

## **Preliminary Inclusion / Special Educational Needs Policy**

### **Introduction**

**UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.**

**UWC Mission Statement**

The basic premise informing the approach of UWC Robert Bosch College is that students learn in different ways, have different needs and, for some, significantly different physical needs. This is both to be members of the College community and to contribute to and gain from the educational and social environment.

### **Context**

All students selected through UWC National Committees meet certain selection criteria, answering the basic question: (relative to other applicants or to people from similar circumstances), has the candidate made the most of the opportunities available to him or her? This is tested in five areas:

- intellectual curiosity and motivation,
- active commitment,
- social competence,
- resilience, personal responsibility and integrity
- motivation for (the values of) UWC

Students selected to attend a UWC typically are high achievers within their contexts, and judged capable of gaining from engagement in the IB Diploma programme.

At the same time UWC Robert Bosch College recognizes that students come with different mother languages and language abilities yet all have to learn through the medium of English, have different learning styles, different physical abilities and disabilities, different psychological dispositions.

### **General Provisions**

- Each student is allocated a Personal Tutor to give oversight to the student's academic, social and personal adjustment and progress. Personal Tutors have responsibility for up to 10 students.
- All teachers are provided with in-service training to teach in a manner that draws on different learning styles and approaches.
- All teachers are provided with in-service strategies and training to teach non-English-mother-language students through the medium of English (except for other language classes).
- UWC Robert Bosch College employs a full-time professional counselor and a nurse (50% FTE).
- All students are required to have health insurance, providing access to health services including psychological, learning disability, general medical and specialist medical care.

## **Physical disabilities**

UWC Robert Bosch College can consider nominations of students who have lost the use of limbs, or who are visually or hearing or movement impaired. At the time of nomination, UWC Robert Bosch College will seek professional guidance as to whether the background of the student, including his or her physical disability, allows for a reasonable chance of a successful integration into the college community and a sufficient degree of independent living and learning within this context. The final decision of admission rests upon the College, as is indeed the case for all nominations.

UWC Robert Bosch College has made physical provision for all key buildings to be accessible to wheelchair-bound students: this includes one student room in a house in the student village, the Kartaus (which houses academic and administrative functions and has an elevator for students and teachers with physical disabilities) and a ground-level Dining Hall with wheelchair access. The Auditorium has elevator access from the Dining Hall.

## **Other learning support requirements**

UWC Robert Bosch College can consider nominations of students with assessment access requirements such as time allowances, scribes and/or readers, and specially-enlarged examination scripts. During the course of their enrolment, UWCRBC will take reasonable steps within its resources to provide appropriate support to such students, to enhance their daily learning experiences. National Committees are required to disclose potential requirements of this nature at the time of nomination. UWC Robert Bosch College then will seek professional guidance as to whether the background of the student, including his or her learning support assessment access requirements allow for a reasonable chance of a successful integration into the college community and a sufficient degree of independent living and learning within this context. The final decision of admission rests upon the College, as is indeed the case for all nominations.

In the case of professionally diagnosed learning disabilities that result in particular assessment access requirements, the Diploma Coordinator will apply for special assessment provisions through the "Request for modified papers".

## **Mental illness, eating disorders and addictions**

Given the nature of its shared accommodation and close community, UWC Robert Bosch College requires that National Committees disclose any pre-existing mental illness, eating disorder or addiction of a nominated student. At the time of nomination, UWC Robert Bosch College will seek professional guidance as to whether the background of the student, including his or her mental illness, eating disorder and/or addiction allow for a reasonable chance of a successful integration into the college community and a sufficient degree of independent living and learning within this context. The final decision of admission rests upon the College, as is indeed the case for all nominations.

Starting in August 2014, UWC Robert Bosch College will identify particular educational psychologists to assist in two areas: professional development for

teachers around the area of inclusion / special educational needs, and as experts to whom students may be referred by the college counsellor.

11<sup>th</sup> November 2013

For review: August 2014