

FAQ

Project Weeks at UWC Robert Bosch College

What is a Project Week?

Once per term, UWC Robert Bosch College supports students in designing, planning and carrying out off-campus projects for up to seven days. Students are challenged to come up with meaningful projects that respect certain limits regarding distance, safety and cost. Project Week is a way of promoting the ideals and mission of the UWC movement in a hands-on manner. The projects allow students to exercise their leadership skills in the areas of humanitarian service, creative expression and physical challenge. All projects should be based around one of two themes - **Outdoor challenge or Service to the Community** or have a **Specific Goal** (such as a piece of theatre), contain clear objectives, an element of challenge and clear learning outcomes.

Projects can be done independently, in the Freiburg area or further afield, or by partnering with community organizations with whom we have established ties, or by forming new ones. The spending restriction for Project Week indicates the community's desire to incur only modest costs (within the European context), including transportation costs, during this period. Project Week is not an opportunity to fly to another part of the world (flying is not allowed) – there is much to be explored in this region of Europe, which is accessible on foot, by bike, bus or train.

Does every UWC undertake Project Weeks?

Most UWCs have at least one Project Week per year, though concepts, requirements and organization may vary from UWC to UWC.

What role does it play within the UWC Educational model?

Project Week fulfills one of the basic principles of the UWC Educational Model in that it provides opportunities for students to practice personal initiative, self-discipline and responsibility, to manage risk and embrace challenges. Furthermore, at UWC Robert Bosch College, we believe that the education of the whole person requires respect for all elements of learning, including service, leadership, creative and physical pursuits, as well as academic and professional learning.

How often does it take place?

At UWC Robert Bosch College, Project Week takes place once a term.

Who organizes the Project Week?

Any student can propose a Project Week. Proposals must meet all the requirements of the PW proposal guide and are checked for suitability by the Director of Student Life who coordinates and oversees the Project Week process and experience.

How do students choose a project?

Once sufficient projects have been proposed, which provide enough places for each student to be able to participate, a "speed-dating" session is organized. This enables all within the community to learn a bit more about each proposed project, ask questions and then make an informed choice. Students are then assigned to projects according to their choice.

If a project is over-subscribed, interested students are selected randomly. Those unsuccessful with their first choice are then given the option to make a second choice from the remaining projects.

Which kind of projects can be chosen?

All projects should be based around one of two themes - **Outdoor challenge** or **Service to the Community** or have a **Specific Goal** (such as a piece of theatre), contain clear objectives, an element of challenge and clear learning outcomes.

Which means of travel are allowed?

On foot, by bike, bus or train or any other approved method except flying.

How far are students allowed to travel?

Distance is not restricted – students have made it as far afield as Mostar (in Bosnia and Herzegovina). However, since students are working with a tight budget, travel costs and time are often the limiting factor.

Up to which amount of money can they spend?

Currently, a Project Week budgets for the sum of €175 per student. This should cover all costs (souvenirs and personal items must be purchased privately).

Who pays for Project Week?

Currently, a Project Week budgets for the sum of €175 per student. Students' Parents, Guardians or National Committees contribute to the cost of their project weeks with €300 (the cost of two projects) per year, unless otherwise indicated in the scholarship agreement.

Are students accompanied or supervised by a staff member during the whole time?

Whilst many project week groups are not accompanied by a staff member, each group has a staff facilitator assigned to them. The nature of several projects is such that college is of the view that it is important to have an accompanying member of staff (for instance, for technical outdoor adventure activities). For those projects where less technical expertise is needed, students often learn different valuable lessons, such as being able to take decisions during the project without an adult in direct control – many students report afterwards how such projects were where they learnt to be independent, responsible adults.

For groups who travel by themselves, how does the College ensure the safety of the students?

The staff facilitator oversees the group's pre-Project Week organizational preparations, is in daily contact with the group during the week and (if necessary) can provide support and advice in the event of difficulties. Also, members of the Management Team remain on duty during Project Week, ready to respond to any emergency, if needs be by travelling quickly to join the group (this has not yet been needed). UWC also has a strong network of Parents, graduates and supporters throughout Europe, a network that can be called upon in case of an emergency.

What happens in case of an accident?

Each Project Week group is asked to consider what to do in the event of an emergency and complete a basic risk assessment form. EU students are covered by the reciprocal health-care agreements of EU member states, whilst Non-EU students are covered with Care Concept Health Insurance (organized by the College) in Germany and abroad. As previously suggested, if there is a significant accident, a member of staff will take charge and the UWC network will be mobilized.

Are the students covered by an insurance during the travel?

All students, irrespectively of their nationality, are covered with a College Accident Insurance policy.