UNITED WORLD COLLEGE   
PLACES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND   
SELECTION CRITERIA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS UWC Aotearoa New Zealand invites applications for United World College (UWC) scholarships and places. These scholarships and places are for a **two year** pre-University period of overseas study from August 2024 (January 2025 for Waterford Kamhlaba) at one of the 18 UWCs around the world:

* UWC Adriatic (Italy)
* UWC Atlantic (Wales)
* UWC Changshu (China)
* UWC Costa Rica
* UWC Dilijan (Armenia)
* UWC East Africa (Tanzania)
* UWC ISAK (Japan)
* Li Po Chun UWC of Hong Kong
* UWC Maastricht (Netherlands)
* UWC Mahindra (India)
* UWC Mostar (Bosnia-Herzigovina)
* UWC Pearson College (Canada)
* UWC Robert Bosch College (Germany)
* UWC Red Cross Nordic (Norway)
* UWC of South East Asia (Singapore)
* UWC Thailand
* UWC-USA
* Waterford Kamhlaba UWC of Southern Africa (eSwatini) (starts January 2024)

UWC Aotearoa New Zealand expects to be advised in November 2023 of places available for 2024 entry, and will list these on the [www.nz.uwc.org](http://www.nz.uwc.org) website.

UWC Aotearoa New Zealand will decide which college(s) the selected student(s) will attend and will announce this after final selection interviews.

WHO WE ARE

“The striking thing about UWC is that they embrace the entire world across all divides of race, history, culture, wealth, religion, economic status and political belief: they are unique and they are conscious of their responsibilities.” Nelson Mandela, Honorary President (1995 – 2013)

UWC is a unique organization. It is the only global educational NGO that brings students together from all over the world, selected from within their own countries on merit and regardless of their ability to pay. These students come together at one of eighteen UWC schools and colleges that aim to foster international understanding and peace.  
  
UWC believes that to achieve peace and a sustainable future, the values it promotes are crucial

* International and intercultural understanding
* Celebration of difference
* Personal responsibility and integrity
* Mutual responsibility and respect
* Compassion and service
* Respect for the environment
* A sense of idealism
* Personal challenge
* Action and personal example

Each School or College offers selected students a two-year course of study before entry into University. In addition to academics, the programme of activities emphasises concern for others through outdoor, social and community service activities. Most students attending UWC sit examinations for the International Baccalaureate at the end of the two years. The IB Diploma is recognised for university entrance worldwide, including in Aotearoa New Zealand. A few UWCs also offer IB Career-related programmes.

UWC Aotearoa New Zealand allocates places and scholarship offers, depending on individually-assessed financial need. These range from unfunded places, where families meet all costs of attending UWC; to full all-inclusive scholarships, which cover full board and tuition, return airfares, medical and personal allowances; through all levels in between. Selection is based solely on overall merit (which includes potential, social and community awareness, and academic achievement), regardless of the family's means.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants **must** meet all of the following criteria:

* be **New Zealand citizens**, and therefore eligible for a New Zealand passport;
* have been resident in Aotearoa New Zealand (excluding short holidays) for the full school year prior to application, and continue to be resident throughout the selection period;
* have at least 75% of E and M grades for NCEA achievement standards (or equivalent for other qualifications); or if this criterion is not met, instead have a reference from their school confirming the applicant is among the school’s top 5% in academic achievement;
* have turned 16 years old, but not yet turned 18, on 1 August 2024 (i.e. date of birth between 2 August 2006 and 1 August 2008 inclusive);
* be available for interview for regional (online) and national interviews (in person) – candidates not available for national interview in person cannot be considered;
* be up to date with all necessary vaccinations, including booster vaccinations, or have evidence of medical dispensation, to the satisfaction of airlines and UWCs; and
* not have applied to UWC through any other National Committee, nor to the Global Selection Programme, nor by any other avenue, for the 2024 entry year.

UWC scholarships are primarily intended for students who will be in Year 12 in 2024, as the period of study abroad corresponds to Years 12 and 13 of the Aotearoa New Zealand education system.

Year 13 (2024) students who meet the age criteria are welcome to apply, but should consider that they may have completed or almost completed university entrance requirements before the UWC academic year commences in August; and should be absolutely certain that they want to undertake two further years of secondary school.

Year 11 (2024) students may apply if they are within the age range and will have completed NCEA Level 1 by January 2023, although students and their parents should consider whether the student's emotional maturity will be sufficient to cope with two years far from home.

A student who is unsuccessful in one year may reapply in a subsequent year, provided they are still meet age and other criteria.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The fundamental principle of UWC's scholarship policy is that selection is solely on overall merit (which includes potential, social and community awareness, and academic achievement) and entry is assured to those selected on merit regardless of their family's means.

The most important criteria are all-round ability and personal resilience, and emphasis will be placed on the recommendations of School Principals.

Applicants should be physically fit within their abilities. Although it would be expected that they are successfully involved in physical activities, this is not necessarily measured by conventional athletic records; some colleges are able to accommodate students with some physical disabilities – if you have a physical disability please contact [selection.nz@nz.uwc.org](mailto:selection.nz@nz.uwc.org) to check if this will work for you.

Successful applicants are expected to have displayed some degree of community involvement and service, and their interests in all-round activities including those of a cultural nature will be taken into account in selecting scholars.

Achievement, ability and aptitude, the ability to think and work independently, and social and cultural awareness are equally important qualities.

A suitable applicant is a lively student who is doing well academically and who has a wide range of interests. Important attributes include the ability to mix with others, to engage the friendship of others, to be tolerant of fundamentally different opinions and attitudes, and to cope well under pressure. It is important that candidates should be thoroughly articulate so that they may be able to advance their own views and the range of views in Aotearoa New Zealand, of which they will be seen as representatives. Every student sent to a UWC must be of the quality one would like to see representing his or her own country alongside very carefully selected students from other countries. Experience has shown that successful students are those who come with a clear awareness of the aims of UWC and a personal commitment to contribute to them.

Applicants must also be aware that attending UWC will be mentally strenuous and emotionally challenging. Many UWCs are limited in their ability to provide mental health support, due to staff capacity, geographical isolation, and/or linguistic barriers. If you are struggling or have previously experienced struggles with your mental health, it is critical you disclose this when asked as part of the selection process, to make sure UWC will be able to support you. If you do not disclose your mental health history, your UWC may return you to New Zealand.

Parents (or guardians) are responsible for signing the application form, but the decision to apply must lie above all with the candidates themselves.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are available at [www.nz.uwc.org](http://www.nz.uwc.org).

**Step 1**

**Complete Step 1 form at** [**https://forms.gle/JPej8MGxe7h4MFVC8**](https://forms.gle/JPej8MGxe7h4MFVC8)**.** Please complete the form as soon as you can. Your early submission allows us to start planning interviews.   
If you have any problems completing the form, please contact [selection.nz@nc.uwc.net](mailto:selection.nz@nc.uwc.net).

**Step 2**

**Complete Parts 1 – 3** of this form. Upload each part, along with supporting documents, to a Google drive folder named “Firstname Lastname UWC application 2024 entry”, and share the folder with [selection.nz@nc.uwc.net](mailto:selection.nz@nc.uwc.net). We appreciate these arriving by Friday 8 December 2023, but we will continue to accept applications (and/or changes to your application files and documents within the Google drive) up until **Friday** **26 January 2024** (or later if NCEA results are released later).

**Ask your school principal or dean to complete Part 4** and either submit in a sealed envelope to our postal address below or send from their school email address to [selection.nz@nc.uwc.net](mailto:selection.nz@nc.uwc.net).

If you do not have easy access to the internet, you may submit a hard copy application to either of the postal addresses below.

Please use a clear font or write clearly in black ink or black ballpoint pen. Extra sheets may be used.

**Parts 1 and 2** of this form are to be completed by the student.

**Part 3** of this form is to be completed by the parent or guardian

**Part 4** of this form is to be completed **and sent separately in a sealed envelope** to the postal address below by the student's school principal or dean.

**Step 3**

Upload your NCEA results to your application Google drive folder and share with [selection.nz@nc.uwc.net](mailto:selection.nz@nc.uwc.net), **as soon as** **possible** after results are sent out.

### National Finalists

National finalists will be required to provide extensive financial information to allow needs assessment. Forms will be provided to those candidates selected for national interviews. If you wish to see these forms in advance, please contact [selection.nz@nc.uwc.net](mailto:selection.nz@nc.uwc.net).

National finalists will also need to supply a Medical Certificate of Fitness from their usual doctor, and complete a medical disclosure form.

**Addresses for postal applications**:

By post Or by courier to:

**The Secretary The Secretary  
United World Colleges (NZ) United World Colleges (NZ)  
P O Box 5087 4/226 Oriental Parade  
Lambton Quay Oriental Bay  
Wellington Wellington**

**Regional interviews** will be held in mid-February 2024.

P O Box 5087, Lambton Quay, Wellington. New Zealand

**Telephone** +64 (4) 472 0897 **Facsimile** +64 (4) 472 5888 **Email** selection.nz@nc.uwc.net **Website** www.nz.uwc.org

P O Box 5087, Lambton Quay, Wellington. New Zealand

**Telephone** +64 (4) 472 0897 **Facsimile** +64 (4) 472 5888 **Email** selection.nz@nc.uwc.net **Website** www.nz.uwc.org

Dates (March 2024) for **national selections** will be announced at the website [www.nz.uwc.org](http://www.nz.uwc.org).

If any of the regional interview dates may be difficult for you to attend, please let us know in your application: we will do our best to make, but cannot guarantee, alternative arrangements for you.

Unfortunately, we will **not** be able to make alternative arrangements for national interviews.

The selection of successful applicants will be the responsibility of the National Committee of United World Colleges in NZ (Inc).

**Regional interviews**: The National Committee will contact applicants if they have been selected for a regional interview. Depending on the geographical distribution of regional finalists, these may be held in person in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and/or Dunedin, and/or by internet video link (e.g. Skype, Zoom). Additional venues may be nominated depending upon the number of suitable applicants in a particular area. It is anticipated that regional selections will be conducted in mid-February 2024

**Final Interviews**: Up to eight applicants will be selected to travel to national final selection interviews and activities, which will be held over a weekend (Saturday to Sunday) in either Auckland or Wellington. Travel costs will be met by the National Committee if the student would otherwise be unable to attend. The student can be billeted with approved local National Committee members or alumni if the applicant does not have friends or family they wish to stay with. Once confirmed, dates for the final selection weekend will be announced at [www.nz.uwc.org](http://www.nz.uwc.org).

**Pandemic control measures**: In the event that pandemic control measures might prevent some or all candidates travelling to or participating in in-person interviews and activities, final selections may be held online rather than in person. However, in-person is our preferred selection model.

Once they have completed national final interviews, applicants are ranked on merit and scholarships/places are awarded as far down the ranking as possible within finances available. No applicant will be awarded a scholarship or place unless any applicant(s) ranked ahead of them has also been offered a scholarship or place.

**Orientation**: Selected students will be expected to attend an orientation weekend in June or July 2024. The orientation weekend is an important part of preparation to attend UWC, and students may only be excused in exceptional circumstances. If you have any commitments in June or July, please let the National Committee know during your selection weekend, so we can do our best to plan around these commitments if you’re selected.

HOW OUR FUNDING WORKS

The bulk of UWC scholarship funding comes from UWC schools and colleges, allocated to National Committees worldwide. Funding is a precious resource, and every dollar offered to Aotearoa means a dollar less for scholarships from developing countries, or refugee camps, for example. In addition, UWC Aotearoa New Zealand is able to supplement some offers with funding from a variety of sources, including individual UWCs, interest from a trust fund, and much appreciated donations from UWC alumni, their families, and other generous individuals. Unfortunately, these sources cannot cover all costs, and some scholarships and places can only be made available if the student is able to contribute part or all of the cost.

HOW IS MY CONTRIBUTION ASSESSED?

Financial assessment forms are provided to national finalists. These collect details of parental income, living expenses, assets and debts, and number of dependent children (if you would like to see these forms before applying, please email [selection.nz@nc.uwc.net](mailto:selection.nz@nc.uwc.net) for a copy). UWC Aotearoa New Zealand inputs these details into a financial assessment calculator developed by UWC International, which produces a recommended contribution. This is a total contribution, including travel to and from the UWC, pocket money, any required health insurance, and any other recommended living expenses, as well as the UWC attendance fee (boarding, tuition, IB exam costs).

HOW THE SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS AND MERIT-BASED SELECTION WORK

We use a need-blind financial assessment system to ensure that all selections are made on merit. Applicants provide their financial assessment information to a National Committee representative who is independent of the selection panel. This information is not viewed until after all interviews have been conducted, and after candidates have been ranked from first to last by the national selection panel. Information is then viewed in turn according to the candidates’ rankings. Scholarships or places are offered in order of ranking, at a level determined by financial assessment, according to places, scholarships, and funding available.

No financial information will ever be viewed until final interviews and rankings are complete – your financial position and ability to contribute will in no way affect your ranking.

HOW MUCH IS THAT CONTRIBUTION LIKELY TO BE?

Every family’s circumstances are different, and every family is assessed individually, so it’s not possible to estimate in advance your likely assessed contribution. Among students assessed using the system so far, the recommended contribution has ranged from less than NZ$2,000 a year, to over NZ$40,000 per year.

WHAT IF I DON’T AGREE WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT?

In the financial assessment forms, we ask families to estimate how much they can afford to contribute. If there is a difference between this amount and the assessed contribution we will contact you and the intended UWC to work out whether we can reach an agreement. In the rare circumstance where a family is unwilling to meet the contribution assessed as appropriate, we treat these as declined offers, and continue down our merit ranking.

WHAT IF I CAN’T AFFORD ANY CONTRIBUTION?

If a candidate ranks first at final interview, but they and their family are not in a position to contribute anything, the candidate will be awarded a full scholarship (including airfares, pocket money, insurance, tuition and boarding). If they rank below first place, our ability to award them a full scholarship will depend on whether candidates ranked ahead of them are able to contribute to their own costs.

UWC Aotearoa New Zealand is proud of our record of awarding full scholarships where needed.

**Please note**

* In all cases to date, WINZ support has been unaffected by the student being overseas; however Working for Families Tax Credits are not available for children who live overseas.
* Scholarship costs are **not** eligible for the New Zealand Student Loan Scheme.

WHAT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

# We expect to hear in November 2023 what places and scholarships are available to UWC Aotearoa New Zealand for 2024 entry. We are confident we will have at least one place with up to 100% scholarship available depending on need, and also anticipate at least one part scholarship to be available, as well as unfunded places.

# When unfunded, fees to attend UWC range from around NZ$33,000 to over NZ$100,000 per year for board and tuition, plus airfares and other additional costs.

# Additional costs to attend UWC (which are included in total costs when assessing financial contributions) include pocket money, project week costs, airfares, health and travel insurance, and visa costs. Additional costs vary by UWC, but are generally in the region of NZ$5,000 per year, and may where necessary be met in full or in part by UWC Aotearoa New Zealand or the UWC school or college when a full or part scholarship is awarded.

RECENT AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ALUMNI – NEXT STEPS

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scholar | High School | UWC | Class of… | After UWC |
| Ayla Te Aira  Blair-Smith | Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu, Rotorua | Robert Bosch | 2017 | Global Citizen Year, India |
| Pratibha  Singh | Wanganui High School | Maastricht | 2017 | Minerva Schools at KGI,  San Francisco |
| Sigrid  Berge | Wellington High School | Dilijan | 2018 | Artist, Wellington |
| Christina  Lörch-Church | Western Springs College, Auckland | Robert Bosch | 2018 | Queensland University of Technology, Australia |
| Manaia  Matafeo | ACG College, Auckland | Dilijan | 2018 | Sciences Po, Reims, France |
| Helena George | Nayland College, Nelson | Atlantic | 2019 | University of Bristol, UK |
| Hannah Gray | Glendowie College, Auckland | Atlantic | 2019 | University of Edinburgh |
| Rohan  O’Neill-Stephens | Nelson College | Robert Bosch | 2019 | Elected to Nelson City Council |
| Gibson  Nevill | St Kentigern College, Auckland | Li Po Chun | 2019 | Imperial College, London |
| Phoebe  Telfar | Queen Margaret College, Wellington | Dilijan | 2019 | International Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship, UBC, Canada |
| Maya  Templer | Kuranui College, Greytown | Changshu | 2019 | Yoobee College of Design 2020; University of Canterbury 2022 |
| Colin  Campbell | Francis Douglas Memorial College,  New Plymouth | ISAK | 2020 | NYU Abu Dhabi |
| Rhiannon  Griffiths | Nelson College for Girls | UWC-USA | 2020 | Shelby Davis Scholarship to Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon, USA |
| Marina  Kenton-Smith | St Andrew’s College, Christchurch | Li Po Chun | 2020 | University of Otago |
| Isobel  Merrie | St Kentigern College, Auckland | Pearson | 2020 | University of St Andrews, Scotland |
| Jenna  Stallard | Nelson College for Girls | Mahindra | 2020 | University of Tokyo |
| Aquila  Underwood | Paraparaumu College | Waterford Kamhlaba | 2020 | University of British Columbia, Canada |
| Manutai  Wi Rutene-Pomare | Samuel Marsden Collegiate, Wellington | Robert Bosch | 2020 | Ministry of Justice, Wellington |
| Willoughby  Benn | Queen Margaret College, Wellington | Costa Rica | 2021 | University of Brighton |
| Ben  Buyck | Wellington College | Changshu; Red Cross Nordic | 2021 | University, USA |
| Tyler Buysers | Takapuna Grammar | Thailand | 2021 | Shelby Davis scholarship to University of Oklahoma, USA. |
| Christopher  Dirks | St Kentigern College | Maastricht | 2021 | University of Canterbury |
| Harriet  Fraser | Burnside High School | Robert Bosch | 2021 | University of Otago |
| May  Hodgkinson | Wellington Girls’ College | Mostar | 2021 | University of Otago |
| Miles  Scherer | ACG Sunderland | Atlantic | 2021 | University of Auckland |
| Ella Clearwater | St Andrew’s College, Christchurch | Costa Rica | 2022 | Gap year |
| Haylee Law | Gisborne Girls’ High School | Costa Rica | 2022 | Shelby Davis scholarship to Cornell University, NY, USA |
| Bella Lawrey | Westlake Girls’ High School | Pearson | 2022 | University of Otago |
| Sefton Wesley | Burnside High School | Robert Bosch | 2022 | Full scholarship to University of Florida, Gainesville |
| Iyla Davis | Baradene College of the Sacred Heart, Auckland | Thailand | 2023 | UWC Diversity Scholarship to University of Hong Kong |
| Conrad Sharp | Onslow College, Wellington | UWC-USA | 2023 | Duke University, USA |

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALANDERS CURRENTLY AT UWC

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scholar | High School | UWC | Graduation |
| James Feng | Tintern Grammar, Sydney | Red Cross Nordic | 2024 |
| Niamh Fyfe | Wellington High School | Mostar | 2024 |
| Chris Hewitt | Rangitoto College | Li Po Chun | 2024 |
| Alex Jung | Rangitoto College | Li Po Chun | 2024 |
| Sylvie Lloyd | Nelson College for Girls | ISAK | 2024 |
| Ra McClellan | Kāpiti College | Red Cross Nordic | 2024 |
| Sophie Weenink Smith | Crimson Global Academy | Pearson | 2024 |
| Thomas Goode | Nelson College | Changshu | 2025 |
| Abby Ives | Palmerston North Girls’ High School | Changshu | 2025 |
| Alia Peerbhai | Kristin School, Auckland | Pearson | 2025 |
| Paula’iloahefaiva Vaitohi | Scots College, Wellington | UWCSEA | 2025 |
| Milly Young | St Matthew’s Collegiate, Wairarapa | UWC-USA | 2025 |
| Jade Yuill-Kamo | Hagley Community College, Christchurch | Changshu | 2025 |