



"Building bridges between people and cultures through inspiring, quality education"

Newsletter | UWC Mostar

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, Alumni, and Community Members,

The 2025-2026 academic year is now in full swing. Reflecting on the past few weeks, we are pleased to recall the wonderful induction days that welcomed our new students. Today, our current students are actively engaged in a wide range of activities organized by UWC Mostar, both inside and outside the classroom, demonstrating full commitment and enthusiasm.

We are happy to report that nearly all of our students have arrived safely. We owe special thanks to our Admission Team, whose dedication and effort ensured a smooth and successful onboarding process. Their hard work exemplifies our ability to navigate challenging procedures with professionalism and ease.

September has been a busy month, highlighted by the celebrated Mostar Peace Conference.

Since its inception in 2023, this event is rapidly becoming a cherished tradition. The conference began on Thursday evening with performances and discussions, and continued on Friday with student-led workshops and inspiring stories centered on peacebuilding. This theme remains close to the heart of the UWC movement and is especially vital amid today's complex geopolitical realities. Critical thinking and inspiring young leaders are essential for shaping a better future.

On Saturday, the celebration continued with "Around the World in 80 Minutes," showcasing the rich diversity within our community and in Mostar. The event featured food, dance, music, and cultural expressions, with many Mostarians participating and enjoying the vibrant display of cultural diversity.

The Peace Conference concluded in the evening with the presentation of peace awards. We proudly recognized Pomozi, an organization deeply involved in charitable work across

Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them and thank them for their commendable efforts.

Meanwhile, our first outdoor activities have commenced, with students exploring the breathtaking landscapes of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The photos remind us of the remarkable beauty of this country at the heart of the Balkans.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our upcoming Project Week, and we will also host members of the College Board for their first meeting of the academic year.

All these activities demonstrate that we are truly in full motion. Amidst these memorable moments, I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect and enjoy our collective achievements. It's easy to become overwhelmed with concerns about the future, which is why we have introduced workshops that teach vital life skills—reflection, informed decision-making, and fostering wellbeing for oneself and the community.

In summary, the learning journey is well underway; celebrations are many; and, at UWC Mostar, we firmly believe that education is holistic and extends far beyond the classroom.

Head of UWC Mostar
Hendrik Willem Flier

News and Events



UWC Day in Mostar

Once again UWC Mostar brings a touch of global diversity to the heart of the city!

!0 years in a row, on the occasion of the *UWC Day*, the traditional event “**Around the World in 80 Minutes**” took place at the Spanish square in the heart of Mostar.

A cultural journey through 70 countries

This unique event gathered students from all over the world who are currently attending UWC Mostar. Citizens and visitors of Mostar had the opportunity to embark on a cultural journey through

more than **70 countries**, discover their traditions, languages, and customs, and enjoy **authentic presentations, culinary specialties, dances, and music**.

This year, special attention was drawn to the **fashion show of traditional costumes** from more than **50 countries**, accompanied by a rich program of **traditional dances from four continents – Africa, Asia, South America, and Europe**.

The event once again highlighted the spirit of international understanding, unity, and cultural exchange that lies at the very heart of the UWC mission.

[Gallery](#)



UWC Mostar Peace Conference 2025: "Stories of the Past, Visions of the Future"

This year's Peace Conference – "Stories and Bridges" – invited us to reflect on the narratives that shape us, connect us, and challenge us.

Special Guest Panelists:

- Julija Vitanova - Head of the OSCE Field Office in Mostar
- Duška Jurišić - Deputy Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Nils Krauer - Deputy Director of Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Key Topics explored:

- Stories & Bridges: Our community is built from diverse, complex stories – of conflict, reconciliation, resilience, and hope. Do we underestimate or overestimate the power of storytelling in peacebuilding?

Belonging & Exclusion: Can we imagine belonging without exclusion? Can we create communities that do not rely on borders, labels, and divisions to define who we are?

This year's conference aligned with UWC Day's theme, honouring the UN International Year of Peace and Trust. Together, we will amplify voices for peace, explore new ways of understanding, and reimagine what peace can look like for future generations.

[More](#)

Peace Days in Mostar 2025

UWC Mostar, Network for Building Peace and the Igman Initiative, with the support of the Western Balkans Fund, Pro Peace, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Embassy of Switzerland, are organizing the celebration of the International Day of Peace 2025, which took place in Mostar from September 18 to 20th.

Over the course of three days, citizens of Mostar, as well as visitors from across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, had the opportunity to attend exhibitions, workshops, debates, performances, round tables, and poetry evenings dedicated to the culture of dialogue, nonviolence, and building lasting peace.

- The program opened with the photo exhibition "Beauties of the South" by Alan Hadžić, and in the first days, the audience had an opportunity to be a part of poetry events and nonviolent communication workshops, a "Human Library," theatre evenings, and anti-war poetry nights.
- The second day was reserved for a keynote address, the panel "Stories of the Past, Visions of the Future," and numerous workshops and debates, including a discussion on war and healing, as well as an evening dedicated to anti-war poetry.
- The central part of the celebration, and at the same time the final day, brought our amazing UWC Day program "Around the World in 80 Minutes," a round table on stability and peace in the region with eminent speakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighbouring countries, a performance by Belgrade's DAH Theatre, and the "Goran Bubalo" Peace Prize for contributions to peacebuilding.

This three-day event brought together artists, activists, the academic community, and citizens from across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region with the aim of strengthening dialogue, solidarity, and joint commitment to peace.

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Welcoming new UWC Mostar endowment students and our new Palestinian endowment scholar!

This academic year, we are proud to welcome 25 new students supported by the Bridge to the Future UWC Mostar Endowment, alongside 25 returning second-year students. Since 2014, the endowment has enabled 211 students to attend UWC Mostar, opening doors to a transformative education regardless of financial background.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this possible, and we invite you to keep building bridges to the future.

Please consider supporting Bridge to the Future as even small contributions, such as joining the EUR 1 campaign, can help create life-changing opportunities for future students.

To donate or learn more about our matching schemes, please visit Endowment donation page or contact us directly.

www.mostarendowment.com

Cooperations and Activities



EU Researchers's Night in Mostar **Supporting the Next Generation of Innovators!**

It was a pleasure to be a part of this year's EU Researchers' Night in Mostar!

The event brought together students, teachers, and researchers to explore ideas, share knowledge, and spark curiosity through competition for the best scientific project. EU Researchers' Night aims at strengthening the connection between researchers and the public, raising awareness of innovation and research potential in Bosnia and Herzegovina, engaging young people, promoting scientific and educational programs, and bringing research closer to schools and communities.

[Gallery](#)



University September at UWC Mostar

September was a month full of exciting opportunities for our students to connect with universities from around the world! Our University Counseling Department welcomed a large group of universities during the month of September:

Bates College, Colorado College, Concordia College, Earlham, Davidson, Middlebury, Ringling, St. Olaf College, University of Oklahoma, Wartburg, and Whitman College. St. Lawrence University, University of New Orleans, University of Richmond, Lake Forest College, Bard College, Franklin & Marshall College, Goucher College, Marist University, University of St. Thomas, Luther College, and University of Tampa.

We are grateful to all the universities that visited UWC Mostar, sharing their programs and scholarship opportunities with our student body. [More](#)



Announcing Project Weeks 2025!

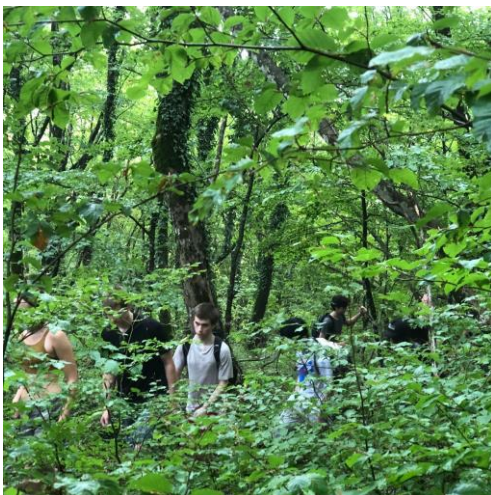
Every year, all UWC students across all colleges participate in a week-long Project Week – one of the most exciting and educational parts of co-curricular learning at UWC Mostar.

These projects, designed by both students and staff, challenge participants to:

- Grow personally and step out of their comfort zone
- Explore passions and learn through experience
- Share knowledge with the UWC community
- Build friendships and discover new perspectives

But Project Week is more than just a learning experience – it's an important outreach activity that strengthens our connection with the local community, deepens collaboration with partners, and fulfils our mission of building bridges between people and cultures.

This year, 24 student-led projects will be implemented — using project-based learning, collaboration, and teamwork to deliver a truly unique educational experience. Stay tuned this October!



Outdoor Activities

Hike Čvrsnica-Žlijeb

Čvrsnica Mountain, as a part of mountains representing Dinaric extension of the Swiss Alps, is located in northern Herzegovina. It has more than ten summits above 2000 m. Its highest peak – Pločno (2228masl) is actually the highest mountain peak in all Herzegovina and bears the name „Herzegovina's roof top". Čvrsnica also hides beautiful lakes: Blidinje, Crepulja and Crvenjak. Its bio-life is characteristic with numerous endemic species (like Munika Pine) and is also known as a home of chamois.

We find it as the ideal place for our outdoor activities for all those who desire silence, wilderness and mountain peacefulness, complemented only with sounds of wind and hidden forest inhabitants.

Alumni



Job opportunities at UWC Mostar

Join our team!

UWC Mostar seeks to appoint dedicated educators who are committed to the intellectual, social, and ethical development of students and who recognize that learning also takes place beyond the classroom. We value candidates who are drawn to the distinctive educational experience of the United World Colleges, and to UWC Mostar's unique mission within the movement.

For information and details on currently open vacancies and how to apply, please visit:

Read the latest UWC International Newsletter



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