

UWC Mostar | Bosnia and Herzegovina

College Information

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College Bio:

In September 2006, the Initiative of United World Colleges (UWC) and International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) in Bosnia and Herzegovina founded the United World College in Mostar (UWC Mostar), with the aim of demonstrating a quality educational model which will serve as a reference for the process of educational reform in the country.

The United World College in Mostar (UWC Mostar) officially opened its doors to students from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad on 25 September 2006 as the 12th of all the UWCs. The College was officially inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, the President of the United World Colleges, on 22 May 2007. The first generation of 88 students came from more than 30 countries of the world.

UWC Mostar was and is the first UWC with the explicit aim to contribute to the reconstruction of a post-conflict society, and also the first to be housed within an existing national school. The college is based within the striking Austro-Hungarian building of Gimnazija Mostar. Our students are secondary school students belonging to all ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as by students from the nearby region and further abroad, all of whom live, study and serve the community together.

UWC Mostar enriches the UWC movement by adding its unique aim: “To equip the next generations of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the knowledge, skills, leadership qualities and international values, necessary to bridge the still existing ethnic divisions and move their country into the 21st century.”

UWC Mostar broadens this special mission by offering the same opportunities to the young people from all over the world, especially those coming from other post-conflict countries, particularly from the Balkans.

UWC Mostar educates students to learn and appreciate their differences, at the same time promoting equality, tolerance and critical thinking. All students live, study and serve in the community together creating a unique example of integrated education in post war Bosnia and Herzegovina. We aim to offer a convincing classroom model of integrated curriculum thus offering a model for broader educational reform in the country and the region.

Residences:

Unlike most UWCs, UWC Mostar does not have a distinct, walled-off campus — the city is our campus. Students live in three residences in different parts of Mostar. Students share rooms with one to three other UWC Mostar students of the same sex, according to the UWC standard practice. The College policy ensures that, wherever possible, students share rooms with students from different ethnicities and nationalities.

Student residences are designed to create a comfortable environment and enable sharing experiences. Sharing a room does not simply mean “living next to each other,” but “living together.” The college pays close attention to students’ adjustment to a new environment. Therefore, the residential life team is always present to support students’ needs.

Students in the residences are supported and supervised by “House Moms,” either full time residential parents or faculty who live in or adjacent to the residence. Additionally, “House Fellows,” faculty members who do check-in during the week and weekends on rotation, are an important part of residential life and pastoral care. Teachers additionally show movies in the residences, hold study sessions, or come by for meetings with students.

Family members and friends are not allowed to be accommodated in the College residences during visits.

Facilities:

Most of the outside facilities are shared within the local capacities: gym is shared with Gimnazija Mostar; football field is rented from the local club; etc.

The breakfast and dinner are served in the residences, and the lunch is served in the canteen situated a walking distance from the school.

The building is shared with the local public school Gimnazija Mostar. Additional classrooms and facilities are in the facilities next to the main building.

Most of our events and projects are held within the public spaces in Mostar, what increases our immersion into local community.

Medical Provisions and Additional Needs

Medical provision:

A medical report (included in the joining papers) MUST be completed, signed and stamped by the family doctor and countersigned by the parents/guardians.

When a student becomes ill, he/she notifies the School Nurse who evaluates the condition and if needed organises a visit to a family doctor or specialist. House Moms are available for health related issues in the evening hours, at weekends or if the Nurse is occupied with other students.

The College covers the expenses of medical examination for all the students by general practitioners and specialist doctors in health institutions within the network of the health insurance system used. Medications prescribed by doctors are also included in the College health insurance.

College does not cover medications for students diagnosed with any kind of medical conditions prior to arrival to the College. This includes needed regular check up with dentists and ophthalmologist as well as implants of any kind. In cases of serious medical conditions, a student may be advised to return home.

The College employs a psychologist/student counsellor to be at students' disposal in case of mental health concerns. In case of more serious issue the College can provide an additional session with mental health specialists in the state hospital. However, the College does not cover any further Psychiatric medical costs and a student will be asked to continue necessary treatment home.

All international students need to check with their foreign ministry which medical tests/immunizations (if any) they need to undergo before their arrival to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All students from Bosnia and Herzegovina need to bring with them their medical cards which they will use in a case of hospitalization during their stay in the College.

Counselling and pastoral care:

There are full time house-parents in residences, and students can approach them for any issue. At the moment the system is such that students can approach any staff member if help needed, especially the house-parent, house-fellow, and tutor.

We do have a Psychologist employed for counselling, and when necessary the other staff members can ask a student to seek help, although in most cases students go by themselves.

The Psychology teacher and some volunteers conduct education on substance abuse and sexual education, together with the Peers Support group.

The school has a Counselling Department consisting of: Psychologist, Lifestyle Coordinator, University Counsellor, and staff member with expertise in social work. The group is responsible for all kinds of support: from mental health issues to learning problems.

Additional Needs:

Is your college able to accommodate the following:	Comments
Students who are deaf or have hearing impairments	Yes, all accommodation requirements should be communicated with the school beforehand so we can prepare everything necessary
Blind or partially-sighted students	Yes, all accommodation requirements should be communicated with the school beforehand so we can prepare everything necessary
Students who are wheelchair users	No. Unfortunately the main school building is in an old Austro-Hungarian building with no accommodation for the wheelchairs.
Students with learning disabilities	Yes, all accommodation requirements should be communicated with the school beforehand so we can prepare everything necessary
Students with mental health problems	Not in cases where increased supervision is necessary (suicidal, needs constant psychiatric help, danger to self and others)
Dietary requirements (including Kosher and Halal)	Yes. Diet to be communicated to the school before arrival
Facilities / provisions for faith groups: <i>i.e. prayer room, specific days for religious celebration</i>	Yes. Public facilities are available for Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelistic, Protestant, Jewish, Islamic. All students can take discretionary leave and be absent from the school on the religious holiday.
LGBTQ students (i.e. different bathrooms for Trans students):	There are non-binary rooms. No separate bathrooms.

Subjects and CAS Available

Subjects taught:

Group 1	Group 3	Group 5
Bosnian Literature Croatian Literature English Literature English Language and Literature German Literature Serbian Literature	Social and Cultural Anthropology Economics Environmental Systems and Societies Global Politics History Psychology	Mathematics Analysis and Approaches HL Mathematics Analysis and Approaches SL Mathematics Applications and Interpretation HL Mathematics Applications and Interpretation SL (Further Math if interested)
Group 2	Group 4	Group 6
English B French B German B Spanish B French Ab Initio Spanish Ab Initio German Ab Initio	Biology Chemistry Environmental Systems and Societies Physics	Visual Arts Theater

All the first years participate in a UWC Mostar course entitled “Balkan Studies.” This is an introduction to the history, people, culture, and politics of the region, and is designed with both students from the region and the wider world in mind. The weekly meetings begin with a short local language dialog, so that all students have some working knowledge of basic local language. The course is interactive, and learning reaches beyond the classroom.

In the second year students will have another additional course: Peace and Conflict Studies modules, to acquire basic knowledge in the field.

CAS available:

Physical Activities	Creative Activities	Social Service
Martial Arts	World Cinema	Street dogs of Mostar
Climbing	Astronomy	Holy Family
Rugby	School Band	Los Rosales
Football	Modern Dance	Refugee Camp
	Physics Club	Egyptian Village
	Political Visions and Global Trends PVGT	

Student Body:

200

Term dates for 2020-2021 Academic Year:

Not determined for 2019-2020 (appx.arrival around 25th of August, classes start on first Tuesday in September, winter break from mid-December until mid-January – three weeks duration), term 2 ends around 15th of June)

For more in-depth information about UWC Mostar, please visit their website [here](#)