

**UWC makes education a force to unite
people, nations and cultures for peace and
a sustainable future.**



Frequently Asked Questions

Application / Selections / Nomination / While at UWC

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Section 1:

About United World Colleges

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About United World Colleges (UWC)

UWC comprises 18 colleges spanning four continents, all driven by a shared vision: educating youth from varied backgrounds for a future characterized by peace and sustainability.

Within the UWC framework, students engage in a rigorous and transformative education, namely the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), complemented by some institutions offering the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP). Through extracurricular activities and service projects, students are empowered to evolve into compassionate leaders and actively involved global citizens.

Below are the key UWC values:

1. International and intercultural understanding
2. Celebration of difference
3. Personal responsibility and integrity
4. Mutual responsibility and respect
5. Compassion and service
6. Respect for the environment
7. A sense of idealism
8. Personal challenge
9. Action and personal example



What makes UWC different?

UWC advocates the idea that education should empower youth to realize the potential for change and their ability to affect it.

As a UWC student, you'll acquire the skills to bring about change through bold initiatives, selfless guidance, and attentive communication. Engaging in diverse experiences and community endeavors will equip you to constructively contribute and lead with empathy and compassion throughout your life.



What does a UWC School offer?

Each UWC school (also called "college"), offers a two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) for Grades 11 and 12. Some UWC schools offer the International Baccalaureate Career Programme (IBCP) for Grades 11 and 12 as well. In addition to an intense academic IB Programme, UWC schools offer a wide array of extracurricular activities such as community service, leadership, outdoor, athletics, culture, arts, music, among many.

Some UWC schools offer Grades 1 to 10. However, UWC Philippines National Committee (UWCPH NC) is not involved in selecting nor nominating students for these grade levels. If interested, check <https://www.uwc.org/youngeryears>.

For Grades 11 and 12, UWC students and scholars are selected within their own countries via National Committees:

<https://www.uwc.org/uwcnationalcommittees>

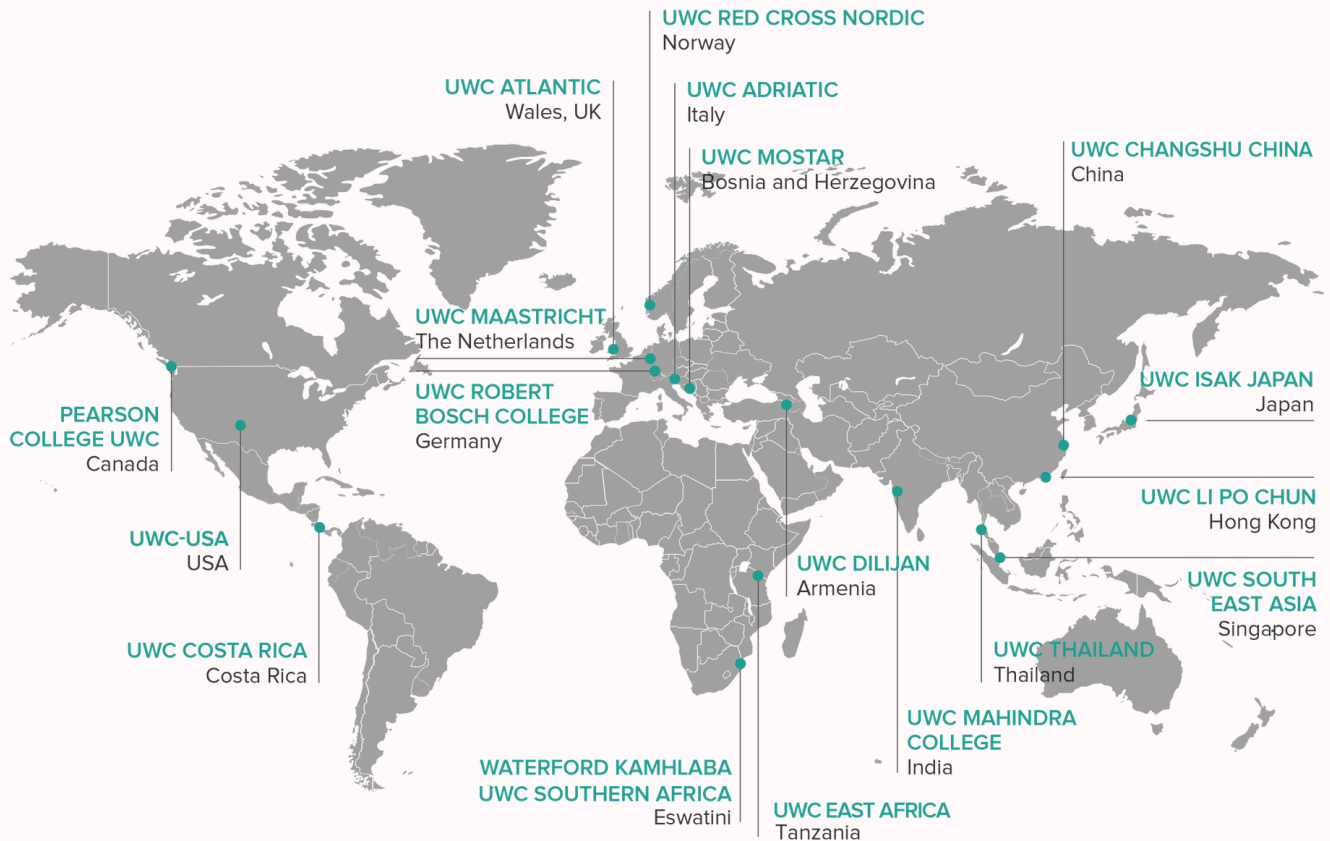
OR via the Global Selections Programme (GSP): <https://www.uwc.org/gsp>.

Applicants cannot apply to *both* the National Committee and GSP routes.

Is UWC a University or is it Senior High School?

Although it is called United World COLLEGES, **UWC is not a 4-year university**, nor does the curriculum provide university education. The 2-year program offered in the UWC experience is the international equivalent of the Senior High School program in the Philippines (i.e. Grade 11 and 12).

Where are the UWC Campuses?



For more information on UWC Schools, visit: <https://www.uwc.org/schools>

There are currently 18 schools worldwide:

- UWC Atlantic
- UWC Pearson College
- UWC South East Asia (SEA)
- UWC Waterford Kamhlaba
- UWC-USA
- UWC Adriatic
- UWC Li Po Chun
- UWC Red Cross Nordic
- UWC Mahindra
- UWC Costa Rica
- UWC Mostar
- UWC Maastricht
- UWC Robert Bosch
- UWC Dilijan
- UWC Changshu China
- UWC Thailand
- UWC ISAK Japan
- UWC East Africa

What are the differences between the UWC colleges?

If you asked the past students from any of the colleges which one is the best, they would all tell you that it was their college! The truth is that although each of the colleges follows the same ethos and maintains the highest academic standard, United World Colleges are all unique. All UWCs offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma, which is accepted in the Philippines (and most other countries in the world) for university entry.

Before considering which UWC colleges you are interested in, do some research by visiting the individual college websites, YouTube videos by UWC schools, students and alumni, safe and reliable social media groups and forums.

Throughout the various orientation and information sessions conducted by UWCNC PH, you will also have the opportunity to talk to alumni from many of the different colleges.

How does the UWC IB Programme compare to others?

The IB Diploma is a demanding academic programme. It takes most students some time to adjust to this new method of teaching and learning.

Students should prepare where possible to develop skills such as essay writing, time management and study techniques.

Students are also encouraged to develop the discipline to monitor their own progress and to seek support when they need it.

Some UWC schools will have a combination of off-campus and on-campus students. However, foreign-based students mostly live on campus. Therefore, it is incredibly challenging to find time for everything you need to do while living in another country and getting to know many friends who come from all over the world.

UWC life requires a healthy balance of your many responsibilities from your intensive academics, extra-curricular requirements, many essays, projects, homework, exam preparations, mock exams, standardized exams for university applications and university application.

What subjects do I take as part of the International Baccalaureate program?

Learn more about the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB Programme) by exploring these sites

IBDP Curriculum (Diploma)

<https://ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>

IBCP (Career)

<https://ibo.org/programmes/career-related-programme/curriculum/>

(continued on the next page)

Individual UWC School Websites

<https://www.uwc.org/schools>

Generally, UWC IB Diploma students are required to study at least 3 subjects at a Higher Level (HL) and 3 at Standard Level (SL). Group 5 *may* be an elective option for some UWC schools.

Below is a sample of IB Academic groups and course offerings in UWC schools. Available subjects offered will vary according to the specific UWC school.

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature English Literature / English Language and Literature / Self-taught Mother Tongue

Group 2: Language Acquisition Spanish Ab Initio / French Ab Initio / Chinese Ab Initio / English B / Chinese B

Group 3: Individuals and Societies Economics / Geography / History / Psychology / Global Politics

Group 4: Experimental Sciences Biology / Chemistry / Environmental Systems & Societies / Physics

Group 5: Mathematics Analysis & Approaches / Applications & Interpretations

Group 6: The Arts Visual Arts / Theatre Arts / Literature and Performance

In addition, there are three distinctive requirements:

1. **Theory of Knowledge**: a class designed to stimulate critical reflection and analysis
2. **Extended Essay**: a 4-000-word essay (similar to a thesis) made to develop a student's research skills
3. **Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)**: equivalent to extra-curricular activities that we have in the Philippine curriculum, CAS is designed to reinforce participation in social services and creative pursuits by students.

What role does the CAS program have in a typical day for a UWC student?

A UWC student must balance his or her time maintaining a good academic standing while taking part in the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) program - more familiar to Filipinos as 'extracurricular activities'.

A particular college may have strengths in different aspects of the CAS programs. Below are some examples from the different Colleges:

For details on the CAS programs, please see various activities offered in each United World College school <https://www.uwc.org/schools>.

Is the IB accredited here in the Philippines?

Yes. The IB diploma is recognized in top Philippine universities such as the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and De La Salle University. The IB diploma is the international equivalent to the Senior High School program we have here.

When do classes start at UWC Schools?

Most schools start in August/September, but UWC Waterford Kamhlaba (Eswatini – former Swaziland) starts in January of the following year due to its location in the Southern Hemisphere

For More Information

Check every UWC school featured on the UWC website: www.uwc.org.

Learn more about the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB Programme): <https://ibo.org>

What opportunities are there for me with my UWC Grade 11 and 12 education?

On practical terms, a lot! Especially if you do well in your academics and your UWC campus life.

Many of our Filipino UWC graduates study abroad after completing Grade 12 in a UWC school. Many of them are in the United States of America (USA), due to the myriad of scholarship opportunities available for international students. These opportunities are largely attributed to the support of the **Davis United World College Scholars Program**. This program provides need-based financial assistance to UWC graduates in approximately 100 USA colleges and universities, including the top universities in the US.

For more information visit: <https://www.davisuwcscholars.org/>

Albeit significantly less than USA, other countries also provide significant financial aid to UWC graduates who meet their school's specific requirements. These countries include Canada, The United Kingdom, France and a few others.

So, getting into a UWC school is probably one of the best investments you can make for your future. Although the work has just began and serious challenges lie ahead, you have way more global opportunities than you *might've* otherwise had.

Section 2:

About UWC Philippines National Committee (UWCPH NC)

UWC Philippines National Committee applications help open doors to attend UWC Schools. Some financial assistance may be available so that this transformative education will be accessible to deserving students regardless of economic background.

Please note that financial assistance and costs are provided by and dependent on the UWC schools open to admitting Filipino students, not by the Philippines National Committee. These offers may or may not be available and vary per UWC school per year.

Information and Application Form is at: <https://www.ph.uwc.org/home>

Updates on Social Media

Instagram: @uwcphilippines

Facebook: UWC Philippines (Send Inquiries/Questions here)

Can I apply directly to UWC Schools for Grades 11 and 12?

No.

You can only apply via UWC Philippines National Committee (UWCPH NC) at <https://www.ph.uwc.org/home> if needing financial assistance from UWC schools, **OR**

Global Selections Programme (GSP) at <https://www.uwc.org/gsp> if able to afford UWC schools' costs.

Note: The Philippines National Committee is NOT involved in the GSP application process.

You cannot apply to both the National Committee application process and the GSP.

Who Can Apply via the UWC Philippines National Committee (UWCPH NC)?

Application Period

Applications for the UWC Philippines National Committee scholarship program are open from **March 31 to July 31**.

Eligibility Requirements

- **You must be in the following age categories.**
 - Must be 16 years old / Younger than 18 at the start of the two-year programme.
 - Cannot be 20 years old anytime between AUGUST 1 start of school year and MAY 31 end of the two-year IB Programme.
- **A Filipino citizen living in or outside of The Philippines.**
- Demonstrate excellent academic achievement and intellectual curiosity within and outside of classroom experiences. The IB curriculum is academically rigorous with extensive requirements for extracurricular activities.
- Strong leadership experience. Must also be able to demonstrate the ability to work effectively as a leader and a team member within diverse groups and environments, outside of one's comfort zones.
- Meaningful and consistent social, community and extracurricular involvement.
- Concretely demonstrates emotional and mental resilience to thrive within new and demanding academic and boarding school environments, composed of young highly driven students from all walks of life and more than 100 countries.
- Demonstrates independence and ability to take good care of one's self within a boarding school environment abroad, without the daily support from family at home.

- Possess a strong sense of personal accountability, personal responsibility, social competence, healthy self-awareness, and respectful, well-informed independent thinking.
- Interested in extremely challenging experiences while being far away from the comforts and support of family and friends in the Philippines.
- Openness, humility and respect towards multitudinous beliefs, identities, genders, values, perspectives, experiences, ages, ways of life and the innumerable differences within “one’s group” and those “outside” of one’s perceived group.
- Shares UWC Values and Principles
<https://www.uwc.org/educationalmodel>
- For more information on UWC Selection Criteria, visit:
<https://www.uwc.org/selectioncriteria>

What is the role of the UWC Philippines National Committee in the Selections and Nominations Processes?

UWC has a unique and celebrated admissions system with national committees (NCs) operating in many countries around the world.

The UWC Philippines National Committee (UWCPH NC) is a nominating body affiliated with the UWC International Organization. There are more than 150 national committee affiliates all over the world, mostly run by over 4,000 volunteers.

The UWCPH National Committee (NC) is entirely run by global volunteers and carries out various responsibilities, including marketing the UWC movement, selecting and nominating UWC students...

...from their home countries, providing student support, engaging with alumni, and managing external relations with partners. The dedicated volunteers, comprising current Filipino UWC students, alumni scholars, parents, and other UWC community members, work tirelessly throughout the year, demonstrating a significant commitment to the UWC cause.

Selections and Nominations by UWCPH NC

UWCPH NC leaders, officers, and volunteers engage in rigorous and competitive selections to identify promising Filipino UWC students. These individuals must excel academically and demonstrate leadership, commitment to extracurricular activities, and community engagement. Importantly, they are evaluated for alignment with UWC's mission, vision, and values.

Following selections, the NC can only nominate specific finalists to their matched UWC school. The NC does not make final admission decisions or offer financial assistance. The UWC school accepts or rejects the NC's nomination, making the final decision on assistance levels for accepted nominees.

Each school outlines tuition fees, parental contributions, and miscellaneous expenses for the two years of UWC education. Nominees should not expect the NC to fund tuition, cover school-determined parental contributions/expenses, or conduct fundraising on their behalf. The nominee and their families are primarily responsible for raising necessary funds, with guidance from the NC.

Once the UWC school accepts the NC's nomination, the school takes over all aspects of the scholar's attendance and preparation, with most communication conducted via email and virtual pre-departure information. The schools provide extensive guidance in collaboration with UWCPH NC.

Are UWC scholars required to pay back their scholarships in form of specific duration of service to their donors, their UWC host country or The Philippines?

No. UWC-offered scholarships for international students, up to this point, do not impose any obligation on UWC scholars to render service to their donors, host country, or The Philippines.

However, we earnestly encourage all UWC alumni to contribute to the UWC movement by giving back and paying it forward in various ways. Many of us volunteer for the National Committee, participate in Selections and other activities, contribute financially to our UWC colleges and the UWC movement, and/or become productive members of society—whether by raising families in line with UWC values or engaging in international public service roles. Additionally, numerous alumni pay it forward by providing support to various causes and initiatives that hold significance for them.

By incorporating UWC values into our daily lives, we aspire to make positive changes in the world. We hope that you, too, will join us in this endeavor.

Is it possible to choose my school?

No.

UWCPH NC determines the best school fit for the nominee based on need and fit.

For Grades 11 and 12, applicants DO NOT apply directly to a particular UWC school, but rather to the UWC Program as a whole.

There are 2 ways to apply:

1. via the National Committees (NCs) – more competitive but applicants will be considered for need-based financial assistance **OR**

2. via the Global Selections Programme (GSP) - no scholarship or financial assistance

Please be aware that you can submit only ONE application to UWC per academic year, either through one national committee or through the GSP. **If an applicant applies to both, such applicant will be disqualified for both.**

For more information on the GSP, check the UWC website at www.uwc.org.

Is there another way to be part of the UWC Movement at an earlier age?

Yes! Although currently not within the capacity of the Philippines National Committee to assist families considering UWC for younger members of their families. We encourage you to check this link out: <https://www.uwc.org/youngeryears>

Are there any options for a UWC experience other than attending one of the Colleges?

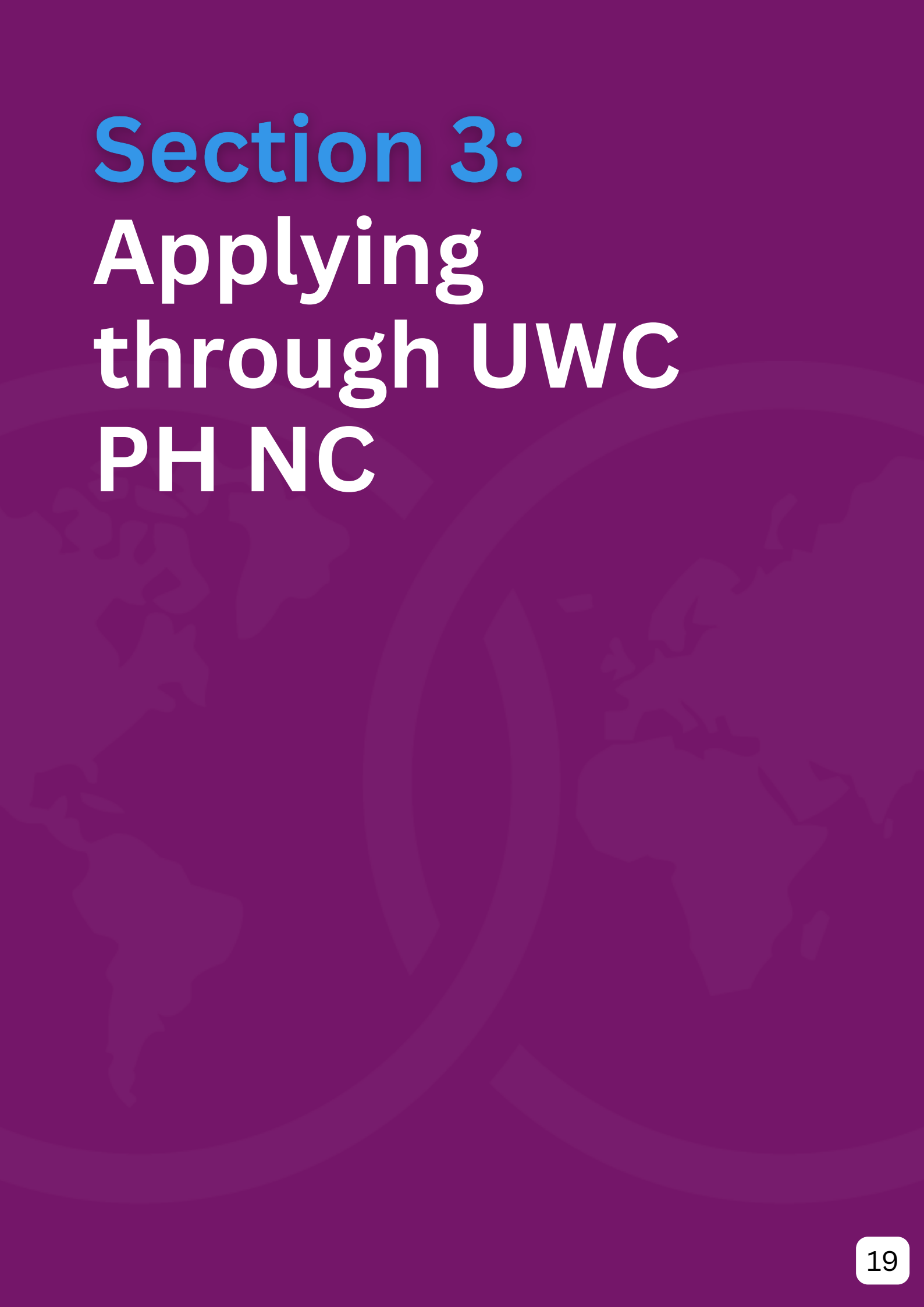
Yes, glad you asked! Most years the International Office, some Colleges and National Committees of the UWC run short courses in the summer. These courses are normally 1–2-week concentrated UWC experiences, with themes including community development, leadership, conflict mediation, and environmental action. For more information, visit: <https://www.uwc.org/shortcoursess>

UWCNC PH does NOT undertake selections nor provide financial assistance for any of the short courses. Please apply to the short course directly.

UWCN PH merely assists with marketing efforts for specific short courses, if asked.

Section 3:

Applying through UWC PH NC

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Application Timeline

Please note that this timeline is subject to change without prior notice -- for the most up to date information on deadlines, please check UWC Philippines on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UwcPhilippines/>.

Opening of Applications

March 31 every year.

Deadline of Applications

July 31 every year.

Announcement of Shortlisted Applicants

In or Around Early September

Global Virtual Interviews

In or Around September

Announcement of Finalists

In or Around November

Financial Assessment, Nomination Decision, and Preparation

December to January of the following year, every year.

Nomination Submissions and UWC School Nomination Decisions

February to May, of the following year, every year.

One-time extensions - only applicable if unforeseen tech issues or delays.



I'm ready to apply, where do I start?

1. For Information and Application Form, visit:
<https://www.ph.uwc.org/home>
2. Create an account on SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA). You may also access the website at <https://apply.uwc.org/>
3. Complete the application form.
4. Make sure to submit all required documents.

Note: It takes about 1 to 2 months to obtain all the requirements. Therefore, applicants need to allocate this much time to acquire and submit required documents.

5. Complete ALL essay responses.
6. Send in proof of application fee payment.

Application Fee: Please check updated fees in the Application Form

Fee Waivers are provided to those who demonstrate need. See Application Form for Fee Waiver details. Details are in the application form via SMA.

7. Review, review, review.
8. Submit BEFORE the application deadline date

11:59PM, (Philippine Time (GMT+8)).

We will *NOT* accept any late or incomplete applications, regardless of technical difficulties on the deadline date.

I use ChatGPT and other AI tools to write my essays. Is that allowed?

No. We check your essays if written via AI. You can utilize AI to assist you in the essay writing process to organize your thoughts coherently. You cannot simply copy and paste AI-generated essays. If we discover your essays as fully AI-generated, your application will be disqualified.

Who do we contact for questions regarding applications, payments, and general inquiries?

Check our Facebook page where you can message us for preliminary inquiries during the Application Period. After the application period, we give our hardworking volunteers keeping an eye on inquiries a rest.

I've Applied. What's Next?

1. Your completed Application Form, essay responses, attached documents and application fee (if any) will be reviewed by the NC's Selections Committee.
2. **Selections Stage 1:** Those who have completed all requirements are then assessed and graded by a group of assessors based on a set of criteria and grading system designed by the UWC Philippines National Committee based on UWC guidelines.
3. **Selections Stage 2:** Applicants who are shortlisted in Stage 1 can move forward to the next round, which is the Interview. These shortlisted applicants are notified via email and by any additional communication medium.

*To minimize the financial burden and logistical obstacles for shortlisted candidates and the global location of UWCPH NC volunteers, interviewers conduct virtual interviews. **If a Selections Day/Weekend occurs, it will also take place virtually as well.** Shortlisted candidates will receive notifications regarding the processes and schedules, which include interviews, individual and group activities, presentations, among other elements.*

4. **Selections Stage 3:** Finalists are determined by a panel of assessors/graders. Finalists are then informed of the next processes involving an extensive financial assessment, UWC school fit determination and nomination. Finalists will then decide if they wish to move forward with the financial assessment and nomination processes.
5. The Finance Committee takes over the multiple stages of financial assessment and the final nomination decisions, preparations and submission.

How often do you hold Selections? Can I reapply?

As long as applicants meet **age and citizenship requirements** for a given entry year and **did not decline a scholarship offer their family can financially afford in prior cycles**, they can re-apply.

For an applicant who was accepted by a UWC school in prior selection cycles, AND who has a family which can financially meet the required parental contribution/expenses for that prior UWC school offer, such applicant cannot reapply.

Additionally, for an applicant who declined a prior UWC scholarship offer matching their financial needs cannot reapply.

Can I apply if I have a physical disability?

Of course, **YOU CAN** and **YOU SHOULD!** Clearly indicate your specific special needs in your application form. That way, should you make it to the succeeding rounds of the selections process, we can make appropriate accommodation, if needed.

UWC colleges are thrilled to welcome motivated students, regardless of physical disability. Some campuses may have superior facilities than others and can therefore accommodate a wide range of physical disabilities. However, should you make it as a finalist, you will be nominated to a UWC campus that can accommodate your critical special needs.

What are my chances of being selected if I am not from Metro Manila?

Our selection of applicants is based on merit, and NOT based on geographic origin. We welcome applicants from all ethnicities, geographic origin, socioeconomic, and academic backgrounds!

The Philippine National Committee promotes diversity and participation in the UWC movement within and outside of the Philippines. Our alumni consists of a diverse range of Filipinos from various parts and regions of the country.

The same as someone from Metro Manila. Our virtual processes have further increased equity and access to young people of all walks of life and economic situations.

I am not fluent in English, does this matter?

No, you should not be discouraged from applying to UWC due to a lack of fluency in English. While fluency is not a mandatory requirement for the application, it can be considered during the selection process, particularly in terms of understanding the questions or requirements.

In summary, a good understanding of English is necessary for the entire selection process. However, you are allowed to respond in Filipino/Tagalog 100%. Those proficient in Filipino/Tagalog (both oral and written - formal) can express themselves in essays and responses to application questions/requirements in Filipino. Additionally, you can use Filipino/Tagalog during interviews and other virtual events such as presentations and team activities. Keep in mind that facilitators and interviewers may speak in English as they come from various parts of the world. However, **ALL graders/assessors understand both English and Filipino, allowing them to evaluate your responses accordingly.**

Considering the international composition of students, teachers, staff, and administrators, English serves as the primary teaching and communication language on UWC campuses, supplemented by another language of that host country. UWC Costa Rica, for instance, conducts classes in both English and Spanish. Some colleges, like UWC Changshu in China, may require students to take a basic Mandarin course.

While on campus, having a good command of the English language, both oral and written, will contribute to your academic success and campus life. Therefore, it is advisable to enhance your English language skills before departure.

Section 4:

Post Selections/ Financial Assessment and Nominations

Why am I asked to submit a financial assessment form for a scholarship?

Not every year sees offers from all 18 UWC schools, and the offers vary in funding levels. They range from unfunded offers to fully funded scholarships. All offers are need-based.

The Selections Process is Need-Blind. Meaning, the finalists are selected based on merit, irrespective of their economic background.

The Financial Assessment and Nominations, however, are Need-Based. Therefore, they are largely dependent on the financial capacities of families to meet that specific year's various financial assistance levels offered by select UWC schools.

UWC school offers vary annually and across schools. Consequently, the National Committee must align each finalist's financial capacity with the specific offer from a UWC school for that particular entry year. Depending on the slots for that year, **some finalists may or may not proceed to the Nomination round.**

During the Nomination round, a "final nomination package" is submitted to each UWC school offering the financial assistance that best aligns with a finalist's financial capacity for that entry year. If finalists choose to personally fundraise, the NC can offer guidance and support.

Why do some families pay for part of their UWC education when they have been selected based on merit?

Selection is Needs-Blind. Therefore, at this stage, decisions are primarily based on merit.

Financial Assessment is Needs-Based. Your family's financial capacity to contribute towards a UWC education will be assessed. Families are required to be honest and transparent with their financial capacities. Otherwise, the finalists or nominees will be disqualified by either the NC or by the UWC school, depending on what stage they are in the process.

IF your family can afford the full cost of some UWC schools, kindly apply via the Global Selections Programme (GSP).

<https://www.uwc.org/gsp>

Should it be discovered that the family with good financial ability misled the NC and therefore, the UWC school, the school can decide to revoke any financial assistance offered at any time before or during the two years of attendance.

Section 5:

Preparation and While at UWC

Do I get assistance in processing visa and travel documents upon acceptance to a particular UWC?

During the financial assessment process, detailed financial capacities, limitations and available assistance will be discussed with your family. Some schools provide pre-departure preparation. However, generally, the family needs to raise funds for these expenses. The UWCPH NC will assist and guide the students' personal fundraising efforts.

Upon confirmation of the successful nomination, the respective college will provide documents indicating details of each educational package (which may or may not include visa/student permit processing), additional documents required, unique UWC school intake and document-processing procedures, travel preparations and among the numerous pre-attendance preparations that need to be undertaken. If needed, the National Committee will act as a liaison and advisor to the new student..

Passport

All finalists are strongly encouraged to apply for a passport before or during the Financial Assessment Process. Passports tend to take a significant amount of time; therefore, they can cause serious issues when processing visas or student permits. A passport is typically required either with the “nomination package” sent by UWCPH NC to the UWC school, or soon after the school's acceptance of our nomination.

Can I go home for Christmas and other school breaks?

Yes, at your own expense. Students, however, are encouraged to use breaks as opportunities to get to know host families better and to travel and explore new places. Oftentimes, such experiences have strengthened bonds among the students especially when they travel together to discover different cultures.

Can my parents or relatives visit while I am in the College?

Of course! The Colleges welcome short-term visits especially during National Days or during special event weeks. Nearby hostels and hotels can accommodate your family, friends, and relatives at your own expense.