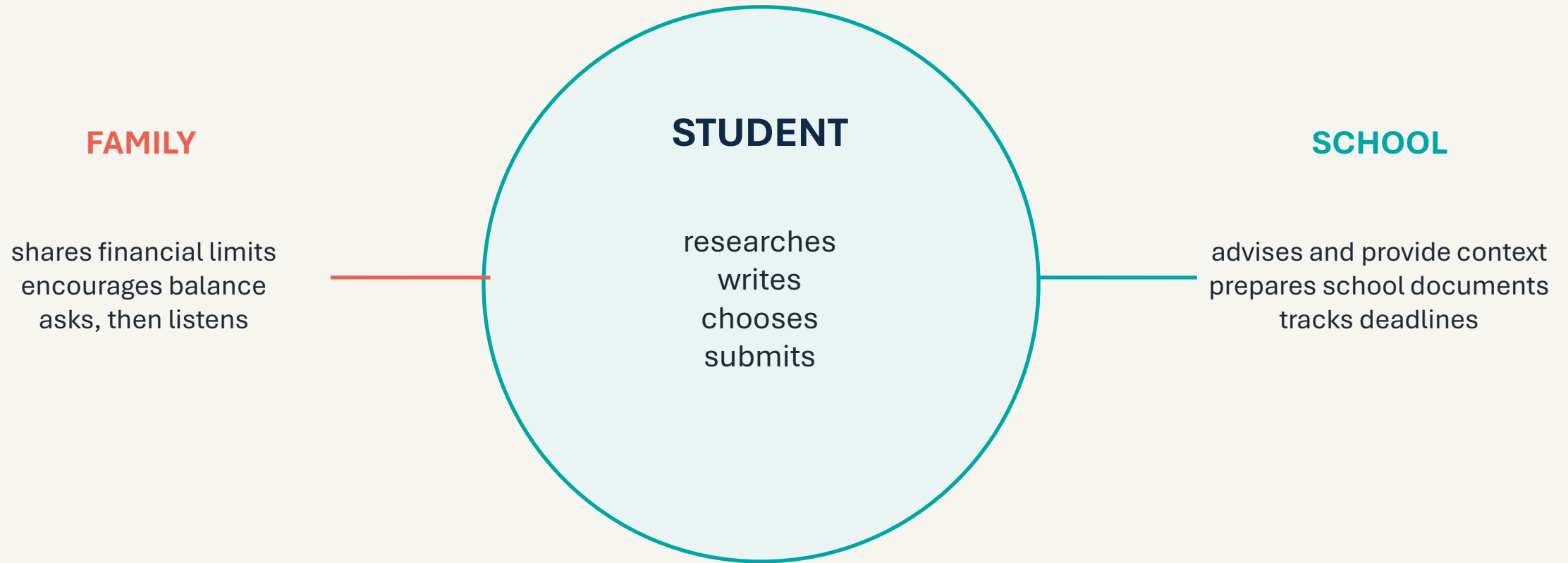
Inna Ghabulyan
University and Career Counselor



Tatevik Davitavyan
University Counselor Assistant

The application belongs to the student

Family support matters most when it strengthens ownership and honest decision-making.



How the University Counselling Office supports students

Individual guidance

Plans, university research, application strategy and decisions

Application review

Activities, personal statements, supplements and required forms

School documents

Counsellor recommendation, school profile, transcripts and predicted grades

Coordination

Teacher recommendations, MaiaLearning records and application tracking

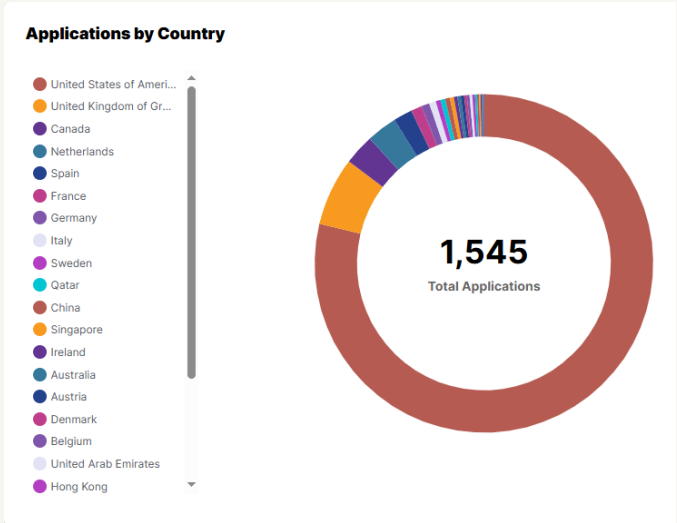
Opportunities

University visits, workshops, scholarships and nominations

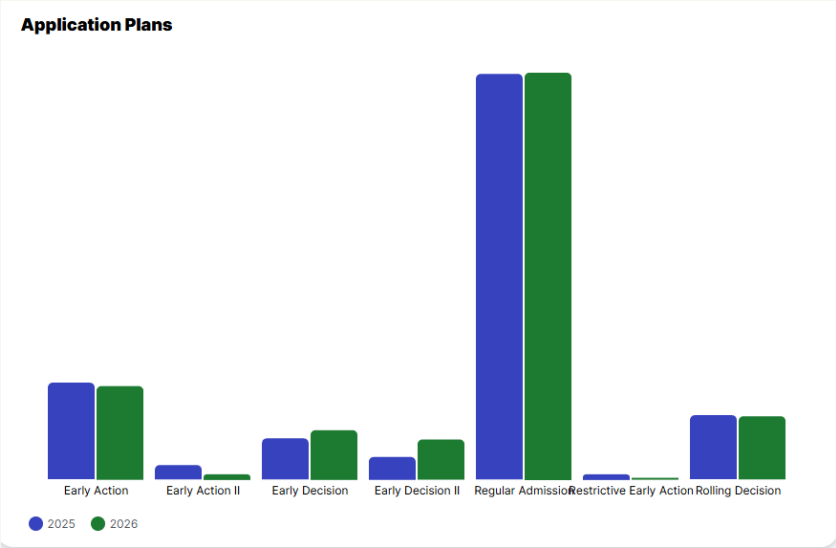
Preparation

Testing guidance, interviews and transition support

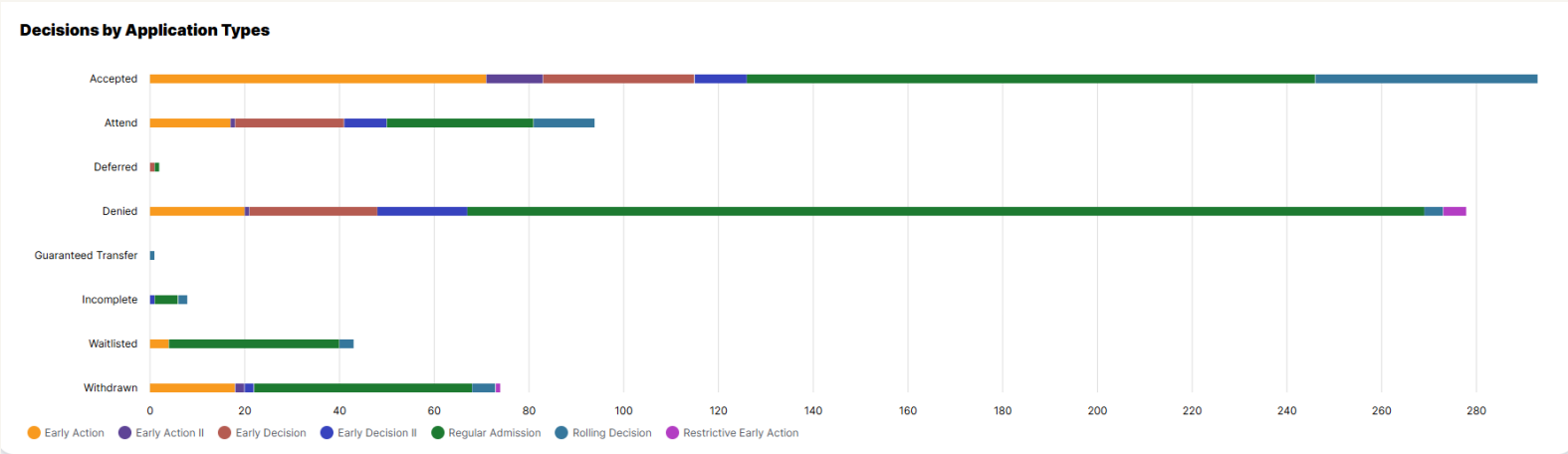
UWC Dilijan 2025-2026 application statistics



Total applications



Application plans



Decisions by Application Types

CLASS OF 2026 UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS

United States of America

Yale University
Dartmouth University
Brown University
UC Berkeley
Princeton University
University of Pennsylvania
New York University
Duke University
Purdue University
Northwestern University
University of Chicago
Tulane University
Boston University
Amherst College
Barnard College
Middlebury College
University of Southern California
Sarah Lawrence
Clark University
Marist University
University of Florida
University of Richmond
Sarah Lawrence College
Tufts University

University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus
Case Western Reserve University
American University - District of Columbia
George Washington University
Franklin and Marshall College
Bates College
Colby College
Oberlin College
Earlham College
The University of Tampa
University of Washington-Tacoma Campus
Wheaton College
St Olaf College
Concordia College at Moorhead
George Washington University
Case Western Reserve University
Union College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
The University of Tampa
Lake Forest College
Wartburg College
Carleton College
Macalester College
Whitman College

CLASS OF 2026 UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS

United Kingdom

Oxford University
University College London
Edinburgh University
University of Manchester
Exeter University
University of Warwick

Canada

McGill University
University of British Columbia
University of Waterloo
McMaster University
University of Toronto

Germany

Bard College Berlin

Austria

Central European University

China

Duke Kunshan
Chinese University HK
The University of Hong Kong

Netherlands

University of Groningen
Erasmus University
University of Amsterdam

France

Sciences Po

United Arab Emirates

New York University Abu Dhabi

Spain

ESADE Business School

From intention to submission

One plan, several systems, many deadlines

Finding the right fit

A university list should reflect the student's goals and the family's real constraints.

Academic

Programme content, teaching style, entry requirements

Personal

Campus culture, location, size, housing and wellbeing

Opportunity

Research, internships, activities and post-study options

Financial

Total cost, aid eligibility, travel and visa costs

Rankings may inform research, but they cannot decide fit.

A balanced list manages uncertainty

Admission and affordability both shape whether an option is realistic.

SAFETY / LIKELY

Admission appears probable based on current evidence.

Still requires a complete, strong application.

POSSIBLE / MATCH

The student's profile sits within the expected range.

Outcome remains uncertain, especially for international applicants.

REACH

Admission would be difficult for nearly every applicant.

A reach should never become the centre of the whole plan.

Financial safety matters too: an admission without a workable funding plan is not a viable option.

Growth in Application since 2022

One Generation Ago		NOW	
Class of 1995		Class of 2028	
School	Acceptance Rate	School	Acceptance Rate
Princeton University	16%	College of the Holy Cross	16%
Harvard University	17%	Colorado College	18%
Yale University	21%	Babson College	20%
Brown University	23%	University of Richmond	22%
Dartmouth College	25%	Franklin & Marshall	26%
Cornell University	31%	Lafayette College	31%
Columbia University	32%	Fairfield University	33%
University of Pennsylvania	47%	Santa Clara University	47%

The admit rates for the schools on the left side of this chart today are 4%, 4%, 5%, 6%, 6%, 8%, 4%, 5% respectively.

Source: Alexandra Beaumont, Admissions Village, “Finding Your Right Fit College Is Magical,” 2024

Application rounds in the United States

The label describes timing and commitment. It does not guarantee an advantage.

ROUND	COMMITMENT	WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW
Early Decision (ED)	Usually binding	One ED application; family must understand the financial commitment
Early Action (EA)	Non-binding	Apply early and compare later offers
Restrictive / Single-Choice EA	Non-binding, restricted	University-specific limits on other early applications
Regular Decision (RD)	Non-binding	More preparation time; decisions usually arrive later
Rolling Admission	Non-binding	Applications reviewed as they arrive; earlier may help

Early applications require an early-ready application

The strongest round is the one that matches the student's preparation and priorities.

Early may fit when...

- The student has a clear first choice
- The academic profile is ready
- Essays and recommendations are strong
- The family understands cost and binding terms

Regular may fit when...

- The list still needs research
- Testing or grades may improve
- The student needs more writing time
- The family wants to compare financial offers

An early deadline should never force a rushed or unaffordable choice.

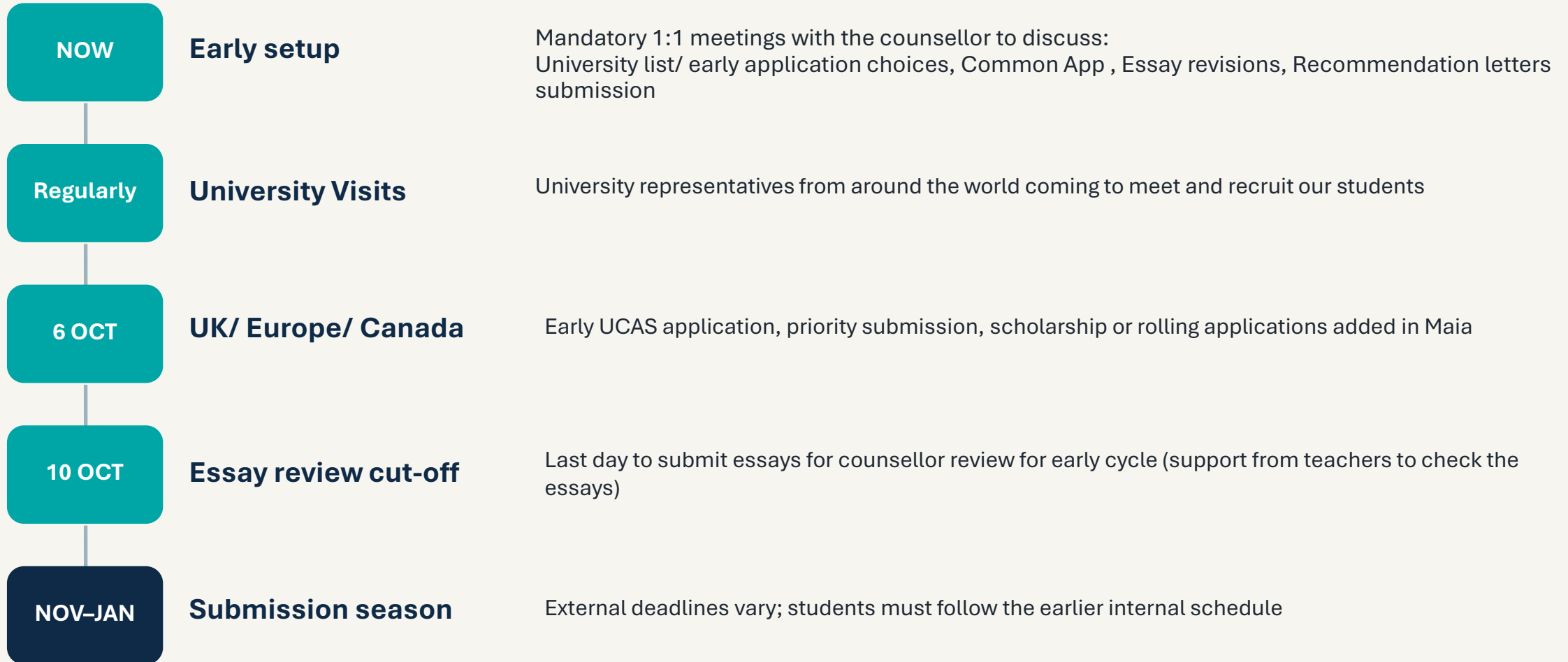
Different destinations follow different routes

DESTINATION	MAIN ROUTE	IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE
United States	Common App and university portals	Holistic review: grades, essays, test scores, activities, honors and recommendations matter
United Kingdom	UCAS	Course-focused; one application, up to five choices
Canada	Provincial or university portals	Often grade-focused; supplements vary
Europe	National systems or university portals	Requirements, languages and deadlines vary widely
Asia / Middle East	University-specific systems	Testing, interviews and scholarship timelines vary

Students must check program-level requirements. A university's general page may not include course-specific tests or prerequisites.

UWC Dilijan internal timeline

Internal deadlines give the school time to review, prepare and submit documents safely.



Students must also monitor university-specific deadlines for tests, portfolios, interviews, scholarships and financial aid.

Quality, integrity and academic readiness

The application must represent the student accurately



What Makes a Strong Application

Universities read each component together and look for consistency across the file.

Academic evidence

Transcripts, predicted grades and required test scores must support the academic story presented elsewhere in the application.

External evidence

Teacher recommendations explain classroom engagement and growth. The counsellor adds school context and the student's wider contribution.

Student voice

Essays add meaning and reflection that grades and activity lists cannot show. Parents may ask questions, but the student must write the final text

Activities, Leadership & Impact

Meaningful involvement, achievements, honors, leadership and contributions to the community help an application stand out.

The student remains responsible for the accuracy, originality and final submission of the application.

DP2 grades still matter

Universities evaluate current performance, not only the record students had when they applied.

Predicted grades

support the application and must reflect teachers' professional judgement

Final IB results

may determine whether a conditional offer becomes confirmed

Academic conduct

and significant changes may need to be reported to universities

Students should protect time for schoolwork, sleep and wellbeing throughout application season.
A strong application does not compensate for abandoning the IB.

Students may submit up to 10 university applications in total.

Financial planning

A workable university choice needs an honest budget



Start the financial conversation now

A family budget shapes the university list, application strategy and final decision.

Tuition and fees

Published price may differ from the amount after aid

Housing and meals

Costs vary by location and whether housing is guaranteed

Travel and visa

Often excluded from university aid packages

Health insurance

May be mandatory and expensive

Personal expenses

Books, local transport, winter clothing and emergencies

Families should agree on the maximum annual contribution and prepare required financial documents before deadlines.

Financial aid and scholarships

Funding language can sound similar while the selection criteria differ.

Need-based aid

Based on documented family circumstances. Universities calculate demonstrated need using their own policies.

Merit scholarships

Based on academic, leadership, artistic or other strengths. Some require separate applications.

Nominated awards

The school may nominate a limited number of students. Internal selection and earlier deadlines may apply, admission and scholarship is NOT guaranteed

Full funding is highly competitive. Every student seeking substantial aid needs financially realistic alternatives.

Davis UWC Scholars Program

Current Collegiate Partners for 2026–27

- 106 partner institutions in the US
- Davis is not a separate application
- The partner university/ college determines admission and the student's financial aid package.
- Davis funding supports the institution
- It is need-based and is not an automatic scholarship for every UWC graduate.
- Funds go through the partner institution, not directly to the student.
- Families still need a plan for costs that an award may not cover.
- Student should not contact Davis office directly

New Davis Partners



Full list of Partners: davisuwcscholars.org/partners

How families can help

Calm support, clear limits and trust in the student



What helpful family support looks like

Discuss finances clearly

Share the real annual budget, documents and any restrictions.

Create calm routines

Protect sleep, schoolwork and time away from applications.

Ask useful questions

What did you learn about the university? What is your next deadline?
What support do you want?

Encourage realistic choices

Celebrate strong-fit options, not only famous names.

Let the student communicate

Students should email universities and the counselling office themselves.

Expect uncertainty

Rejection, waitlists and changing preferences are normal parts of the process.

Pressure usually makes the process harder

Common well-intended actions can reduce confidence and create avoidable problems.

LESS HELPFUL

- Comparing the student with peers
- Focusing only on rankings or prestige
- Writing or heavily editing essays
- Contacting universities on the student's behalf

MORE HELPFUL

- Encouraging the student's own criteria
- Discussing fit, affordability and wellbeing
- Listening and asking questions
- Helping the student prepare to communicate

Communication and meetings

Clear channels help the Counseling office support a large and diverse PD2 cohort fairly.

Student communication

The student remains the primary contact and **should check school email and MaiaLearning regularly.**

Counsellor meetings

Meetings last 30 minutes. Students should **arrive prepared** with focused questions and updated information.

Parent questions

General questions are welcome. Student-specific concerns should include the student whenever appropriate.

Please allow reasonable response time during peak application months. Urgent planning becomes easier when students act before deadlines.

The next few weeks

A practical sequence for students and families during the busiest part of the cycle.



Now: finalise intended destinations, universities and application rounds in MaiaLearning.



Now: complete Common App, FERPA and recommendation requests if any setup remains unfinished.



By 6 October: complete early UCAS and relevant early Canada or Europe preparation.



By 10 October: submit essays for the final round of counsellor review.



During October: prepare financial-aid documents, scholarship forms, tests and interviews.



Before each deadline: complete a final accuracy, check and submit early enough to solve technical problems.

Families can help by maintaining one regular check-in and allowing the student to manage the daily work.

Questions & Conversation

For individual cases, please follow up through the usual school communication channel.