UWC Dilijan is a community working towards a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world through a balanced, challenging and transformative education with people from diverse backgrounds.

The college aims to be an integral part of Dilijan and to have positive personal, local and global impact.
Coming to UWC Dilijan and living in its vibrant community has changed my life in many ways. I am very grateful for the people I met, the ideas I shared, the connections I made and multidimensional development in my whole personality.

I cannot put in words how grateful I am for your support. Your support and donation has made my future brighter. If not for this opportunity that I got because of your generous support, it would be very difficult for me to even imagine going to world class schools. I would not be as strong as I am now.

Here I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you! Thank you so much for caring and supporting me! Your donation has been a candle to give light for my future. It has been an input to solidify my foundation. You have equipped me to draw a beautiful history in my life.

Workneh graduated from UWC Dilijan in May 2018. He is currently studying at Harvard University.
WE SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR MOVEMENT SHALL OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUE TO GROW!
acquire an even deeper understanding of their own culture by studying at Dilijan because they feel responsible for its reception as ambassadors. For us, integration through diversity means knowledge of who and what you are, respect for the uniqueness of others, the ability to engage in dialogue with people who may not be like you, and the enrichment of your own spiritual world. We are united in our belief that this should form the basis of joint solutions to global issues and effective progress in the 21st century.

It is not easy for human society, accustomed throughout its history to seek progress in conflict, to search out ways of rapprochement. But for us, at least one of these ways is clear: education. UWC Dilijan is our anchor project in this area. It sets off a chain of meaningful changes, serves as a cornerstone for breakthrough developments, and most importantly, attracts a dedicated and caring public.

We would like to focus on these people separately, expressing our own boundless gratitude and that of UWC Dilijan students and alumni alike. We are talking about everyone who has believed in the seemingly impossible idea of an international college in Armenia and supported this project, especially our partners and donors. Like our students and teachers, they also represent a community with different ethnic, cultural, religious and professional backgrounds, united around a single anchor project to create an environment of integrated diversity.

Our dearest friends, in a sense you are the very residents of this proverbial African village responsible for raising a child, or in our case, many children. Thanks to you, our extraordinary school will celebrate its fifth anniversary this year. Thanks to you, hundreds of talented teenagers from all over the world have been blessed with the unique opportunity to receive an education like no other. Their future is full of seemingly limitless opportunities, and we are confident that the ardent desire of these young people to change the world for the better, inspired by your broad support, will certainly leave its mark on mankind.

Sincerely yours

Veronika Zonabend and Ruben Vardanyan

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees of UWC Dilijan
$5.6M GRANTED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

2610 YOUNGSTERS FROM DILIJAN AND NEARBY TOWNS ATTEND CO-CURRICULAR COURSES AT UWC DILIJAN /swimming, languages, football, science, volleyball, zumba and many others/

$1.1M RECEIVED IN DONATIONS

96% OF STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

12000 HOURS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

82% AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP

107 STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2018

40 COLLEGE EVENTS

2950 YOUNGSTERS FROM DILIJAN AND NEARBY TOWNS ATTEND CO-CURRICULAR COURSES AT UWC DILIJAN /swimming, languages, football, science, volleyball, zumba and many others/
EDUCATION
VIVEK GHANDI
Teacher of Mathematics

The secret recipe to make people fall in love with mathematics.

“Teaching enables us to look into the minds of other people and, by that go back and reinvent ourselves…”

LEARNING VS EVALUATION

In my classes I always try to encourage learning, make the atmosphere where no student is scared or intimidated. When a person tries to evaluate oneself all the time, there can be no positive impact and no learning. This is not what I am looking for.

CONVERSATION VS INSTRUCTION
OR THE TYRANNY OF THE RIGHT ANSWER

My classes are a conversation, rather than instruction. The more humor, understanding and care you add, the more the students will love the subject, and math is known to be the world’s most hated subject :) Conversation is the key to keeping the student interested in the discipline, engage them in discussion thus getting better results.

Connecting the Dots...

Every day is different from the previous one. From basic maths to geometry, from statistics to probability. We are trying to connect the dots together and piece by piece to get the bigger picture. And once the student gets to see and understand the bigger picture she start looking at the subject differently. She starts enjoying it…
Understanding teenage thought processes with empathy where needed, commitment to achieve in turn a holistic growth of the pupil, international mindedness and ability to put the students first are key to our success in such roles. Crucial support also comes from the dedicated medical team and the college counselor. They as a part of the pastoral team see that the Toon parents get the best advice for keeping physical and mental health of their pupils in shipshape.

Each Toon Parent (House Parent) looks after a certain number of students and assumes the role of a parent figure for them in the college. The relationship is built upon mutual trust. A Toon Parent guides, mentors and acts as a role model for the students. She takes genuine interest in not only the academic growth of the student but also provides the inspiration for personal growth.
Our aim at UWC is to make students enjoy each class and get the most out of their time at school. This is why everyone is looking forward to what next lesson will bring. Here is a glance at what our science classes usually look like.

“KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. INFORMATION IS LIBERATING. EDUCATION IS THE PREMISE OF PROGRESS, IN EVERY SOCIETY, IN EVERY FAMILY”

– KOFI ANNAN
"IDEA DEVELOPMENT IS THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF THE TEACHING PROCESS FOR ME. MY MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS TO HELP EVERY STUDENT TO FIND THE TALENT THAT IS VERY OFTEN HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THEM."
COMMUNITY SERVICE

:: Over 60 kids from Dilijan participated in the swimming classes at UWC Dilijan. These are taught by the students as a part of their “Swimming with the Community” CAS.

:: 180 teachers from Dilijan and adjacent villages took part in the professional workshops hosted by UWC Dilijan. The set of workshops was organised with the support of the Dilijan Community Centre.

:: UWC Dilijan hosted the regional finals of the GOALS Armenia – a soccer league that empowers Armenian girls in football. This was another cycle of this long-term meaningful collaboration.

:: “Dilijan Dog Project” CAS launched a cooperation with a dog shelter in Yerevan aimed at addressing the issue of stray dogs in Dilijan.

CO CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

25 SERVICE BASED CAS’S

STUDENTS EACH WEEK ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY
(some students have more than one service-based activity)

YOUNGSTERS FROM DILIJAN AND NEARBY TOWNS ATTEND CO-CURRICULAR COURSES AT UWC DILIJAN
(swimming, language, football, science, etc.)

1200 HOURS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

180 TEACHERS PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL TEACHERS
Hayk

DILIJAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
RESIDENT UWC RBC’20

“My mom describes Dilijan of her childhood as a centre for arts and culture. She tells about concerts and theatre performances which used to take place here very often. And now I am very happy to see that Dilijan is going through its regeneration.

Moreover, I am proud to be a tiny part of it as any youngster taking active part in Dilijan Community Centre activities.

We, youth of Dilijan have this fantastic opportunity to communicate with UWC Dilijan students and get acquainted with different cultures, we do mutual projects and mutually benefit from them. There are always so many projects ongoing that sometimes I feel pity not to be able to get involved in all of them.”
COMMUNITY SERVICE

UWC Dilijan is the integral part of the Dilijan community, and the students actively cooperate with local schools and organisations as a part of the wide range of CAS (Creativity-Action-Service) projects.

Over 2600 local children and teenagers regularly participate in academic and co-curricular projects run by the students and teachers. Together with the Dilijan Community Centre UWC Dilijan organises public events in the school premises and off the campus. The highlights of this cooperation include the UWC Day celebration with the community and Dilijan Arts Festival 2018.

"In the college, I participate in different activities and CAS projects. One of my favorite CAS activities is working in the Greenhouse where I plant vegetables, flowers, fruits and more. It is my favourite activity because I like the green color in nature which makes my surrounding so fresh and beautiful. It also pleases me because of its importance in reducing greenhouse gases. I also have other CAS activities, including Sound Design which is creation of music with the help of computer software, and football which I learn and enjoy at the same time. In college we talk about a lot of issues including global, college-wide and personal issues, and I am always impressed that everyone has the opportunity to raise their issues to discuss and find a solution to them."

Tsegaye
UWCD'18 AURORA SCHOLAR
ETHIOPIA
"What enriched my UWC life the most are the CAS activities. In the running club, every day I ran 5km through the beautiful nature of Dilijan. I challenged myself by participating in a race of 21km running or 90km biking, and they are one of the most significant accomplishments. I joined various musical activities that expanded my horizon of creativity. From the philosophy teacher, I learned how to create computer music. From the theatre teacher, I discovered the Soundpainting, a sign language for the improvisational art. I developed the activity as my Project Week and taught the joy of improvisation to the local kids. Not only extraordinary opportunities are given, but also, I had chances to create my own experiences.

I formed a Jazz Band and taught my friends how to play improvised music, and at the same time, developed my skill. We made some performances on various occasions. I also took part in the organisation team of the Dilijan Arts Festival as my service activity, in which we planned and created a big Festival with our own hands. Every single activity is precious to me, and they made me what I am now."
Caucasus Connect is a recurring project launched by the students of UWC Dilijan. The project seeks to bring together youngsters from different regions of the Caucasus and encourages them to express themselves, explore their potential and reach out to their peers from diverse backgrounds. The project is inspired by the UWC model, striving to make a tangible impact for peace in this geopolitically conflicted region. Currently, the project is focused on the Caucasus Connect Creative Arts Camp annual initiative.

This is a platform where youngsters collaborate, make friendships, share their art and learn to see the human in others rather than a national or political identity. Launched in May 2017, the Caucasus Connect Creative Arts Camp helps developing young people’s love for learning and cooperation in a peaceful and creative environment - an asset that many of the participants wouldn’t have otherwise.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

UWC Dilijan as an Education and Cultural HUB
Jokingly we call our alumni the new Armenian diaspora meaning that after their graduation from the UWC Dilijan college these wonderful young people fly to all corners of the world with Armenia and Dilijan in their minds and hearts. Nearly 300 alumni of the three generations of students that we have had so far migrate, and the knowledge of Armenia, Armenian traditions, memories of the Dilijan community as well as UWC values and spirit of the UWC family migrate with them wherever they go.

The most amazing fact is the desire and intention of our young alumni to give back. To give back to the college they spent 2 amazing years in, to the country they were exposed to, the new culture and new people, to the UWC movement which introduced them to an amazing world of so many nationalities with a unique cultural environment who want to make a difference to the world with every step they make. Any alumnus can give back by contributing their time, talent and treasure, thus, moving the College, the Country, and the Movement forward.
OUR ALUMNI CAME BACK TO ARMENIA TO BE ENGAGED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

BELOW ARE THE ORGANISATIONS WHERE OUR ALUMNI DID INTERNSHIPS

UWC Dilijan
IDeA Foundation
Dilijan Development Foundation
Dilijan Community Centre
Scholae Mundi
National Committees of Armenia, Russia and Georgia
Aurora Humanitarian Initiative
RVVZ Foundation
SKOLKOVO business school
Central Bank of Armenia
Small Theater in Yerevan

IF ANYTHING, THIS EXPERIENCE MADE ME GROW CLOSER TO ARMENIA, IT MADE ME FEEL GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME I SPENT THERE, FOR THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT I GAINED AND FOR THE MEMORIES THAT I CREATED WHILE BEING SURROUNDED BY ITS BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS. I HAVE ONLY BEEN HOME FOR A MONTH, AND I CAN ALREADY SAY THAT I AM IN FACT HOMESICK OF A DIFFERENT HOME, OF MY HOME BY CHOICE, OF ARMENIA.
The UWC Dilijan Student Initiative Fund (SIF) was established in May 2017 with the aim to support student and teacher-led projects within the framework of CAS. The main priority of the SIF are the projects that show continuous and consistent social impact on the community.

The SIF supports the development of projects in the areas of social entrepreneurship, city development, community engagement, empowerment and education of the local citizens.

At the moment, the Fund operates from the generous donations from individuals and corporations. In the future, it can be supported by the profit generated by previous SIF projects (if available). Caucasus Connect was one of the first projects funded by the SIF.
Recognising the need for greater collaboration amongst the peoples of the geopolitically divided Caucasus region, a team of UWC Dilijan students decided to extend their UWC experience beyond the campus borders by initiating the CaucasusConnect Creative Arts Camp.
Flora
ARMENIA, UWCD’18

"UWC Dilijan is the first place that I unconsciously refer as home. That said, I miss my room, the campus, the unresting flow of the nearby river, the air, but most of all I miss the people. People, whose ideas inspired me and from whom I would learn something new every day. People, who would force me to stay up late to have a discussion about the effects of plastic pollution and the extent to which the world we live in today is still going under the Cold War reconstruction. People, who would use the phrase 'in my culture...' million times in one sentence. Finally, people, who became and will always be my family."

Jeppe
DENMARK, UWCD’18

"An appraisal of the gift of learning through the small things is what I enjoy the most about UWC. My philosophy classes have raised my awareness, argumentation skills, depth of thought and appreciation of rationality and mind, while my skiing CAS has taught me how to be patient and how to transfer bodily corrections, innate feelings and actions of skiing into language that beginners understand. The IB has taught me that idea and passion is nothing if I cannot communicate it efficiently and direct its proportions of value towards the person who will evaluate my final product."
Fernando
SPAIN, UWCD’18

“UWC Dilijan is a source of hope because it is small-scale materialisation of the society I want to live in the future. The exceptionality and uniqueness of the experience tend to go unnoticed while we are part of it, but the perspective of time has allowed me to understand the beauty of the community I was part of. I was lucky enough to meet people who, in the face of the most unfavourable circumstances, were capable of breaking through social barriers and fighting for a better future for themselves and their families. They have become my evidence and the best examples to show how education can certainly transform a society. I also made lifelong friends with whom I grew and from which I learnt.”

Anano
GEORGIA, UWCD’18

“I was honoured to have an opportunity of being a UWC Dilijan student and adding thousands of breathtaking stories to my journey, since in this miraculous place I found the family that I will carry with me wherever I go. Deep in my heart, eternally buried with adventures of the cold walks in Dilijan warmed up with the most honest hugs, fast heartbeats caused by seeing the first waves of Sevan from the road, or the speechless drives from the wings of Tatev.”
Annual Amal Clooney scholarship for a female student from Lebanon who demonstrates a strong interest in human rights and equality issues

Annual Rusudan Makhashvili and Sergey Sarkisov scholarship for a female student from Georgia

Annual Musa Ler scholarship for a student from Republic of Artsakh or from Armenia living outside Yerevan

Aman Foundation Supporting scholarships for students from Pakistan

Alumni-Parents Donation that covered travel expenses and pocket money for two students

Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Near East Foundation Gratitude scholarship for 6 students from the Middle East, who have been affected by conflict, displacement and poverty

Scholae Mundi Foundation scholarships for 18 talented teenagers from Russia, 10 from Armenia and 3 from Georgia

Sberbank and Sberbank’s Charitable Foundation «Investment to the future» scholarships for students from Russia

Shelby Davis and Anand Mahindra international award for their support of fundraising at UWC Dilijan.

WE SAY THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES AT UWC DILIJAN
Ahmed
PALESTINE, UWCD'18

“I started from not being able to express myself properly and went on struggling academically, being put down by surrounding circumstances, to being fluent in English, to being able to be at a good academic level, to leading the graduation committee, to being accepted conditionally to five of the top universities in the UK including Edinburgh, Manchester, Westminster, Birmingham and Queen Mary to study Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science, and finally to loving and being loved by all the amazing people around me. I cannot express my gratitude with words, so whatever I say will not be enough, but I want you to know how much I value your help that you have been providing to me and I hope you will be providing to the coming generations.”

Zoia
RUSSIA, UWCD'18

“My UWC journey had many ups and downs. However, one thing I am definitely sure of is that I am nothing but grateful for this experience. This is mainly due to the many enlightening events that happened here ranging from academic discoveries to service projects. Peer listener, therapy through tea, women of Hayastan are just a small part of what I experienced here in addition to school and studies. I am also grateful for the fact that someone will be offered the same opportunity as me in the future thanks to your support. Life in UWC has changed me and given me insight about what passion is and what I want to do in the future. Hopefully, I will become successful enough to support this amazing movement the same way as you are since I think it is an incredible thing.”
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LIFE AFTER UWCD...

MOST OF THE UWCD GRADUATES ARE ADMITTED TO TOP UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE.

THE 104 GRADUATES OF 2018 ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES:

- BARD COLLEGE BERLIN
- CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
- COLBY COLLEGE
- COLLEGE OF IDAHO
- COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC
- COLORADO COLLEGE
- CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
- EARLHAM COLLEGE
- HARVARD UNIVERSITY (HARVARD COLLEGE)
- LCC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE
- LUTHER COLLEGE
- MACALESTER COLLEGE
- METHODIST UNIVERSITY

7 UK
5 NETHERLANDS
19 GAP YEAR
60 US
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MINERVA SCHOOLS AT KGI
MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
POLITECNICO DI MILANO
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
SCIENCES PO
ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE
ST. OLAF COLLEGE
THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN
UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO UNAM
UNIVERSITY OF NORWAY
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY
WARTBURG COLLEGE
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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

UWC Day 2018

Every year 21 September is a big day for the UWC Dilijan community; this is a day of triple importance - UWC Day, Armenian Independence Day and Peace Day, all three so in line with the mission of the Movement, call for a big celebration. This is the day when the entire UWC Dilijan community heads into the city and, together with the people of Dilijan, adds some flavour to the city mixing languages, dances and songs. The day was filled with a variety of events organised together with the Dilijan Community Centre and brought together youngsters of Dilijan and international students in a joyful celebration of this significant day both for the city and the College.

Dilijan Arts Festival 2018

The inaugural Dilijan Arts Festival (DAF) took place in 2018 with the mission to gather artists from all over Armenia in Dilijan. The organisers of the Festival aimed to recreate the image of Dilijan as a cultural hub through inviting various forms of art here. The DAF team worked closely with the Dilijan Community Centre to engage local schools both in the organisation or the Fest and in showcasing their art.

Dilijan MUN

The first international Model United Nations conference in Armenia was organised by the students of UWC Dilijan. Over 70 delegates from 6 countries attended the conference and participated in the dynamic discussions. The conference highlighted a series of sensitive international issues united under the umbrella topic of Diaspora.
Scholae Mundi Foundation and Mahindra Group Announce Major UWC Scholarship Commitment

Russian-Armenian impact investors and social entrepreneurs Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend have collaborated with Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, a global group of companies based in India, committing together to US$ 7.5 million in funding to provide need-based scholarships to meritorious students worldwide to study at one of the UWC (United World Colleges) schools and colleges.

All three philanthropists are strong supporters of the UWC educational movement – Vardanyan and Zonabend founded UWC Dilijan in Armenia in 2014, and Mahindra Group, led by Anand Mahindra, established UWC Mahindra College in India in 1997.

Letovo School Visit

In December UWC Dilijan hosted a large delegation of educators from Russia. Thirty teachers from the then soon-to-be-opened Letovo IB boarding school near Moscow visited the college to get a better understanding of the UWC values, learn from the College's experience and take on some of the innovative educational practices. The guests learned about the academic curriculum of the College, attended classes and got the first-hand experience of living and studying at UWC Dilijan from the students themselves.

International Women’s Day

A group of UWC Dilijan students turned 8 March - the International Women's Day into a massive celebration of women empowerment. Over 500 people joined various activities that took place in the capital of Armenia Yerevan: the events included workshops in cooperation with UNDP, The Women’s Resource Centre Armenia and Society Without Violence, a women’s march and performances in the centre of Yerevan.
"MY HELP TO UWC DILIJAN IS A NEED TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR TAKING CARE OF THE VERY IMPORTANT PERIOD OF A TEENAGER’S LIFE WHEN ALL THE BASIC VIEWS, CHARACTER TRAITS, ABILITIES AND SKILLS ARE BEING FORMED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MENTORS AND TEACHERS, WHEN A CHILD BEGINS TO REALIZE HIMSELF AS A PERSON AND DETERMINE HIS OWN WAY"

VLADIMIR AVETISSIAN
UWC Dilijan Founding Patron

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