

UWC Mostar Parent meeting 27.07.2020 FAQs

Arrivals

First Year	Early arrivals for international students	20th August is an excaptable arrival date and transportation will be provided.
First Year	Arrival date for local students	TBD (after the 22nd August)
Second Years	Early arrivals for international students	Depending on the specific circumstances and restrictions imposed by a particualr countries, students are advised to book the available flights and the school will provide accomodation before the 17th of August.
All	Isolation facility details	Temporary accommodation is being arranged in local hotels and student dormitories (excluding college residences). Deatils will be updated before arrival of students
All	Should parents accompany the students or is it preferable that they travel alone?	Unless arriving with a car, it is preferable that students travel alone.
All	What should the student take care of at the border control?	Please make sure to ask for the entrance stamp at the border when you enter BiH in case your Passport is not stamped by border patrol officer.

Travel

All	Where can we get official up to date information on Covid-19 restrictions in Bosnia? Could you please provide a link to a governmental site that updates the info regularly?	Bosnia and Herzegovina border patrol website is regulary updated and information is available in English http://www.granpol.gov.ba/?lang=en
First Year	Passport holders of which countries are allowed to enter the BiH right now?	Citizens and residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as citizens of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro are allowed to enter with no restrictions. All EU and Schengen citizens, residents and holders of multiple entry Schengen visa are allowed to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina with a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus (COVID-19) test result issued at most 48 hours before departure.
First Year	When can tickets be purchased?	Tickets should be purchased now for all students who are allowed entrance into Bosnia and Herzegovina at the moment.
First Year	Can EU citizens traveling from elsewhere enter BiH or must they stay in the EU before entering BiH?	EU citizens can enter BiH regardless of the country they are travelling from. The restriction applies to citizenship.
All	International airports from where transportation to Mostar will be provided for by the college	Following airports: in BiH Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla / In Croatia Dubrovnik and Split airport
First Year	Can EU citizens traveling from elsewhere enter BiH or must they stay in the EU before entering BiH?	All EU and Schengen citizens, residents and holders of multiple entry Schengen visa are allowed to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina with a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus (COVID-19) test result issued at most 48 hours before departure.
All	How to get contact details of the person who will pick up the respective student at the airport?	Contact details will be sent along with transportation details.
All	Humanitarian and repatriation flights. Does the college have knowldge of these? Can the college provide help to access one of these flights?	College is not informed of any such humanitarian/repatriation flights. We would be glad to assist in making arrangements, if provided the details.
All	Should students and parents appeal to their governments to gain permission for leaving their home countries and to enter BiH?	While UWC Mostar is appealing the BiH Council of ministers for a special perimission regarding the entry of UWCiM students in BiH, any other appeals are also welcome as they might help support our case.
All	Is a return flight ticket required to enter BiH?	Return ticket is not required to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina.
All	Does the college have information on when flights from Austria to Sarajevo will restart?	We have no information on when the flights could be resumed.
All	Can the college provide the list of students with arrival days and times at the airports ?	Students on same flights and/or same transport to Mostar can be informed in advance. More details about students on other figlhts/transports can not be shared.

All	What if the student arrives at an airport at a particular time alone or only with very few students? Will there be a required number of students for a pick-up and will they need to wait at the airport for a long time?	No, there is no minimum number of students required. Transportation will be organized in any case. However a bit of waiting time might be necessary.
COVID 19 Testing & Procedure		
All	Do the COVID 19 test results need to be in hard copy or soft copy?	Test results should be in hard copy and kept at reach during border crossing. Soft copy backup should be kept as well.
All	What type of COVID 19 test is required?	RT-PCR test (from nasopharyngeal swab) is the only considered valid, at the moment.
First Year	Testing requirements - before travel and after reaching	Certified RT-PCR taken at least 48h prior to arrival to Bosnia and Herzegovina is required by the state authority. Testing upon arrival is a safety measure to be implemented by the College.
First Year	Testing requirements before entering BiH	Students that are not citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia or Montenegro, or residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina (have a valid residential permit) must have a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus (COVID-19) test result issued at most 48 hours before departure.
Second Years	Will the 48 hours before arrival testing be required for 2nd year students as well even though the BiH government does not mandate it?	It is not mandatory to citizens and residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but will be recommended to all of the Year 2 students and staff who have access to testing in their home countries.
All	How many days post arrival will the students be tested for Covid-19?	UWC Mostar plans to test all of the students 48h after they arrive and will implement measures such as limiting physical interactions and regular checks to identify any early symptoms. Requirements may be subject to changes mandated by the local authority.
All	Testing of local students. What will the requirements be?	Local students will be tested upon their arrival in Mostar as well along with other students.
All	What is the process and the rationale for the period of isolation and testing?	A 14 day quarantine is not mandated by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. UWC Mostar plans to test all of the students 48h after they arrive and will implement measures such as limiting physical interactions and regular checks to identify any early symptoms. Requirements may be subject to changes mandated by the local authority.
All	Procedure when a student or staff member tests positive	Clear procedures and instructions to be followed in case a student or staff member tests positive for Covid 19 will be shared before the students arrive in Mostar (by the 10th of August). Any member of the community displaying any COVID 19 like symptom at all (list of symptoms will also be shared) must inform the college and isolate themselves immediately.
All	Pandemic specific safety protocol to be followed by the students and staff in the classes, in the residences, in the activities and in the city	The college will issue a Pandemic Specific Protocol to be followed by all students and staff by the 10th of August
All	COVID 19 test requirement - Is it required everytime someone reenters BiH?	The 48 hour rule applies to everytime anyone enters BiH as of now
All	What kind of medical assistance connected with COVID-19 could be provided to the students who are in the risk group according to the health survey?	The College will have a stricter regular check schedule for these students. Any further actions or accommodations recommended by the doctor/nurse will be timely taken.
All	Will parents required COVID 19 testing if they travel to Mostar? Will the college provide these tests before they leave?	College will not provide testing for parents before they leave Mostar, but will give all necessary contacts to parents in order for them to be tested.
All	If the country of origin does not have COVID 19 tests available. What can be done?	You can do PCR tests at many European airports - eg Frankfurt and Vienna - if you have sufficient layover time, that might work. The COVID 19 test in Vienna takes during the week a max of 6 hours- but on the weekend until the next day 14:00
Documentation		
Visa		
First Year	If citizens of a country are allowed to enter BiH for 30 days, can they come to Mostar or should they get a student visa?	For all visa regime countries, it is always better to apply for a D Visa in the home country itself. However, this will be country specific and the students and parents should get in touch with the college.

Parental Consent Form (4a and 4b)		
First Year	Notarising of the parental consent form - How to do this? Is an Apostille stamp required? Do all the pages of the form need to be stamped? Where should the stamp be?	Notarization of the Parental consent form can be done by any competent authority in the country (court, public notary office) . Parental consent form is usually notarized as a whole (as one document)
First Year	Are the two consent forms 4a and 4b sufficient or is there another consent form needed for traveling or crossing borders?	No other consent form is required
Non Criminal Record		
First Year	Non criminal record validity	The non-criminal record should not be older than three months from the date of submitting the residence permit application
First Year	Non criminal record of minors where the country does not legally provide this	In these situations, the student has to have an official document from their home country, stating that by the law, the country is not issuing non criminal record to minors. That would suffice the Aliens office for applying for resident permit approval
First Year	Is the non-criminal record acceptable in the language of the country where it is issued or is it required in english?	The non-criminal record can be in any language, since all criminal records have to be translated to one of the official languages in Bosnia. we usually send the documents to translation agency
First Year	Non criminal record - should it be from country of residence or the country of which the passport is held?	The non-criminal record must necessarily be from the country of the passport that will be used to enter BiH. In addition, if the student resides in a different country, they should also get a non criminal record from the country of residence.
All	Passport renewed by an extension sticker that renews the passport for a two years period instead of the usual five-year duration. In one case this would last until August 2022, Does the college have any concern with this way of passport renewal?	A passport renewed by a government official is valid and when comes to a resident permit approval, this student will have no problems this upcoming academic year, but for the next one, the passport has to be renewed again or issued
Medical Form		
First Year	If it is not possible to get all the required medical tests (non-COVID) done in the home country due to the pandemic and/or other reasons, can this be done in Mostar?	This can be looked into on a case by case basis. Please forward all details to the Admissions Coordinator ivona.susac@uwcm.uwc.org
First Year	If the student does not have the vaccination record with exact dates. Can they just tick the form with vaccinations done?	Yes, this is possible as long as the form is signed by a doctor.
First Year	Does the medical form need just the signature of the doctor or also a stamp?	Doctor's signature, name, address, tel., fax and e-mail are required. Stamp is not a must.
First Year	Could the college share a recent acceptance letter?	There should be no need for this as the letter shared earlier is valid. However, if there is a special requirement, do get in touch with us and we will do the needful for sure.
Health Insurance		
All	Would the health insurance provided by the college cover safe travel back to the home country in case of an infection?	Travel back to home country will not be included in the health insurance.
All	Is the medical insurance provided by the college part of the fee?	Yes, the medical insurance provided by the College is part of the fee.
All	Does the insurance provided by the school cover COVID 19 treatment	COVID 19 is covered like any other disease under the insurance policy provided by the school.
Visa Regime & Travel Restriction		
All	Visa Regime countries possibility of coming to Mostar	UWC Mostar is appealing the BiH Council of Ministers for a special permission regarding the entry of UWCiM students in BiH. Unfortunately, visa applications are not being processed at the moment, so we expect a considerable delay once they start.
All	Can admission be deferred by a year if travel is not possible at all?	Deferral by a year will be allowed to all students who cannot reach Mostar.
Reassignment from and to another UWC		

First Years	If a student has been reassigned to UWC Mostar, and has 100% scholarship, will it still cover the flight costs, residency maintenance costs and the costs of obtaining the Bosnian residency?	This will depend on the type of scholarship and will need to be dealt with on a case by case basis. These students should get in touch with Ivona Susac, the Admissions Coordinator.
All	Transfers to UWCCSC	On communication with UWC Changshu, we have confirmed the following options for our students who are not able to travel to Mostar: Second Year Students a) Can be transferred on individual basis taking into account subject choices and offerings at Changshu b) Temporary transfers are not possible as per UWCCSC c) Students can attend classes and activities online till travel to Mostar becomes possible First Year Students a) Cannot be accommodated temporarily at UWCCSC as UWC Mostar first year students as per our information b) First year students can join the Foundation Program at UWCCSC, while paying the required fee and simultaneously following the UWC Mostar Program on their own remotely c) If travel to Mostar is not possible, the admission could be deferred to next year
First Years	If a transfer to another UWC does not work out, will UWC Mostar still accept the student?	Till a formal transfer is worked out, a student is still a UWC Mostar student and we can offer a deferral for the next year.

Academic and other school related questions

Second Year	Year 1 exams	Y1 exams will happen before Project Week, from September 28 to October 2. The duration of these exams will be limited to 1 hour and the weighing of the exams for the calculation of Predicted grades will be as follows: Term 2 = 30-35%, Y1 exams = 15-20% and Term 3 = 50%. No classes will take place during the week of exams.
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Online/Blended/In Class Learning

All	Can the August term be online and a student make it to Mostar in January	Students are strongly encouraged to take the first available opportunity to travel to Mostar. Remote learning will be available for those who cannot travel due to circumstances out of their control. However, if the situation continues for a prolonged period of time, the College will explore the possibility of a transfer or a deferral.
All	Possibility of an online start and joining later	Students are strongly encouraged to take the first available opportunity to travel to Mostar. Remote learning will be available for those who cannot travel due to circumstances out of their control. However, if the situation continues for a prolonged period of time, the College will explore the possibility of a transfer or a deferral.
All	Online classes. Will it be for all course? Will live classes be provided for different time zones	The College is counting on having the majority (if not all) of the students and staff in Mostar, thus classes will take place at the regular schedule. Any students who can't travel to Mostar and who are in Time zones that don't allow them to participate in the classes through Zoom will have access to recordings.
All	How will online learning take place if students are in residences and local regulations do not allow in person classes?	Online learning will take place in the residence. We are currently in process of updating the quality of internet in all of our residences.
All	Online classes. Will it be for all course? Will live classes be provided for different time zones	The College is counting on having the majority (if not all) of the students and staff in Mostar, thus classes will take place at the regular schedule. Any students who can't travel to Mostar and who are in Time zones that don't allow them to participate in the classes through Zoom will have access to recordings.

Induction Week

All	Program between August 22 and August 30	Arrival, testing and afterward Induction Week activities will take place between 22nd and 30th August. Induction Weeks are mostly community building events, getting to know Mostar and its surrounding field trips, learning about IB and co-curricular life and UWC Workshops. The Induction Week schedule is under constant review in response to epidemiological requirements.
All	Induction week start date	Induction week activities start on the 24th August.

First Year	Safety/security briefing ex. mines in Bosnia)	Security briefing takes place during induction week covering topics like swimming in Neretva, venomous species in Mostar area and mines.
Next Summer Return Home		
All	Return dates for Summer 2021	2nd years - 23rd to 25th of May 2021 1st years - 30th of May to 1st of July 2021
SATs		
Second Year	SATs on 29th August - Will these be conducted? What is the process for fee waivers for SATs?	Based on the current regulations, the SAT center will be open on August 29th. The registration deadline is the 31st August. If there are changes in the local restrictions regarding number of people that can gather in a closed space, the SAT center may have to close and cancel the session. For any further questions please contact marjana.tomas@uwcim.uwc.org
Subject offerings		
First Year	Will ESS be offered for 1st year students? Does the college have a new teacher yet?	The College is exploring the possibility of continuing the Y2 ESS program remotely in collaboration with another UWC. Specific details of this option will be shared as soon as they are available. ESS is not going to be offered for Y1 students.
First Year	Which subjects will not be offered this year due to the pandemic situation?	Environmental Systems and Societies and Economics
Residence etc		
All	Residence assignment	In earlier years, residences were assigned much before the students were due to arrive in Mostar. However, considering the uncertainties with both, the arrivals and the guidance on pandemic related issues, this year, students will be informed a week before they are expected in Mostar. This should be the 10th of August.
First Year	Can a student bring in cash? Where can it be safely deposited/kept?	Houseparents in every residence have safes, so students can safely deposit money or keep documents with houseparents.
First Year	When will the Code of Conduct be shared?	A soft copy of the Code of Conduct will be sent before arrival and students will sign a hard copy of it during the first week of activities in Mostar.
Fee Payments		
First Year	Do students who are residents of countries still not allowed into BiH need to complete payment by 1st August as things are still not clear?	Unless a transfer option is being explored, all students must complete the payment by the 1st of August. If a transfer is being discussed or if a family is considering giving up the placement at the College, they should contact the admissions coordinator.
All	Will there be a discount in tuition fee for students who are currently unable to be at UWCiM? Since there are not expense of food or accommodation?	The fee will be adjusted accordingly if the situation develops in the way that students cannot start classes regularly in August. If, due to COVID-19 pandemic, students have online classes during the first term or are unable to join the College at all, we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make full refund to those who are not able to join the school and paid the fee in advance and who do not attend the on-line classes, ie who decide not to join UWC Mostar at all. - Offer reduction in the case that students have on-line classes for the first months (up until the end of the first term). The reduction will reflect savings on catering and some school projects. The reduction in the range between 5-10% of the full fee will be specified towards the end of the first term. Unfortunately we are not able to offer a larger discount as our largest costs are salaries and rental of accommodation. We will continue to pay our staff as they will be teaching remotely and we will need to put the accommodation contracts in place to ensure that the student residences are ready when the students plan to arrive in August. If we are able to negotiate any rent reduction as a result of fewer students, we can pass this on as a cost saving, but this cannot be guaranteed at this point.