

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, the Asia-Pacific region and the Americas.

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 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 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 demonstrated potential, regardless of family income. There is also a 'Global Selection Programme' in place for applicants who demonstrate potential and who need to apply for admission to the IB Diploma Programme ca 12 months before the start of term. In addition to National Committees and the Global Selection Programme, partner organizations – such as SOS Children's Villages - support the selection for special scholarship places that are aimed at having orphans, street children 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 statutes;
- A system of rotation across the UWC / NC network;
- The role of Norway and the Nordic countries in a region;
- The partner countries' status according to relevant policies from the Swedish and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and the Norwegian Red Cross;
- Criteria for scholarships;
- Regional diversity;
- Reciprocal partnerships;
- UWC-wide initiatives including a commitment to those of refugee backgrounds;
- National Committee strength and support;
- Guidance from the Admissions team at the International Office.

Our Admissions Policy aims to create a deliberately diverse student intake each year. 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 include 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 deliberately 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 is supported by the County of Sogn og Fjordane to offer two additional places for local students. The Norwegian National Committee participates in selection.

Our offers are submitted in June of each year to the International Office and we expect nominations by April 1st at the latest.

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.

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