

**United World College Costa Rica/Colegio del Mundo Unido Costa Rica
School Profile 2008-2009**

Mail address:
PO Box 678-6150
Santa Ana, San Jose
Costa Rica

Physical address:
400 m norte del l'glesia catolica
Santa Ana Centro, San Jose
Costa Rica

Phone: 506-2-282-5609
Fax: 506-2-282-1540
Website: www.uwccr.com

Opened in 2006, the UWCCR evolved out of the pre-existing SOS International College Herman Gmeiner Costa Rica, which itself was a development of the SOS Children's Villages association (www.sos-childrensvillages.org).

Each of the twelve United World Colleges (www.uwc.org) shares a common vision, but each has a unique identity. The UWCCR has defined "Three Pillars" on which to build our school; they are peace, multiculturalism and environmental awareness. Our academic, co-curricular and residential life programs reflect those values. In recognition of our unique SOS heritage there is a significant population of students with SOS backgrounds, and, in celebration of our location approximately 40% of the students come from Latin America.

One particularly important aspect of the UWCCR identity is that we are committed to operating as a bi-lingual school. Virtually all students study both Spanish and English as part of their International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Some will pursue the IB diploma in English, some in Spanish and some will register for the bi-lingual diploma. It is our hope (and our challenge) to create a community in which both languages can be used interchangeably.

Students 2008-2009

There are approximately 160 students representing almost 80 countries. Approximately 40% of the students come from Latin America. Several students come from SOS Children's Villages. Countries represented include: Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Tibet, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Academic Program

All students at the UWCCR are full International Baccalaureate diploma candidates and are registered for the Spanish, English or Bi-lingual diploma. You can find out more details about the program and the courses at: (www.ibo.org). A few students have earned the Bachillerato Nacional (BN) of Costa Rica in place of or in addition to the IB diploma.

Courses Offered 2008-2010

Language A1 (“native”); English, Spanish, Self Taught Languages/Language A2 (“near native”); English, Spanish
Language B (“non-native”); English, Spanish, French
Mathematics; Math Higher, Math Standard, Math Studies
Natural Science: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Environmental Systems and Societies
Social Science: History, Economics, Social Anthropology (Spanish only), Peace & Justice Studies (English only), Environmental Systems and Societies
Electives: Visual Arts, Theater

All students study six subjects; three at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). Most, but not all courses are offered in both English and Spanish and most, but not all, are offered at the HL and SL. Also course availability depends on class enrollment.

In addition to IB courses, all students write a 4000 word Extended Essay (EE) on a subject of their interest and enroll in the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course.

Teaching Staff

Teaching staff are about half local and half expatriate, though even many of the local hires have international experience, too. The expats come from all over; Argentina, Netherlands, Canada, USA, Benin, UK, Hong Kong and most of them have taught in other countries and several have attended or worked at other UWCs. All teachers have at least a Bachelor’s degree, many have a Master’s degree, and one or two have Doctorates.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)

Specific activities vary from year and are often student initiated, but what doesn’t change is the commitment to a balanced program of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS). Many of these activities reflect our bi-lingualism (Spanish/English) and our three “pillars” of multi-culturalism, peace and environmental awareness. UWC service expectations go well beyond CAS requirements. Some examples: Creativity; cultural shows and presentations, “The Beatles” music group, literary magazine, art club
Action; soccer, basketball, Capoeira, Yoga, various kinds of dance, hiking club
Service; working with a local children’s shelter, visiting the elderly, re-cycling, Special Olympics, Spanish and English tutoring

Activities change from year to year and term to term.

After the UWC

The 76 students of the first full class at the UWCCR graduated on May 26, 2008. It is expected that more than 90% of UWCCR graduates will enter higher studies within a few years of graduation and approximately half of the graduates will attend college or university in the United States. United World College graduates are eligible to receive need based Davis UWC Scholarships (www.davisuwcscholars.org) at approximately 70 different US colleges and universities. The other half of the graduates will enter universities in Latin America, Europe and Canada. Several students will work, volunteer travel or fulfill national service obligations before attending college or university.

College & University Matriculation List Class of 2008

United States of America:

Agnes Scott College	Brandies University	Brown University
Bryn Mawr College -2	Cornell University	Dartmouth University
Denison University	Earlham College-2	Harvard University-2
Hood College-4	Johns Hopkins University	Lafayette College
Macalester College-2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
Middlebury College	Methodist University (NC)-5	Swarthmore College
Washington & Lee University-2	Westminster College (MO)-2	Wheaton College (MA)-2
Union College-2		

National and Private Colleges and Universities in:

Argentina	Bolivia
Canada	Costa Rica
El Salvador	Germany
Honduras	Italy
Mexico	Nicaragua
Panama	Paraguay
Peru	Poland
Spain	United Kingdom
Uruguay	

Other Plans; Several students will be taking gap years to work, travel and volunteer and a few students will fulfill national service obligations before enrolling in higher studies.

For more information, please contact:

Gregory F. Walsh
University Counselor & Coordinator of Admissions
Gregory.walsh@uwccr.com
Phone: 506-2-282-5609 x 121
CEEB # 834130