



UWC MAKES EDUCATION A FORCE TO UNITE  
PEOPLE, NATIONS AND CULTURES FOR PEACE  
AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## UWC REFUGEE INITIATIVE: Call for support to educate 100 young refugees to become tomorrow's changemakers



*"I was born and raised in a refugee camp in the end of the world, in a forgotten and impossible to reach corner of the great African desert. Yet, UWC put the time and the effort to reach that part of the world, and now here I am".*

- **BACHIR**, UWC Costa Rica alumnus (2011-2013) from the Smara refugee camp in Algeria, Brown University (2017)

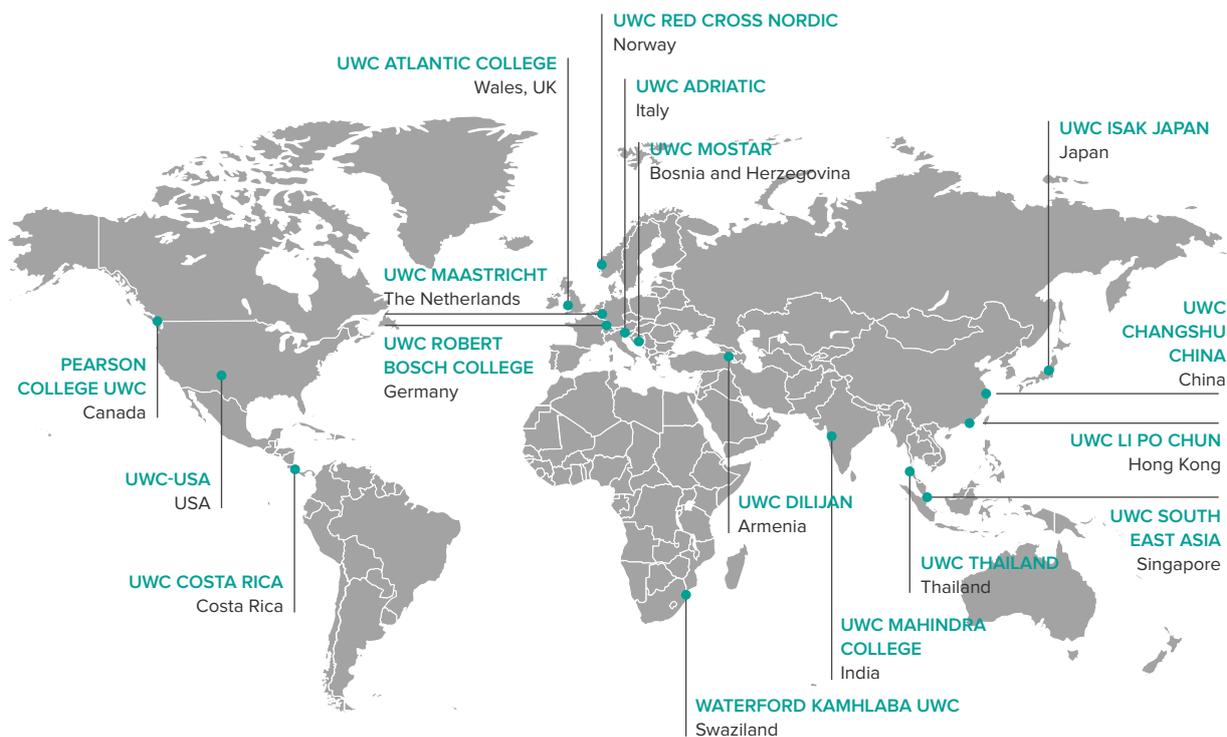
Lack of access to education is a major issue affecting young refugees, internally displaced and persecuted people. They are five times more likely to be out of school than more fortunate young people. At the same time, many of the young refugees have outstanding talent and proven extraordinary resilience in dealing with their challenging circumstances. Refugee communities need future leaders with strong abilities, social consciousness and drive for peace and reconciliation.

**UWC (UNITED WORLD COLLEGES)** is a global education movement which provides a world-class education to refugees like Bachir at 17 secondary schools teaching the International Baccalaureate Diploma curriculum on 4 continents. Currently around 50 UWC scholars per year come from a refugee background and benefit from full scholarship provision at UWC's residential institutions. These refugee students are assimilated among a vibrant community of 4,111 students from diverse backgrounds in over 155 countries.

A UWC education is life-changing. We prepare and empower change makers and future civic leaders, through the delivery of a unique pre-university education programme. The educational ethos of UWC combines rigorous academic standards with experiential learning in areas such as social justice, sustainability, intercultural dialogue, and conflict resolution. A UWC education aims at developing strong empathy and leadership skills through a focus on community service and physical challenge. UWC students come together from very diverse backgrounds, including the most marginalised. Access to the UWC education is given independent of socio-economic background, supported through a rigorous admission process and a comprehensive scholarship programme.

Now, with over 55 years at the forefront of intercultural education, UWC is recognised as a global leader in identifying and fostering talent for making a positive difference in the world. After UWC, our refugee graduates, along with UWC's other 60,000 alumni, go on to study at many of the world's leading universities and improve their communities through their personal and professional example and action.

UWC students are selected through UWC's unique network of over 155 national committees worldwide run by volunteers who understand the local education and cultural context,



guaranteeing the diversity and suitability of applicants. This enables UWC to identify and educate refugees from conflict hotspots like Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Western Sahara, Tibet and Colombia.

In light of the dramatic escalation in the number of young displaced people fleeing conflict, persecution or environmental disaster, combined with the need for future post-conflict leadership, UWC sees an urgent opportunity to further increase the number of refugee students being granted access to a world-class school education at a UWC school or college.

UWC has committed to raise the funds for an additional 100 scholarships per year for refugee students from 2017 onwards. Each scholarship is valued at \$75,000, therefore \$7.5 million is needed to support 100 scholars. The funds which are designated in their entirety to all-inclusive bursaries cover the full education programme, board and lodging, travel and visa support, co-curricular activities, educational materials and student welfare during two years.

Help us bring hope, the prospect for a brighter and peaceful future and a world-class education to more refugee students and their communities. With your support we can educate the next generation of leaders from among the most marginalised groups of today's world, who in turn will become role models for the millions of young refugees aspiring to make a difference.

For further information, please contact:

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