General Information
THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGE MOSTAR

The United World College Mostar (UWCiM) is located in one of the most beautiful Austro-Hungarian buildings in town, Mostar Gymnasium. Almost from its opening in 1898, the Gymnasium in Mostar was a very prestigious school, if not the best in Bosnia-Herzegovina, providing excellent education for all its students. Located in the city’s centre, it became the front line and was seriously damaged in the war. Because of its centrality to the city and to reemphasize the value of education, it was one of the most important buildings to be renovated after the war, and UWCiM was a key part of that process.

As consequence of war, two separate curricula are currently taught in the Mostar Gymnasium – the Croat and the Bosniak/Federal curriculum. Importantly to our mission, we share the Gymnasium building with Mostar’s public school: we learn on the top floor of the Gymnasium, with local students learning on the first two floors.

The United World College in Mostar was opened in 2006 as the twelfth member of the United World College movement. UWC Mostar students come from all ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats) and all over the world. All students live, study, and work together, creating a unique example of integrated education in B&H.

The UWC Mostar educates students to learn and appreciate their differences, at the same time promoting equality, tolerance and critical thinking.

In academic year 2014-2015 the College is attended by 166 students coming from 49 countries all over the world. Your generation, the tenth one, starting education in August 2015 will have approximately 30 students from Bosnia and Herzegovina and another 70 from all around the world.
ACADEMIC MATTERS – THE IB PROGRAM

The academic program followed in the school is the International Baccalaureate (IB), a diploma recognized all over the world as a pre-university course. The aim of the International Baccalaureate is to combine a liberal education in a range of disciplines with the opportunity to study a limited number of subjects in depth.

The IB diploma is awarded after two years of in depth study of six different subjects, chosen by the student once he arrives at the College, as well as a series of other requirements such as extra-curricular activities, a course on Theory of Knowledge, and an extended research paper (the “EE”). Generally, three courses are taken at the Higher Level (HL) and three at the Standard Level (SL).

In order to obtain the IB Diploma, a student is required to choose:
   a) one subject from each of the groups 1-5
   b) a second subject from any of the groups 1-4 or a subject from group 6

All Diploma students must write one examination in their own language and literature, Language A. Students of languages not provided with teachers or mother tongue tutors, take their own language as a “self-taught” subject, under the guidance of the Teacher of Language A1.

IB examinations are graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum), and the Diploma is granted to students gaining a conditional minimum of 24 points. The students will be informed about all the particularities of the program by their IB Coordinator.

The students’ progress has been monitored constantly and official grading sessions are due every six weeks. At the end of each term and after the Trial Exams in second year all the grades and full reports by subject teachers, tutors and CAS supervisors are sent to parents/guardians via an online platform.

The official language of the school is English. As English is not a prerequisite for admission to UWC, students arrive with wide-ranging abilities in the language.

You will be asked to make a preliminary choice of subjects before your arrival at the College according to your personal preferences. This, however, does not have to be your final decision: you will have a month at the beginning of the year to try out as many classes
as you want until you decide how your diploma will eventually look like. Keep in mind that there is a chance that certain combinations of subjects will not be available.

**IB COURSES OFFERED BY UWCiM 2015-2017**

All these courses will be offered provided there is sufficient demand to ensure viable class sizes. For more information on specific courses, see the college website.

**Subject Group 1: Language A1 (mother tongue)**

- English A Literature
- English A Language and Literature
- Bosnian A
- Croatian A
- Serbian A
- German A
- Self taught A Languages

**Subject Group 2: Language B (second language)**

- English B
- French B
- Spanish B
- French ab initio
- Spanish ab initio

**Subject Group 3: Individuals and Societies**

- History
- Economics
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- Global Politics (new)

**Subject Group 4: Experimental Sciences**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Environmental Systems and Societies

**Subject Group 5: Mathematics**

- Mathematics
- Mathematical Studies

**Subject Group 6: Arts and Electives**

- Visual Art
- Theatre Art

We also offer a course on the local language – “Local ab initio” – that students can take as an additional, “7th Subject” if it fits their timetable. Though this is not an official IB course, internally we treat this course equally with other IB subjects.
ACADEMIC MATTERS – UWC LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

College life does not take place only in the classroom. On the contrary, you will be involved in all sorts of activities and services, where you will learn new skills, and meet people from outside the College. These aspects of your education are equally important to your UWC education.

Co-curricular program: CAS, Clubs, College Service

At UWC Mostar, students participate in CAS activities, but also in Clubs and a College Service activity. CAS -- Creativity, Action, Service -- is the aspect of the program formally required by the IB, but as a UWC students go far beyond the requirements of the IB.

Social service at UWC Mostar is one of the aspects of an education here that sets us apart from other UWCs. Our students are actively engaged in work with the elderly, in a nearby refugee camp, orphanages, a home for Roma children, and elementary schools. We are aware that with our actions we can contribute to the process of strengthening society, making it stronger and richer. At the same time, we recognize the beneficial impact of doing service on our own development and how much we learn from our community.

Clubs are activities that may not necessitate weekly meetings, or that may not allow the consistent engage that CAS activities do. Clubs range from hiking or biking to singing or musical groups.

College Service activities allow the students to contribute to the weekly operations of the college, contributing in substantial ways to the operation of the college. College Service activities range from running our bi-weekly Global Awareness sessions to working with the Communications Coordinator on public-facing college materials to recycling.

Culture Weeks

Over the course of the two years, all students will have the opportunity to create and run a week where they introduce the whole college community to their cultural region. This often involves a feast of cultural foods prepared by students, songs, dances, skits and presentations that give a sense of the world to the community.

Balkan Studies

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

Global Awareness
Every two weeks, the community gathers as a whole or in smaller groups to discuss some issue of global significance. The format varies, but frequently a group of students makes a presentation about an issue, eventually extending to open discussion. Topics this year have included terrorism, the efficacy of protest movements, and the “Black Pete” controversy in the Netherlands.

Project Week
Each October, students travel in small groups around the region on projects proposed by second years and teachers. Project Weeks give students a chance to experience community service, art projects, outdoor activities and others around the region. Past Project Weeks include a house-building project in Srebrenica, an analysis of the political situation in Kosovo prior to the local elections, an exchange with students from a school in Vukovar, and a documentary about art in Sarajevo.

UWC MOSTAR CODE OF CONDUCT

The UWCs believe in the principles of trust and individual responsibility, and you will find you are given a great deal more freedom and responsibility than you may be used to. Where students fail to meet the behavior which is expected of them, this will generally be dealt with by the relevant teacher or Tutor. Fellow students are also encouraged to offer guidance and support so that the problem is resolved quickly.

In addition to the UWC Common Code of Conduct below, UWC Mostar students must agree to the College Code of Conduct, which details the expectations of community behavior and consequences in cases of violation of the code. Students should read the College Code of Conduct with their parents, and return a signed copy with the joining papers.

UWC COMMON CODE OF CONDUCT

Pursuing the UWC mission – to make education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future – requires a commitment to the following values: international and intercultural understanding, celebration of difference, personal responsibility and integrity, mutual responsibility and respect, compassion and service, respect for the environment, a sense of idealism, personal challenge, action and personal example.

At the heart of the UWC ethos is respect for others in all our actions and words. This means that we must think about the common good and be able to rise above our individual desires and needs. In short, our ideals require good heartedness from all members of the UWC
community and recognition that cultural norms are diverse. The common code of conduct is required to make expectations clear.

The following are not tolerated:
- Illicit drugs
- Tobacco
- Alcohol on school property and school sponsored activities
- Sexual activity in any public area, including student rooms
- Hazing, bullying or harassment
- Assault
- Stealing or ‘borrowing without permission’
- Damaging the school property
- Being late for check-in or leaving the residence after it
- An overnight absence from the residence without permission

Additionally, each college will have clear expectations regarding:
- Attendance (at all classes and activities)
- Academic integrity
- Respect for curfew and/or quiet time
- Alcohol ‘off-campus’

Individual UWC schools and colleges may have additional standards on these issues that reflect the laws and cultural norms of the country in which they are located. The expectation is that the UWC common code of conduct will be followed both in action and in spirit.

**UWC MOSTAR – MEDICAL CARE**

A medical report (included along with the joining papers) must be completed by the family doctor and countersigned by the parents/guardians.

When students become ill, one of the House Moms accompanies students to the doctor’s office or hospital. The College covers the expenses of medical examination by general practitioners and specialist doctors, prescribed medicines, and hospital expenses for all the students. Dental treatment and glasses/contact lenses expenses are not covered by the insurance, and in cases of chronic or serious illness or disease, the student may be advised to return home.

Students may also meet with the College Counselor in case of mental health concerns, and if more serious, the College can arrange sessions with mental health professionals in the city. Additional mental health treatment is not covered by insurance.

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.
Permanent Disabilities: Students with permanent disabilities are welcome at UWC Mostar. Unfortunately, however, we cannot accommodate students in wheelchairs as the school building is not wheelchair accessible at the moment.

UWC MOSTAR – HOUSING AND CATERING FOR STUDENTS

Housing
All residential students are provided with adequate, modest accommodation within walking distance from the school. The UWC Mostar offers student residence houses for that purpose, on different sides of the River Neretva. The students share a room with at least one other UWC student of the same gender, as is the standard practice in all other UWC colleges, in part of a house shared by UWC students, volunteers and in some cases, teachers.

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.

Computers
The students have access to the Internet in their accommodation. The UWC Mostar may also be able to lend laptops to those who cannot afford one. In addition, on school premises, there is access to computers in the school’s IT room. Families who can afford to do so are encouraged to purchase a laptop for the student.

Catering
All residential students Mostar are provided a daily breakfast and lunch in adequate canteen facilities within walking distance of the school and dinner in residences. During the weekends meals are provided in residences. They are able to prepare their own snack if they like, in the kitchen provided within the accommodation. The menu takes account of the students’ dietary preferences and for that purpose UWC Mostar formed the “Food Council” to communicate students’ food preferences.

UWC MOSTAR – WHAT TO BRING

The weather in Mostar is quite extreme: summers are extremely hot and humid, while autumn and winter can be cold, very windy, and exceptionally rainy. One of the best purchases before coming, therefore, may be a good pair of waterproof boots.
Some other items of clothing that we recommend you to bring (and you might not have thought of) are:

- Bath towels
- Nice clothes for formal occasions (a suit or a nice dress will suffice)
- Underwear and socks that stand out
- Swimsuit
- Hiking boots (if you are interested in hiking)
- A good backpack is invaluable
- National costumes: bring it if you have one, along with any articles that will help you represent your own culture. Food is highly encouraged!

Sheets, pillows and blankets are provided by the College.

The residences have several washing machines. Students will be responsible for their own laundry.

Don’t forget to bring with you pictures, posters, and books: anything that will make your room feel more like home will definitely help you during the process of adaptation.

**UWC MOSTAR - MONEY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Cameras, watches, radios, computers, musical instruments and others should be covered by personal insurance. The College insurance policies do not cover students’ personal possessions. Students are encouraged to bring only a limited number of personal possessions. The College does not accept any responsibility for loss or theft of any personal belongings. The students have the option of securing their valuable items in safes kept in house fellows’ apartments.

Students’ tuition/scholarship does not cover the costs of university applications, pocket money and travel expenses. Additionally, it does not cover a damage fee and the residential permit fee for each school year.

**UWC MOSTAR – VACATIONS AND WEEKENDS**

As the cultivation of community is central to the UWC experience, students may go home a maximum of one time a month, at a time that does not interfere with teaching hours, and does not prevent students from satisfactory completion of their school assignments. Aside from exceptional circumstances, students should not return home in the first month of the school year. The College asks for parents’ support on these policies to help develop our community.
When a student plans to go on trips, other than going home and school trips, the school requires a parental approval beforehand. The College will provide students with all necessary guidance upon arrival.

Please note that during the examination period students are not allowed to leave the College. They will be notified about that in written form before examination starts.

**UWC MOSTAR – COLLEGE DATES FOR 2015-2016**

First year students should arrive on the 22nd or 23rd of August 2015.

Parents who have accompanied their children to the college may meet with the college staff on the 24th of August. We ask that parents leave Mostar by the 25th of August, however, so that their children can participate fully in the activities of Induction Week. If you want to arrive earlier than the 22nd and stay in a hotel, you are welcome of course.

Induction Week runs from the 24th of August to the 30th of August 2015.

The first assembly for both years will be on the 31st of August 2015; classes begin that same day.

**School Breaks**
The school breaks for holidays are twice during the school year:

- Winter break: 19th December 2015 (Saturday) – 17th January 2015 (Sunday) inclusive
- Summer break: 28th May 2016.

The College observes religious holidays in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as national holidays. All dates will be confirmed by the start of the school year.

If you have any outstanding questions or queries please write immediately to the Admissions Coordinator, Ivona Sušac:
ivona.susac@uwcim.uwc.org
or call +387 36 320 601, +387 36 32 32 73

Please sign below that you have read, understood and accepted the terms set out above in this document.

Please print and send back (only) this last page and return it by 23rd of June 2015.

Name and last name: ____________________________________________

In ___________________, date: ________________________________

________________________________________

Signature of student