



Application Kit & Application Form



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Introduction

UWC schools, colleges and programmes deliver a challenging and transformative educational experience to a diverse cross section of students, inspiring them to create a more peaceful and sustainable future.

UWC has 18 schools and colleges across 4 continents all with distinctive characters but sharing the same mission, ethos and values.

Although strong academic achievement is valued highly at UWC, academic achievements are put into perspective with a demanding mix of community engagement, international affairs, physical activities and creative pursuits.

Our student intake is deliberately diverse and each of the schools and colleges draws together students from many different nations and backgrounds. Our bursaries, scholarships and fee structures aim to ensure a broad socio-economic mix within the student body that adds value to the student experience and the organisation.

UWC depends on the dedication and expertise of a network of volunteers to promote UWC and select future students. These are called national committees and they operate in more than 150 countries worldwide.

Each year a national committee will receive from the UWC schools and colleges a specific number of places (which may include a scholarship, bursary/partial scholarship or fee-paying place) for which they select students to study the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. If a national committee exists in your country you must apply through that committee.

While UWC is a wonderful transformational experience it is also a very rigorous programme. It will challenge students in all ways - socially, emotionally, physically and academically. If students have mental health concerns and issues that have not been addressed in a way that supports their resilience and ability to handle the rigours of daily life at UWC, we strongly recommend that students postpone their application in order to address these issues with the proper support personnel. The student and their family, along with other relevant personnel, can then reassess whether they should apply for UWC the following year.

Applicants, please make sure that you find out as much as possible about UWC before going ahead with your application. It is important that you understand the aims of the organisation and the commitment involved in the programmes that are offered. For more information please go to jm.uwc.org

Please read this entire document prior to beginning your application.

The UWC National Committee in Jamaica

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply you must meet the following criteria:

- Jamaican national or resident.
If you are unsure whether you meet the nationality requirement, or have lived in Jamaica for less than five years, please email us ASAP at uwcjamaica@gmail.com so that we can guide you accordingly.
- Be between 16 and 18 years old in September 2023 or at time of entry
- Be at least of CXC CSEC standard, i.e. fifth, or lower sixth form;
- Have an academic record which predicts success in the academic rigours of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma; Minimum 80% average. If in lower sixth form, the majority of your CSEC grades must be a 1.
 - You must be taking (if in 5th form) or have taken (if in 6th form) at least 6 CSEC subjects or their equivalent, including Mathematics and English A.
- Have a strong history of co-curricular involvement and community service; and
- Be mature enough to respond to the challenges inherent in living and studying abroad

BEFORE YOU BEGIN COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM:

- Find out all you can about UWC and the International Baccalaureate Diploma
- Read this information package. You will find more information at www.uwc.org
- Discuss the opportunity and the application process with your family
- Read the entire Application Form
- Applications are due on **Saturday, December 16, 2023**

The Application

1. There are several components to the application:
 - a. The Application Form
 - i. Personal information about the applicant
 - ii. Health information about the applicant
 - iii. General information about the applicant's school
 - iv. Academic and Extracurricular information about the applicant, including an academic writing sample.
 - v. Three (3) Mandatory written response questions
2. You will need to submit some supporting documentation before you can submit your application. These can be uploaded directly on the application, or emailed to us.
 - a. Transcript or Last 2 years of School Reports
 - b. CSEC/CAPE/CXC Grades
3. Allow at least 2-3 hours to complete the form
4. Deadline - Applications are due on **December 16, 2023**

*If you have any questions or concerns email uwcjamaica@gmail.com. As an organization run by volunteers, it is easier for us to be reached by email.

Selection process

Places in UWC are offered on a competitive basis. The application is carefully reviewed by a panel of alumni and other experts. From the initial list of applicants a short-list is chosen for an interview with members of the National Committee and invited panelists.

The interview is divided into 2 parts:

1. A one-on-one panel interview
2. An interactive online activity

Additionally, there is also a compulsory informational meeting with students and at least one parent or guardian.

The interview and compulsory informational meeting will both be done in early-mid February.

The nominees will be selected based on merit from the results of an interview and the application.

Selection Criteria

The committee will look for evidence of the following:

- An understanding of the UWC mission and core values
- A commitment to providing services to others
- Academic focus
- The ability to act as an ambassador, positively representing Jamaica and Jamaican culture;
- Tolerance, adaptability, and signs of integrity and strength of character; AND
- A preparedness to live away from home and an appreciation of the challenges of living in an intense and multicultural setting
- Core UWC values
- Personal responsibility and integrity
- Mutual responsibility and respect
- Compassion and service
- Respect for others and the environment

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) on applying to UWC.

Is there an age limit for applications?

- Several of our schools and colleges have strict age restrictions since all students share the same campus.
- Age restrictions also vary from country to country. Most of our national committees require students to be between the ages of 16 and 17 when they arrive to the colleges, but some accept applications from younger and older candidates.
- In Jamaica, we will accept applicants who are 18 by the time they begin their UWC education.

I am not fluent in English, does this matter?

- No. Do not be discouraged from applying to UWC because of a lack of fluency in English. It is not a requirement to apply, but it can be one of the factors evaluated during selection.

Can you help me with a scholarship for further education (university etc)?

- UWC does not offer scholarships for university or further tertiary education.

Where does the funding for UWC come from and how are the scholarships for UWC students paid for?

- The scholarships are provided either by the colleges or by the national committees through their own localised fundraising
- Donors to UWC include philanthropists, private companies, governments and alumni.

Can I attend UWC for only one year or transfer into a UWC from another IB school for my last year?

- No. At our pre-university colleges, the UWC experience is two years long. There are no opportunities for transfer into or between the schools/colleges. Credits from previous IB study may not be transferred.

I have dual nationality. Which national committee should I apply through?

- You are only able to apply to UWC through one national committee, regardless of the numbers of nationalities you have.
- Your first point of contact should be the national committee in the country you reside in, since virtually all selection processes will require you to attend personally.
- If this national committee is unable to accept your application, please contact the committee in the other country that you hold a passport.
- If neither national committee is able to accept your application, please contact [UWC International Office](#) for more information and guidance.

I am a citizen/national of a country I no longer live in, and reside in a country I am not a citizen of. What national committee should I contact if I want to apply to UWC?

- First you should contact the national committee in the country where you live and ask if they accept applications from non-nationals.
- If the national committee tells you it is unable to consider your application because you are not a national/citizen, contact the national committee of the country where you are a national/citizen.
- If neither national committee is able to accept your application, please contact [the UWC International Office](#) for more information and guidance.
- Please ensure that you provide sufficient time to make these enquiries in order to avoid missing an application deadline.