

7th July 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of Incoming Students,

Thank you again for allowing your Child to come to UWC Robert Bosch College RBC), starting on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

I recognize that for many if not all Parents, this is a much harder decision than usual given the swirl of uncertainty that surrounds the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes ever-changing regulations and restrictions for international travel (in this case from your home to Freiburg, Germany) and uncertainty as to what regulations and restrictions will be when you next hope to be re-united. I hope it is a measure of comfort that the Authorities in Germany have allowed RBC to remain open as a Boarding establishment throughout the Pandemic. So, while there have been some periods when RBC has had to move to online teaching and learning (to follow regulations regarding schools), this always has been in the context of students being in a safer, physical learning community. I hope that it also is a measure of comfort that RBC stayed open as a Boarding establishment for the summer vacation in June to August 2020 as well as for the shorter Winter Break – times when in our view it was less safe for all our students to travel home or to travel to the homes of others. Naturally, everyone (students and staff) would have hoped that safer travel was possible for those two vacations, and we hope that the pandemic circumstances allow RBC to close for the holidays this coming December/January and next June to August! (Circumstances have allowed RBC to close this summer.)

We know that UWCs are schools. Part of the purpose of schools is to help students gain mastery in the formal, taught curriculum, a curriculum that is widely recognized. The formal mark of that mastery is reflected in the grades awarded for, in the case of UWCs, the IB Diploma.

The IB Diploma results for the May 2021 examination session were released yesterday. For RBC, these were outstanding in aggregate, and I congratulate the Class of 2021! (For several reasons I will be surprised if this aggregate is equaled in future years.) If we are in the exercise of counting, for individual students what “counts” are their individual grades and whether these allow them to take their next steps. UWC’s partner universities especially in the USA (all outstanding institutions) are as much interested in the nature of a students’ broader commitment, engagement and sense of purpose as they are in the students’ predicted grades. A leading liberal arts college in the USA admitted a handful of students with predicted grades ranging from 30 to 40/45. Students predicted with scores in the low 20s have received full scholarship offers from fabulous institutions – naturally these students also have shown a remarkable use of the opportunities that abound in a school like RBC, part of which is the formal academic curriculum.

The aggregate a school obtains reflects not only the cumulative individual efforts and achievements in the formal curriculum, but the nature of the educational and linguistic backgrounds of the students. RBC has never offered places through National Committees with an eye on the potential impact, two years’ later, on the college’s aggregate score on the Diploma!

For the record, here is the distribution of the achieved aggregates of RBC students in recent years:

IB points	RBC 2021 students	RBC 2021 %	RBC 2020 %	RBC 2019 %	World 2019 %
0-23 points	1	1,0%	2,0%	4,1%	16,2%
24-29 points	5	5,1%	29,0%	13,6%	26,26%
30-34 points	25	25,5%	18,0%	34,4%	24,4%
35-39 points	36	36,7%	35,0%	25,0%	23,16%
40-45 points	31	31,6%	16,0%	22,9%	9,98%

(There were no IB examinations in May 2020, so for reference I use the 2019 world statistics until I receive the detailed statistics of 2021.)

We also know that a UWC education is about so much more than IB Diploma grades. The excitement and interest in the specific grades fall away relatively quickly once they have provided access to chosen next steps. The formative experiences over the two years are what endure: friendships established and nurtured, intellectual and moral growth, intrinsic motivation and a growing sense of purpose.

Grades are necessary, but not sufficient. In late May 2023, I will ask myself and I will ask the Class of 2023: how have I and how have we grown in giving life to the values associated with UWC over the last two years?

- 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

#### Arrival and Quarantine

All students are required to arrive at RBC on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, unless their arrival is delayed by health or visa issues, or transport complications. RBC will give some online learning support to students who have not yet arrived, after Orientation is completed and until the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. Unfortunately, if a student is unable to arrive at RBC by the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021, the student will not be able to join this academic year. Under some circumstances, the student's place may be deferred for an August 2022 start. But let's hope that everyone will be able to get here on or close to the 26<sup>th</sup> August!

The regulations concerning quarantine and people arriving from which countries these apply to keep being updated, also whether quarantine is required of vaccinated people, and the nature of tests needed before international travel to Germany and on arrival. What I can communicate today is:

- Up to now, RBC has been allowed to quarantine arriving students on campus, and I have every confidence that this will be allowed in August 2021.
- RBC will send a letter in mid-August covering the latest regulations and how quarantine is to be implemented.

Currently, *incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year* students to RBC fall into three categories:

- The majority at this stage would not be required to undertake a legally-mandated quarantine.
- A smaller number come from a country (or region) considered by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) to be a “high incidence area”. The current requirement is that these students are required to undertake a 10-day quarantine, from which they may be released if they have a (negative) Covid-19 test after completing 5 days of quarantine.
- A handful of students come from a country (or region) considered by the RKI to be an “area of variant of concern”. At this stage, these students would not be allowed directly into Germany. Hubertus Zander (RBC Admissions) is in contact with the National Committees of these students. (Returning 2<sup>nd</sup> year students from countries considered as areas of variant of concern are allowed to enter Germany as returning residents, but currently would be required to undertake a 14-day quarantine, regardless of vaccination status.)

The relevant German Government website is:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/EinreiseUndAufenthalt>

My strong advice is not to worry at this stage about the details of quarantine etc. A month and a half (until final plans for your child’s travel) is a long time in a pandemic. Many things can change between now and then. Hubertus Zander will continue contact through National Committees with those who live in places currently considered as areas of variant of concern. Together, we will face what confronts us in late August with current information, creativity wherever possible and needed, and with courage.

Also, RBC will send explicit instructions as to which tests need to be taken before departure and which online forms need to be filled in.

#### Confirmation of Semester Dates

The full Semester dates are available on the RBC website:

<https://www.uwcrobertboschcollege.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-2022-RBC-Semester-Calendar.pdf>

I look forward to meeting your children, RBC’s new students, in August.

With best wishes,



Laurence Nodder  
Rektor  
UWC Robert Bosch College  
laurence.nodder@uwcrobertboschcollege.de