

Reopening Protocol @ UWC Mostar

(for August 2021 to June 2022)

UWC Mostar was able to face the challenges of the 2020-21 pandemic year and have most classes and activities in-person. However, we were challenged by regulations and mitigation measures that did not allow us to get together as a whole community except online. We hope to have better conditions in the academic year 2021-22 and have activities and meetings together as a community.

However, although we are positive and hopeful; the world is still not free of Covid-19 and many new strains of the virus are resulting in increased numbers around the world. At BiH and Mostar too, the numbers are on the increase though still not alarming. Thus, we will still need to follow an arrival procedure including testing and isolation for those not vaccinated/not possessing antibodies.

This document outlines the arrival procedures for the next academic year for all staff and students. As always, at UWC Mostar, the safety of our entire community, including our students, and staff is our priority.

In the new academic year, 2021 too, we intend to provide the same educational and learning UWC experience that we usually do, as much as possible. However, we will continue to carefully follow the local health authority directives and implement health and safety measures and procedures to manage the risk of virus transmission as we live together and interact in our residences, academic buildings, and in the city. The Arrival Procedures including the isolation and testing are intended to reduce the risk. These, combined with the relatively low numbers of infection in Mostar (though these are on the rise at the moment), will further reduce the risk. To minimize the risk throughout the school year, everyone in the community -- students, faculty, staff and external partners -- will need to follow specific health and safety measures that will be clearly outlined.

Before You Travel

While planning the return trip to BiH and Mostar, we strongly recommend our students and any parents or guardians accompanying them to take care of the following:

Pre-Departure

- Vaccination
 - All students and staff are encouraged to get vaccinations in their home countries well before traveling.
 -

Travel:Readiness

- Complete a self-assessment prior to departure and delay your trip if you or any family members you are living with at present have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- The government of BiH at the moment requires **one of the following** to enter the country:
 - negative PCR test or rapid antigen test on SARS-CoV-2, not older than 48 hours if they come from a European country, and if they come from another country, not older than 72 hours until arrival at the border crossing point of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

- certificate that a person has received the second dose of vaccine for COVID-19 before more than 14 days before the arrival to a Border Crossing Point of BiH or has received one dose before 14 days and more before the arrival to a Border Crossing Point of BiH, if it is a single dose vaccine,
- certificate issued by a doctor showing that he/she has recovered from COVID-19 in the previous period from 14 to 180 days until the arrival to a Border Crossing Point of BiH.
- PCR or antigen test, if traveling from Europe and it cannot be older than 48 hours. If traveling from other countries, it cannot be older than 72 hours
- Here is a link in English, [CONDITIONS FOR THE ENTRY INTO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA \(granpol.gov.ba\)](https://www.granpol.gov.ba/en/conditions-for-the-entry-into-bosnia-and-herzegovina)
- Citizens and holders of residential permits of BiH are exempt as are citizens of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. This may change as per the pandemic situation and students and staff should check before the start of travel. (<http://www.granpol.gov.ba/?lang=en>)
- Keep both, a hard copy and a soft copy of the COVID-19 test result/Vaccination proof/Antibody test result ready with you. For the purposes of record-keeping and ease of access, please leave a copy of the of the Covid test results/Vaccination proof/Antibody test result in the following respective folders:
 - Year 2 Students
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gfSu5mA1u6zIF8gpFduWx7sBUZKS_z4H?usp=sharing
 - Year 1 Students
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JwfxND4g6VFwx097MuRNoDbHm7xBFjcm?usp=sharing>
 - Staff
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sbS3J2jusTNs0OsSHJt2KTIM6M0DlpRn?usp=sharing>
- If you're travelling by air, you may need to pass a health check conducted by the airlines before you'll be allowed to board your flight. Please check the requirements with your airline.
- If you are passing through other countries and/or airports on your journey, there may be COVID 19 testing requirements and/or health certificates required. Please check in advance.
- If you're travelling by air or other public transportation, you will need to wear a medical mask or face covering during travel (including to the place you will quarantine)
- Pack all of the necessary PPE for travelling, including:
 - Multiple face masks (especially if you are wearing a disposable mask that could get easily damaged)
 - Disposable gloves
 - Antibacterial gel
 - Disinfectant wipes
 - Plastic zipper-seal bags to organize and protect your supplies

Arrival

Students must arrive as per the calendar dates (23rd and 24th August for Year 2; 28th and 29th of August for Year 1) and according to the travel permissions in home countries. As students arrive, the ones without vaccination and/or antibodies will be hosted in rooms marked for isolation within our residences where they will be required to stay in quarantine for three full days (can be extended to 5 depending on the situation at the time) and then be tested for COVID 19.

Who is allowed to enter at the moment?

- As per the information at this time, citizens and residents (including residence permit holders like our second year students and returning international staff) 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 visas are allowed to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina with a COVID-19 test result/Vaccination proof/Antibody test result as per earlier guidance..
- Bosnia and Herzegovina border patrol website is regularly updated and information is available in English <http://www.granpol.gov.ba/?lang=en>

When can you arrive?

- The arrival dates are:
 - Staff - As per calendar, 14th & 15th August (10th August for LT)
 - 2nd year students - 23rd & 24th August onwards
 - 1st year students - students - 28th and 29th August onwards
- All students must inform the College about arrival dates and times as soon as possible so that pick-ups can be arranged.
 - 2nd Year students must inform the Administrative Assistant (Student Affairs) Arijana Alendar (arijana.alendar@uwcmostar.ba)
 - 1st year students must inform the Admissions Coordinator, Ivona Sušac (ivona.susac@uwcmostar.ba)
 - Staff arriving from abroad should also inform the Administrative Assistant (College Affairs) , Aldijana Droce Tanovic (aldijana.droce@uwcmostar.ba) about their arrival dates as soon as possible.
- Delayed arrivals will be supported only based on the travel restrictions in home countries and BiH.

What is the arrival procedure?

- Transport for Year 1 students is arranged by the college. Year 2 students arrange their own travel. They can request the student coordinator for help but need to pay for the transport directly on their own.
- Students and staff arriving should follow all mitigation measures advised by the countries and the airlines.

- Students and staff must report any symptoms immediately (fever, dry cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, head cold e.g. runny nose or sneezing, loss of sense of smell). The school nurse will be available by phone (+387 63 288 741) or by email (admir.zekic@uwcmostar.ba). Upon evaluation of each case, the nurse will explain any further procedures.
- Please make sure that you get an entrance stamp at the border and/or airport when you enter BiH. In case your passport is not stamped by a border patrol officer, ask the driver of your vehicle to help you present the passport again. The entry stamp into BiH is essential in order to apply for the residence permit.
- Once Year 2 students inform the student coordinator of the arrival details, the ones who need to quarantine will be informed of the address of the residence earmarked for isolation. Those who do not need isolation can go directly to assigned residences. The House Parents will have lists of students who do not need isolation. Students assigned to residences being used for isolation will be temporarily assigned rooms in another residence. They will be able to move their assigned residence after the isolations are done and the premises cleaned and disinfected.
- Year 1 students who need to be isolated as explained earlier will be taken to the temporary isolation facilities directly by the driver who picks them up at the airport.

Testing

Before Arrival

- Bosnia and Herzegovina border patrol website is regularly updated regarding the COVID-19 testing requirements and information is available in English <http://www.granpol.gov.ba/?lang=en>
- Please check this before traveling for the latest testing requirements.

After Arrival

- All students and staff who do not have proof of vaccination or Covid-19 antibodies will be isolated and tested after three days.
- Individuals who need to be isolated will be accommodated in a residence/rooms reserved for this purpose until the test results are issued.
- Those who need to be isolated should pack a small overnight bag for this purpose. It will be more convenient than opening up all their luggage in the temporary location.
- The students are expected to follow all the restrictions and requirements set by the school. No acceptance of any breaches of health regulations.
- The food will be delivered by the caterer to the rooms.
- Rapid antigen tests will be carried out either by our Nurse or a local laboratory. For students traveling from specific regions (where the instances of Covid-19 infections is very high) we will do the RT-PCR tests.
- On receipt of negative Covid-19 reports, students will shift to respective residences.
- Students who have been vaccinated or have antibodies (with a recent test report) will go directly to the assigned residence.
- No parents, guardians, friends, relatives or visitors will be allowed into the isolation facilities or the residences due to the continued pandemic situation.