

## UWC Red Cross Nordic Admissions Policy

The UWC Red Cross Nordic Admissions Policy and procedures are set up to carry out the UWC mission: 'UWC Makes Education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future'. The UWC Red Cross Nordic Admissions policy is aimed at creating a learning environment where young persons from different sides of divisions and tensions around the world come together for a shared experience.

The College is supported by all Nordic countries and autonomous regions. The Nordic students, who make up 30% of the total intake, have a role as hosts for their fellow students from other parts of the world - about half the student population comes from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Given the generous sponsorship of the Nordic states, we are looking to provide a percentage of our scholarships for students from countries where there is not equal access to education, who would not usually be able to receive this level of education, either at home or abroad. Our statutes state that 'the main bulk of the students shall come from underprivileged and / or conflict-torn regions'. We aim to reach out to students in communities across the world who have the spark, potential and desire to succeed – and who have done absolutely outstandingly in their own contexts - but not the means of accessing a good education.

Central to selection for United World Colleges is the National Committee system. Their selection processes should operate in accordance with UWC selection policies and other clearly defined criteria as may be appropriate in the local circumstances. No student can be selected for UWC Red Cross Nordic who has a relationship to members of the Selection Committee.

In line with the other schools and colleges in the movement, our selection is supported by over 150 UWC National Committees who select the representatives from their country. Selection and admission are based on merit and demonstrated potential, regardless of family income. In addition to National Committees, RCN partner organizations – such as SOS Children's Villages - support the selection for special scholarship places that are aimed at having orphans, street children, survivors of conflict and other groups represented in the RCN student body.

We admit students on the basis of selection processes that operate in accordance with UWC selection policies and other clearly defined criteria as may be appropriate in the local circumstances. There are five core selection criteria as outlined by UWC International Office's Admissions Team:

- Intellectual curiosity and motivation
- Active commitment
- Social competence
- Resilience, personal responsibility and integrity
- Motivation for UWC

The annual offers to National Committees are influenced by RCN's founding statutes, a system of rotation across the UWC network, current affairs, the role of Norway (and other Nordic countries) in a region, regional diversity, our historical relationships, UWC-wide initiatives, National Committee strength, RCN's ability to provide scholarships, guidance from the Admissions team at the International Office and also the partner countries as per directives from the Swedish and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Our Admissions Policy aims to create a deliberately diverse student intake each year at UWC Red Cross Nordic. We actively seek a representation of students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including a diversity of socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, as well as from different nationalities and from communities that reflect tensions within and across societies. This strategy also reflects the requirement for balanced representation, regionally and otherwise, across all school and colleges, and the relative capacities of National Committees.

Many RCN students are on full scholarships provided by our Nordic sponsors, which includes board and lodging plus all educational activities, in and outside of the class room. On a need-basis and by application by the National Committee, this can also be extended to travel support and pocket money. When this is appropriate, co-funding or a self-contribution is set in dialogue with the National Committee in the respective country. For example, as a principle, the family could cover the equivalent of what it costs to have a child at home. The following main principle underpins the RCN admissions policy – the College will aim to meet the financial needs of a student selected by a National Committee who comes from a genuinely needy background.

The College works purposely to integrate students with a disability - some of these are young people who are landmine survivors or survivors of other war injuries or functionally disabled students who have grown up in conflict and post-conflict zones. Applicants will need to be functionally independent. A document providing a detailed introduction to the 'Survivors of Conflict' programme alongside a brochure are available on the UWC RCN website and from the Admissions Coordinator.

Since starting in 1995 the College has offered 100 scholarships per year group. With the aim to increase local interaction, the College has been supported by the County of Sogn og Fjordane to offer some additional places for local students, since 2015. The Norwegian National Committee participates in selection of the students.

Applicants have to apply through the NC system. We do, however, consider applications from students who are not eligible to apply through the NC system due to their parents' current residential location away from their country of origin.

Our offers are available in September of each year and we expect nominations by April 1 at the latest (for the following August entry).

The RCN Admissions Policy is designed to complement developments in admissions in other UWCs and at UWC International level. UWC Red Cross Nordic is set up with public support and as a result of co-operation between the Nordic Countries. A continued robust support from the Nordic Countries enables the College and co-operation partners to undertake an Admission Policy which supports the mission *to make education a uniting force*.

Sept 2016

*This policy should be subject to review by the UWC RCN Admissions Team on an annual basis.*