

### **SOUNC ROBERT BOSCH COLLEGE**











ANNUAL REPORT
2014 – 2015:
THE FIRST YEAR AT
UWC ROBERT BOSCH
COLLEGE



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#### **UWC ROBERT BOSCH COLLEGE**

UWC, United World Colleges, is an international educational movement that dates back to 1962. Young people with different cultural, religious and social backgrounds come together to live and study in one place for two years. They learn from each other and with each other, and work towards peace and a more sustainable future. Students are selected by UWC National Committees or selection contacts in over 140 countries.

UWC Robert Bosch College opened in Germany's "Green City", Freiburg, in September 2014 as a project of the Deutsche Stiftung UWC and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. The College focuses on the interplay between sustainability and technology and the question of what role technology can play for a sustainable development. For two years each, 200 students from 90 nations live at the College, studying for the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB), an internationally accepted secondary diploma. The College is located in the Black Forest and offers a wide range of outdoor activities as well as numerous service projects in the Freiburg area.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT DR. CHRISTOF BOSCH

While I am writing these words for the first Annual Report of UWC Robert Bosch College, our first generation students are on their well-deserved summer break, spread all over the world.



Speaker for the Bosch family, member of the Supervisory Board of the Robert Bosch GmbH and the Board of Trustees of the Robert Bosch Foundation.

"The most important thing students will engage in here at UWC Robert Bosch College is the art of questioning."

Christof Bosch during the Opening Ceremony

Most of them went back home to spend time with their families, or – if this was not possible – stayed with their new friends from the College. Soon, they will be coming back to Freiburg, this time as experienced "second years". They will welcome the new generation of students and introduce them to life and learning at the College. The meeting of first and second generation completes the cycle of the first year. Those who arrived here a year ago, full of expectations and facing a new chapter in their lives away from home, will now serve as mentors to those embarking on the 2-year-long journey themselves. Only a year lies inbetween this change, but what a year! In this report, students, staff members and Rektor Laurence Nodder will be talking more about this.

I would like to thank all those involved in making the vision of this school become a reality. My grandfather Robert Bosch was a friend and companion of Kurt Hahn, whose pedagogical approach and personal viewpoints enabled the foundation of the first United World College in Wales. What better suggestion than to bring this school and its vision for peace and unity of cultures to Germany? However, it took over half a century until an opportunity arose within Germany's federal school system. And this opportunity arose only because various people from state and private institutions committed themselves to the idea of opening this College. All of you, I would like to thank sincerely.

The fact that the College has become a lived reality is owed especially to those people who have come together in the Kartaus as one team. Working at UWC Robert Bosch College is much more than a job, and this first year in particular has been especially challenging. It is a task that makes great demands on the whole person. I hope that the satisfaction gained from this work makes amends to the huge efforts!

Finally yet importantly, I would like to thank the students for their trust, their passion for learning and a common cause and for their courage to explore new ways!

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT UWC ROBERT BOSCH COLLEGE

Dr. Christof Bosch (Chair)
Professor Dr. h. c. Ludwig Georg Braun
Dr. Franz Decker (Vice Chair, since July 1, 2015)
Uta-Micaela Dürig (since July 1, 2015)
Dr. Christian Hodeige
Dr. Kurt W. Liedtke

#### RECENTLY RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Ingrid Hamm Jens Waltermann (former Vice Chair)

### **REKTOR'S REPORT**

Laurence Nodder, founding Rektor of UWC Robert Bosch College, brings with him 13 years of experience from UWC Waterford in Swaziland. With the foundation of the College, he made a dream come true.

UWC Robert Bosch College welcomed its first cohort of students on August 20th, 2014. The long and intense period of preparation now had reached its main objective: students! Students of promise and potential to bring hope for the future. Students to inhabit the glorious Kartaus as well as the modern student houses, Mensa and Auditorium. Students from 71 countries and from all walks of life. Students from a huge range of cultures and speaking 41 mother languages.

UWC Robert Bosch College has opened 52 years after UWC Atlantic College, the first UWC. That College was the inspiration of German pedagogue Kurt Hahn. It was designed to build relationships in an international educational context between outstanding young people from different nations, this as a small but important contribution to building peace between nations. Its founding Headmaster spoke of creating an education to meet the needs of the time.

The needs of the time have evolved since the early 1960s. The Cold War is over. Yet more than ever, there is a need for common understanding and respect (and justice) between people, nations, cultures, religions, between the "haves" and the "haves-not", the "right" and the "left". More than ever, there is a need to find identity and purpose beyond a narrow fundamentalism. The residential model that is found in most UWCs – at its core with four students from different backgrounds sharing a room – creates a natural context for that common understanding and respect to grow.

But this is no longer sufficient. There is clear evidence that present material patterns of human existence simply cannot be sustained. Hence, the focal point of UWC Robert Bosch College: sustainability, environmental sustainability and how this might be supported through technology. A focus on sustainability is not a natural outcome of the UWC educational model in the way that understanding and respect might be. But I firmly believe that if our human aspiration to sustainability is to be realized, if we are to take decisions that increasingly represent a global good rather than narrow short-term individual and national interest, then it is vital that we have better understanding of our different lived realities. It is vital that we learn how better to take decisions together. Also, I am of the view that while technology will not provide the complete solution, it has to be part of that solution. Please read the report on this aspect of our educational work by Tobi Kellner.



Looking back pleased on a successfull year at UWC Robert Bosch College: Rektor Laurence Nodder.

None of this work would be possible without the vision and support of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and Deutsche Stiftung UWC, together with Land Baden-Württemberg and Stadt Freiburg and our many donors. B. Braun Melsungen is deeply committed to the College's vision, providing ten full scholarships per year group. It could be described as an article of faith that the selection of students, undertaken by UWC National Committees around the world, takes place on the basis of merit, without prior knowledge or regard of the students' financial background. 95% of the students were assessed, after selection, to require some level of scholarship. Almost 70% were found to come from backgrounds where the parents cannot contribute at all to the direct educational costs. We thank all our donors, large and small, that we were able to build this microcosm of humanity at the College for 2014 – 2015.

UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. You, our donors, have made this possible.

#### SUSTAINABILITY REVISITED

## Tobi Kellner, Sustainability Coordinator and teacher of Environmental Systems and Societies at UWC Robert Bosch College

UWC Robert Bosch College was established with an explicitly stated focus on sustainability and environmental issues, including the question how technology can contribute to sustainable, ecological development and peace.

One could spend a lot of time discussing the meaning of the world sustainability and the interaction between environmental, social and economic aspects of the term. What we did during our student orientation week was to have every student write down the word for sustainability in their own language, and then try to produce a literal translation. This was a useful exercise as most translations were a variation of "doing things in a way that can go on forever". Not a bad working definition to start with! However, in the ensuing discussion it also became clear that most students see environmental destruction — and especially climate change — as the most pressing issue threatening human societies.

#### **Inspiration for Change-Makers**

While inspiring tolerance and international understanding is almost a necessary consequence of the UWC concept, making our education a force for creating a more sustainable future is more challenging. In fact, in the short term, a concept that requires many of its students to fly long distances could be seen as achieving the exact opposite. We can only live up to our mission on sustainability if their stay at UWC RBC enables and encourages our students to become active change-makers, through personal lifestyle changes as well as activism. Hence, we aim to inspire positive, meaningful actions by providing an educational environment which gives our students both information and inspiration. Students need to know the facts about the problems we face, but they also need to see convincing models of more sustainable lifestyles and build a positive connection to nature. Fortunately, our location puts us into an excellent starting position.

#### **Green Campus, Green City**

The campus itself provides not only examples of buildings built to the high energy efficiency standards; students also get the opportunity to "get their hands dirty" by continuing the centuries old tradition of growing food in our monastery garden, or by exploring the Black Forest woods which start immediately behind the College. Beyond the campus, the Green City Freiburg offers fantastic opportunities, for example visits to the "model neighbourhood" of Vauban or the world-famous Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Research. For their mandatory service programme, our students can volunteer with environmental NGOs such as the Ökostation or the Kunzenhof, a local organic demonstration



Once a student at UWC himself, now a teacher at UWC Robert Bosch College: Tobi Kellner.

farm. The city also provides a good pool of speakers for our weekly Global Affairs discussion sessions, and workshop leaders for our Focus Days, the first of which was on climate change.

The College was especially proud to host part of the 14th International Convention of Environmental Laureates, providing opportunities to discuss environmental issues with around 100 recipients of environmental awards from all around the world, including Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker and Alice Kaudia, the Kenyan Environment Secretary. We are already working on hosting this event again in 2016.

#### **Planting Seeds**

Of course, embracing sustainability can be difficult at times, especially when it comes to making changes to everyday life. Repeated reminders of what does and doesn't go into the various recycling bins can be tedious. The question whether the school canteen should have meat-free (let alone vegan) days has stirred strong emotions, as has the debate about when students should and shouldn't fly, e.g. during Project Week. But we believe that it is exactly in these debates that our students learn to truly appreciate the challenges we face.

Here are three of the ongoing projects we want to focus on during the next academic year: Integrating sustainability more closely into the curriculum (e.g. experimenting with solar panels in science classes). Measuring our "environmental footprint" (including transport, food and energy) so we can later set ourselves goals to reduce this footprint. Creating an inspiring "edible campus" with chickens and vegetable boxes. These will certainly be long-term projects; the journey has only just begun!

#### INTRODUCING OUR SHAREHOLDERS

UWC Robert Bosch College is an officially recognized non-profit company, founded by The Deutsche Stiftung UWC and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Both foundations function as partners — and serve as an inspiration to the College through their ideals and mission.

#### **COUNTY** UNITED THE STATE OF TH

The Deutsche Stiftung UWC promotes international understanding and intercultural exchange through education for young adults. Every year, it selects 50 students to participate in the two year UWC program, 25 attending UWC Robert Bosch College, 25 visiting the other 14 UWCs worldwide. The students are selected based on merit, independently of their parents' financial background. As needed, the Stiftung awards full or partial scholarships, which are mostly financed through fundraising.

The Deutsche Stiftung UWC is a charity with an office in Berlin. Volunteers, many of them UWC alums, and their commitment are crucial to the Stiftung's work; they constitute both the supervisory board and the selection committee.

The Deutsche Stiftung UWC is a shareholder of UWC Robert Bosch College. General Secretary Eva Eschenbruch was part of the College's foundation from the very beginning: "The UWC Robert Bosch College to me is a little miracle: The idea of a UWC in Germany has appealed to many stakeholders, but only the Robert Bosch Stiftung could draw in supporters like the Land Baden-Württemberg and B. Braun Melsungen AG. Together we have been able to create this space for generations of students. They make experiences, which last a lifetime and which the students will use to create change — little and big miracles — all over the world."

For more information and to apply to UWC, visit www.uwc.de



Eva Eschenbruch, General Secretary at the Deutsche Stiftung UWC.



Dr. Franz Decker, Chair of the Deutsche Stiftung UWC since July 2015.

### Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. It invests approximately 70 million euros annually in supporting approximately 800 of its own as well as third-party projects in the fields of international relations, education, society and culture, as well as health and science. Since its founding back in 1964, the Foundation has used more than 1.2 billion euros for charitable activities.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung continues the charitable pursuits of Robert Bosch (1861 – 1942), the founder of both the company and the Foundation. It owns about a 92 percent stake in Robert Bosch GmbH, and finances its operations from the dividends it receives from this holding. Robert Bosch's former home in Stuttgart serves as the Foundation's headquarters. Around 140 employees work for the Foundation at this location and at its office in Berlin.

UWC Robert Bosch College in Freiburg is the largest individual project in the history of the Robert Bosch Stiftung; together with the Robert Bosch GmbH, the Stiftung has invested more than 44 Million Euros to renovate, reconstruct and transform the Carthusian monastery in Freiburg into a UWC campus. According to Uta-Micaela Dürig, Chief Executive Officer of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, UWC and Robert Bosch Stiftung are a perfect fit: "This unique project combines international understanding, social commitment, sustainability and an innovative approach to teaching. By bringing together many cultures, the students are prepared for a globalized world and learn to aim for joint and prudent solutions." Besides this largest single investment, the Robert Bosch Stiftung contributes to the College with its unique experience in the educational sector and by covering a significant part of the scholarships.



Uta-Micaela Dürig, Managing Director at the Robert Bosch Stiftung since July 2015.

# 104 PIONEERS CREATING A NEW UWC IN FREIBURG THE FIRST YEAR IN RETROSPECTIVE

On August 20th, our first generation of UWC RBC students arrived at the College in Freiburg, Germany, at the edge of the Black Forest. 104 students from 71 nationalities aged 16 to 19 and speaking 41 different languages. They had travelled from as far as Swaziland, the Marshall Islands, Bolivia and Afghanistan, all with one goal: To live their UWC dream. They reflected a wide range of backgrounds – religious, socioeconomic, cultural and academic – a "deliberate diversity", as rector Laurence Nodder puts it. The idea behind it: bringing people together who would otherwise be unlikely to meet, or who come from countries identified as global hotspots.

#### Living as one community

Upon arrival, an equally excited college staff, some of whom had been preparing for the arrival for months, greeted the students. Finally, handshakes, hugs, a first personal impression. While the students explored their rooms and met their roommates, the staff members prepared what we call "Orientation Week" at UWC. A week full of games, events and workshops to get to know each other, explore Freiburg and the surrounding area, approach the academic calendar, and get a sense of the new UWC RBC world in general. Many

questions, many answers. And a week later, the first day of school: The beginning of two years of studying for the IB, the International Baccalaureate, an international diploma which is recognized in more than 140 countries worldwide.

As more and more construction sites disappeared and the leaves on the campus grounds turned yellow, brown and golden, the UWC RBC community had already been forged, still growing, but there and present. With the help of our "FSAs", five motivated UWC-alumni who volunteered at the College for one year and assumed the role of second years, the group started finding itself. The FSAs helped start clubs and groups in addition to the extracurricular Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Program, answered questions and mediated in cases of conflict.

How can there be peace in the world if we don't understand each other, and how can we understand each other if we don't know each other? Lester B. Pearson



Here they are, some of the pioneers to UWC RBC in Freiburg: House 1 residents enjoying the sunshine on a warm day in May, celebrating the end of the school year.

#### Relationships are the core

Living with three other students in one room soon became normal, sharing a bathroom between 12 a daily routine. Only the kitchen and day room started to disturb the peace every now and then: How much order and cleanliness is normal? Different viewpoints and levels of expectation. Rector Laurence Nodder seemed pleased: "Understanding starts where differences begin." How, he advised, are our students to help solve the big global issues when they cannot agree on a shared code of living? Motivated by this idea, different houses started to think about different solutions, finding a common language to ensure a basic human need – and being able to move on towards bigger, more important issues.

By the time the students got back from winter break and started the spring term at UWC Robert Bosch College, many of them had "arrived". Feelings of homesickness or disorientation ebbed away, the initial excitement turned into a sense of belonging. Moments of experiencing culture shock were overshadowed by a strong sense of community, of taking ownership of being the first generation at an UWC.

A colleague once mentioned that at UWC RBC, relationships are the core of everything. Being pioneers means having to fill a school with the UWC spirit – or having to identify and explore what this is in the first place. Our first generation of students was involved in the construction of UWC RBC just as much as our partners, sponsors and friends were prior to the student's arrival. They've set up ways to do things, found solutions and shared ideas that they are going to pass down to the next generation, our 103 new first years arriving on August 21st. Together, the two year groups will add up to a mix of 88 nationalities, increasing the diversity and plurality of cultures, voices and ideas so vital to UWC identity.



UWC RBC has quickly become a place of belonging for many.

**Exchanging friendship bracelets** during the closing ceremony in May. Each ribbon is tied to a shared memory.





Spontaneous choir performance during a visit to the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

### **BOTTOM**

One team: UWC creates friendships that often last a lifetime.





The "Kartaus", former monastery, has been renovated to host classrooms, the library and staff offices.

### STUDENT VOICES **OUR YEAR AT UWC RBC**

What does the first generation of students at UWC RBC think about their year at the College? How is it like to live and experience diversity, every day? No matter where they come from, Germany or Mexico, the Marshall Islands or Hungary – they have all shared the same adventure, away from home. Some impressions.



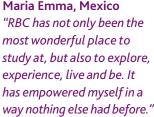
Siddhima, India

"My first year at RBC has been everything from challenging to relaxing. I've had some of my happiest moments with everyone in that community, but also days when the reality of things has made me want to stay in bed. Despite the latter, I couldn't be more excited for what the coming year has to offer!"



Maria Emma, Mexico

Nádasi Tamás, Hungary "Coming with a feeling of knowing myself so well, I can only say that throughout the year I was continuously reminded that I don't. I needed to accept that, but not long after I came to the realization that trying to understand others would bring me closer to understanding myself."





Bastian, Germany

"My first year at RBC was like a roller coaster ride. From highs of experiencing beautiful, powerful and adventurous moments to lows of conflict, pressure and homesickness. In the end, I learned from all of that. And believe me, UWCs are the ultimate places to learn. That's what it's about."





Tallula, Great Britain "If the world were a village and the people who live there a little bit nicer ... that would be UWC RBC."



#### Selina Marshall, Islands

"Marshall Islands will always be my home, but it is in UWC RBC that I learned the true meaning of home and felt safe for the first time in so many years. When everyone left for Christmas breaks, Project Week, etc., the energy left with them, too – it did not feel like home anymore. I came to realize it is the people who occupy the structure, who are home, not the structure itself."

# OFFICIAL OPENING A DAY TO REMEMBER

On September 23rd, 2014, one month after the students arrived, UWC Robert Bosch College celebrated its official opening – with guests from all around the world. A celebration of diversity and of emotional nature for many.



It's official: In a ceremonial act, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Robert Bosch GmbH symbolically handed over the keys to the school to Rektor Laurence Nodder — a solemn moment for the UWC RBC community. For the occasion, students wore their national costumes and welcomed the guests with a flag-lined pathway. Dances, music performances and speeches by students were highlights of the event, the first generation signalized: now that we are here, we will fill this project with life, feeling responsible, proud and thankful.

For the opening, 400 guests travelled to Freiburg to celebrate the occasion, among them Minister in the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg Silke Krebs, her predecessor Helmut Rau, District President Bärbel Schäfer, UWC International Chairman Sir John Daniel, representatives of the economy, local politics as well as the Bosch Family. "UWC wants to give its students the skills they need to actively get involved and participate. Thanks to this approach, UWC Robert Bosch College enriches our educational landscape here in Baden-Württemberg," said Silke Krebs. In an inspiring speech, Nigerian architect, poet and environmental activist Nnimmo Bassey captivated both students and adults, his words striking a chord with many of the attendees. "We were reminded of guest speaker Nnimmo Bassey's challenge: how would we live if we did not consider the earth as an inheritance from our ancestors but rather a loan from our children?", says Rektor Laurence Nodder.

Co-organized by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Deutsche Stiftung UWC and UWC Robert Bosch College, the opening was a successful and important event. After three years of renovations and constructions, the project, which was

initiated in the year of Robert Bosch's 150th birthday, was realized, a dream had come true: to open the College doors to 104 international students in the year of the Robert Bosch Foundation's 50th anniversary. "The fact that we can now welcome 200 young people – whether refugees, homeless children, or the sons and daughters of professors – to a UWC here in Freiburg is magnificent. It's the dream of a lifetime," said Jens Waltermann, former Chairman of Deutsche Stiftung UWC and new Executive Director of UWC International. "We are unimaginably grateful to our partners, in particular the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the State of Baden-Württemberg, for making this possible."

We would like to thank everyone involved in the planning and executing of this unique event, all those who attended and those who observed from afar. The opening will remain a day to remember!



LEFT
Jens Waltermann, Sir John Daniel
and Christian Hodeige

LEFT BOTTOM
Nnimmo Bassey

BOTTOM
Dr. Kurt Liedtcke, Dr. Franz
Fehrenbach and Laurence Nodder





#### **ACADEMIC REPORT 2015 - 2016**

# **ENROLMENT AND COURSE SELECTION –**AN OVERVIEW

In May 2014, the International Baccalaureate accredited UWC Robert Bosch College as a full IB Diploma school. The College currently offers 14 subjects on multiple levels\*: German, English, French, Spanish, Self-taught, Economics, Geography, History, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Theatre and Visual Art. The introduction of IB Music had to be postponed due to visa issues. Student profiles fall into four categories. Currently, just over half of the students (54) are enrolled in a science-oriented program, 24 students in a social science-based program, 18 have an arts orientation and eight students focus primarily on the language arts.



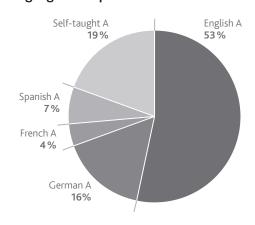




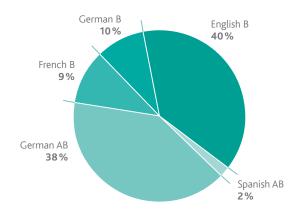
The approach to teaching and learning at UWC RBC fosters student research and individual engagement.

#### **GROUP 1 & 2: Languages**

#### Languages Group 1



#### Languages Group 2



29 students are pursuing a Bilingual Diploma by taking two Language A classes with native speaker proficiency: 17 students pursue a bilingual English-German Diploma, four an English-French Diploma, two an English-Spanish Diploma and six an English and Self-taught Language A Bilingual Diploma.

33 students take German for Beginners in addition to their IB Diploma course choices in order to effectively engage in their CAS program and beyond with the Freiburg environment.

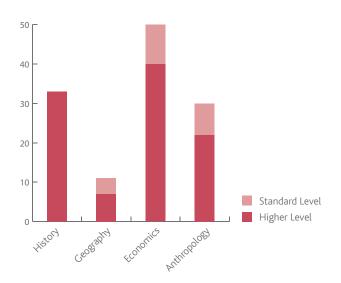
#### LANGUAGES TAUGHT IN 2015 - 2016

English, French, Spanish and German as taught languages. Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Georgian, Hebrew, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Italian, Japanese, Kurdish, Lao, Norwegian, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Somali, Tagalog, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese as self-taught languages.

\* Most courses at UWC Robert Bosch College are offered on a Standard and a Higher Level. Many of the languages are offered for beginners, on an intermediate and a native-like level of proficiency.

#### **ACADEMIC REPORT 2015 - 2016**

#### **Group 3: Social Sciences**



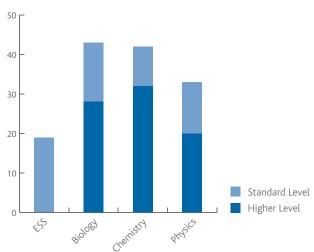
#### Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay

In addition to their six subjects, all students partake in a Theory of Knowledge class and have successfully embarked on the Extended Essay research project in conjunction with UWC's own Weickart Library and the University Library Freiburg.

#### Learning Outside the Classroom

Three Special Focus Days – on Climate Change, on Interfaith Dialogue, and a Model UN on Human Rights – allowed the students to engage on current issues outside of the traditional classroom in a more intensive and interdisciplinary manner.

#### **Group 4: Sciences**



#### **Learning Support: New Developments**

Language learning is a key to the academic success of students. Under the supervision of subject teachers, peer-to-peer tutor groups offer dedicated support to fellow students. Since April, one-on-one English tutoring by a professional tutor is available for a selected group of weaker ESL students. In preparation for 2015 – 2016, the English B team work with the Admissions Counsellor and the Director of Studies to identify students in need of support before the first week of classes.

August 2015 will also see the appointment of Ingrid Haagmans, the former Head of Pastoral Care at MUWCI. She will be providing learning support as part of her teaching duties. She will coordinate the Peer Tutor system, extra English and Math classes, workshops on study skills and the acquisition and provision of learning and support material.



Part of the learning experience at UWC RBC are small courses: On average, 12 students attend one course.



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Learning at an UWC is often described as transformative, leading to a change in basic values and thoughts through the interaction with others.

#### **BEYOND ACADEMICS**

# CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY AND SERVICE A CORE OF UWC EDUCATION

On schedule with the start of classes, the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) program launched in September 2014: 20 service projects in cooperation with Freiburg institutions, 12 creative activities and 11 physical activities, offered by external partners, students or teachers. CAS is a core requirement of the IB Diploma at UWC Robert Bosch College.

Student participation, engagement and initiative in CAS activities are equally as valuable as the time and energy put into academics. A dedicated team of teachers and educators has worked on creating partnerships and help initiating student-led activities. Here is a brief synopsis of some of the most successful ones:





Jam-CAS during a public performance at the local river Dreisam.



Almost done: One of our runners gets support from a co-student. She finished as best female athlete.



Two participants of the UWC RBC Triathlon in May: Cheering on their swimming mates.

#### **CREATIVITY - Exploring Music Together**

At Jam-CAS, a group of eight students came together once a week to play their instruments and improvise. Some students had prior knowledge, some none, they played everything from Bob Marley to Pete Seeger, from Jazz and Arabic scales to Jewish folk songs. What all of them had in common: An openness to explore and share music with as many people as possible, whether at an open stage venue in the city, in a shared flat, by the local river Dreisam or in the hills. Let it flow, have fun, be creative was the motto — and the result was quite stunning!

#### **ACTIVITY - RunBikeSwim**

Dedicated athletes, beginners and everything in between got together once a week to train the classic disciplines swimming, cycling and running with a team of students and staff members. The goal: To participate in an independently organized triathlon at the end of the year. 0,7 km of swimming in the local Freiburg swimming pool, 15 km of cycling and 5 km of running along the beautiful Dreisam. The end-of year triathlon, organized by the students themselves, was a huge success, resulting in a majority of the campus either participating or cheering on their peers.



Caritaswerkstatt St. Georg in Freiburg, one of the 20 institutions offering service opportunities for UWC RBC students. Service is an important element in UWC education.

#### SERVICE - Teaching Adults with Disabilities

At Caritas Werkstatt St. Georg, a working space for disabled employees, six of our students offered a range of different adult education courses on a weekly basis. Courses included English lessons, movement activities and percussion workshops. Throughout the year, the students worked very independently and were responsible for planning and organizing each session beforehand. The aim was to work with the employees in a playful manner, to help them learn but also develop meaningful relationships. Both students and employees were enthusiastic about these Wednesday sessions and enjoyed learning from each other. The partnership will be continued next term in a slightly modified version, again with six students.

#### **BEYOND ACADEMICS**

#### **DEBATING WORLD ISSUES AND POLITICS**

Two programs vital to UWC's educational concept: The Tuesday evening event "Global Affairs" provides a platform for learning and discussing topics relevant in the world we live in. The activity "Model United Nations" provides students with tools for debate.

#### **Global Affairs**

A UWC staple and part of our extracurricular program: Every Tuesday night, the College community organizes the event "Global Affairs" – a platform for learning about and discussing issues that are relevant in our world today. The topics are as diverse as our student body itself, ranging from environmental governance to terrorism and the politics of language. Often, the subjects mirror problems that occur in students' home countries. The idea of the event is for the students to acquire new knowledge and promote discussions, taking into account a variety of points of view. "Global Affairs are most interesting when there are many different opinions, some even radically opposed. This is how students learn to live with conflict, or to find ways to solve it", says Rector Laurence Nodder. And he adds: "When we all think alike, then there is a danger that no one is thinking."

The first year of Global Affairs was off to good start: A balanced mix of topics, some presented by guest speakers, some by staff or students. Visitors included Prof. Dr. Joseph Pearson, Prof. Dr. Eicke Weber, Dr. Hans C. von Sponeck and Olivia Mc Evoy. "While some events were planned well in advance, others were organized spontaneously at the spur of the moment. For instance, after the shootings in Kenya last year, Luizer and Augustine, the two Kenyan students organized an informative and reflective session," says Mihir Sharma, one of the organizers of Global Affairs.

Over the course of the school year, the students became more courageous at voicing their opinion and asking critical questions, finding out where they stand and what they stand for – a crucial learning experience.



Guest speaker Dr. Hans C. von Sponeck, former UN diplomat, on his work in international relations.



Olivia McEvoy spoke about LGBTQ rights transnationally. "Are LGBTQ rights essentially human rights?"

#### **Model United Nations**

Model United Nations (MUN) is an activity requiring the students to engage in actively discussing current global issues as if they were diplomats representing their countries at the UN. They must follow the same rules of address, regulations and work within the same framework. In our first year, 30 students joined, many without experience at all and never having used English as a means of debate or negotiation. Immediately, a group of students emerged as having the skills necessary to lead simulations and train most of the students in MUN procedures.

All MUN members had a chance to go to our sister college in Maastricht to participate in a Peace Conference or Theory of Knowledge Conference with a view to organize a common MUN conference at UWC RBC next year. We were able to organize our first college wide MUN day in April 2015 in which the whole school took part and negotiated on a variety of issues from the Ukraine question to LGBTQ rights. Two distinguished guests joined us as speakers: Hans von Sponeck with decades of experience in the UN and once assistant to the Secretary General, and Klaus Hoffman, once a prosecutor on the special tribunal for Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Both engaged with the students in discussion for many hours. At the end of the year, three leaders were selected for 2015 – 2016, with the aim to participate in external MUN conferences, organize a joint MUN with Maastricht and help Li Po Chun UWC to run a global virtual MUN online.

Sylla Cousineau
Teacher History & Theory of Knowledge





MUN Day: Different topics were discussed in different classrooms. All students participated, a professional appearance was part of the excercise.

#### **BEYOND ACADEMICS**

#### **CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

How to take into account the plurality of lifestyles and traditions that come with the diversity of students living on campus? Special Topic Days and Seasonal Festivals are opportunities for cultural exchange that involve the whole College community.

#### Special Topic Day: Interfaith Dialogue

A UWC tradition and part of the curriculum: The Special Topic Days, which focus on current issues and allow students to engange in a more intense and interdisciplinary manner. The events often span over an entire school day.

In 2014 – 2015, one of our three special topic days focused on religion. With 104 students from 71 different countries living together in one space, day and night, and sharing their every-day life, religion is most certainly a topic that comes up. Through personal testimonials, 20-minute long workshops, TED Talks and meditation sessions, staff and students immersed in aspects of religion for one day. The topics of the student-led workshops ranged from Reiki to Islam, from Ancient Religions to Syncretism, reflecting the many experiences and backgrounds of the students. The results of Interfaith Day were ongoing discussions and conversations as students and staff members thought about the meaning of religion in their lives. Like with so many things at UWC, Interfaith Day proved to be a play with perspectives. The event will be repeated next term with 200 students having the opportunity to share and learn from each other.

> Not always serious: Talking about different religions and belief systems is a learning experience.









Spring Day, also called "Mud Fest" by some: Our students were working hard to clean the stream in the College garden. As a reward, they were able to swim in it by summertime.

#### Seasonal Festival: Spring Day

Each year, the College celebrates four festivals, each in keeping with the season. In 2014 – 2015, our most successful event was Spring Day. On a warm day in March, the community got together to celebrate Holi, the Indian Festival of Color and Kurdish New Year and to welcome spring by the act of purging the stream next to the College's old water work. Our student Petar Radojevic from Serbia reports:

"Sometimes, there are unbelievably nice days – when one enters a different state of mind, everything feels a little bit better, and the only words travelling the brain before going to sleep are "Wow. I wish every day was like this." Yesterday was one of those days. It was a day for cleaning the campus canal, Kurdish New Year and the ancient Hindu spring festival, Holi. And indeed, this mud-shoveling, fire-jumping, colorcatapulting, water-dropping all-day-long celebration of everything happy was as marvelous as it sounds.

This is how the day started: Yellow boots on feet, shovel in hand, I strode down to the canal and was amazed at the great response. Many students were already deep in the mud, digging. Some were even stuck, and we had to try to free their feet and pull them out! The division of labor was fair - people who had boots went into the mud. Those who didn't helped with transportation via wheelbarrows, cutting branches, poking the fire, taking photos or serving tea. There are people who really enjoyed the mud, and they wrestled and threw shovels of mud and water at each other. Augustine's splendid choice of music bumped up the atmosphere even further. This fun yet tiresome project showed the best in us all. We cooperated, we laughed, and everyone participated and had a role they liked. It felt like something greater was connecting us all – not a mere cluster of individuals doing their own work. Rather, we worked and laughed as one, for the common goal of us all. I personally think this is how every day in UWC is supposed to feel."

Celebrating Holi at the end of a long, productive day. For many, Spring Festival was one of the most special days at the College.



# A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FIRST GENERATION HOST FAMILIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

Living "normal family life", eating good food, getting to know Freiburg and its surroundings, practicing the latest German words – there are plenty of reasons why the first generation of UWC RBC students treasure their host families. This appreciation is the very core of a successful start into the host family program.

Knowing that in many UWCs around the world, strong bonds have developed between the students and the local community, we, a group of four alumni and the mother of one former UWC-student, thought that it would be a great idea to establish a similar program here in Freiburg. Thanks to an article in the local newspaper, we had a tremendous echo from the public resulting in a long list of families who wanted to host one of the new students. Fortunately, the students were equally enthusiastic and so in mid-October, 93 families met "their child" for the first time, during a moving event in the College's auditorium. Since then, the pairs have spent at least two weekends together; some even see each other almost every week. Apart from some minor problems, we have gotten almost only positive feedback from both parents and students. While host parents love to be part of the students' lives and take a great interest in the cultural diversity they experience through meeting them, the students are grateful for small breaks from the intense life on campus and enjoy the coziness of

being in a family's home. The activities undertaken are as diverse as the families and students themselves — some went to concerts, others to football matches; cooking and baking together seems to be just as popular as going skiing or mountaineering, and some enjoy to just sit and talk for hours about world politics and cultural differences. A few of them have even celebrated Christmas together.

During the next months, we will be working on including the host families even more into college life by inviting them to cultural shows and making use of their numerous offers to help with projects and establish local connections. Furthermore, we will see the new first years meet "their" family – we've already got a long list of hosts waiting for them!

#### The Host Family Team

An exchange worth exploring: Experiencing local traditions and sharing one's own.











One of our students with his host sister during UWC RBC's Art Festival. Celebrations on campus are ways to integrate the host families.

BOTTOM
Take two: Our
Moroccan student
having fun in
Freiburg.



Shared experiences for lifelong connections: Host families are a core part of the UWC experience.





# MEDIA COVERAGE SPOTLIGHT UWC ROBERT BOSCH COLLEGE

Since the opening of the College, local and national press have featured our college. Some impressions:

#### "Wir müssen sie finden"

Auf kluges Suchen kommt es an: Eine besondere Idee erprobt nun in Freiburg das United World College, eine weltumspannende kosmopolitische Schulform, die an 14 Orten der Welt begabte Kinder aus allen Kontinenten und Herkünften gemeinsam unterrichtet und die im vergangenen Herbst im badischen Freiburg ihre jüngste Schule eröffnet hat. Dort hat die Schulleitung zusammen mit Sozialarbeitern, mit Vormunden und Lehrern im Stillen eine diskrete Suche nach Flüchtlingskindern begonnen, die bereits in Freiburger Einrichtungen leben und sich für eine Aufnahme in das College eignen.

26.03.2015 • ZEIT

#### "Ich möchte sie an unseren Tischen hören"

[Laurence Nodder im Interview.] Nodder: Wir versuchen, Raum für die Biografien und Herkünfte der Kinder zu öffnen. Auch wenn die Kinder nicht alles direkt aussprechen, kommt ihre Vergangenheit hier in der Schule unweigerlich zur Sprache. Einer unserer Schüler hat vor Kurzem in einer Rede ironisch bemerkt, Flüchtlinge trügen zur ökologischen Nachhaltigkeit bei, weil sie nicht flögen. Er sprach es nicht aus, aber man merkte doch: Er wusste, wovon er sprach.

26.03.2015 • ZEIT

#### "Flaschenpost"

Warsan Mohamed Yusuf aus Somalia und May Shin Lyan aus Myanmar paddeln um die Wette. Die junge Frau aus Myanmar gewinnt, aber darum geht es gar nicht. Mit der Aktion wollen Schüler des Freiburger Oberstufeninternats UWC Robert Bosch Colleges vielmehr auf die Verschmutzung der Weltmeere mit Plastikmüll aufmerksam machen und Wiederverwertung anmahnen.

30.03.2015 • Süddeutsche Zeitung

#### "Wir sind auf einer Wellenlänge"

Yarden und Marwan leben in Freiburg die Weltläufigkeit, die sie gesucht haben. Dass sie unter den 71 hier vertretenen Nationen auch auf Jugendliche aus dem "anderen Lager" ihrer heimatlichen Konfliktregion treffen könnten, daran hatten sie nicht gedacht. Dass es so ist, empfinden sie als Gewinn.

08.04.2015 • Badische Zeitung

#### "Beim Cricket ist der Spaß vorbei!"

Geeta und Sajjad gehen sehr gelassen mit der Konstellation im College um. "Wir fokussieren hier in unseren Gesprächen nicht so auf Nationalstaaten", sagt Sajjad. Geeta ergänzt: "Ein wichtiges Anliegen des UWC ist die Internationalität – und das Verbindende, nicht das Trennende.

22.04.2015 • Badische Zeitung

#### "Unter Waisenkindern, deren Eltern stolz wären"

Für Schulleiter Laurence Nodder spielt Intuition eine enorm wichtige Rolle. Die künftigen Lehrer des UWC müssen ihm in den Bewerbungsgesprächen ihre Leidenschaft für das Unterrichten vermitteln, fachliches Engagement allein reicht ihm nicht. Während er mit den Bewerbern spricht, überlegt er sich, ob es tatsächlich faszinierend wäre, von dem betreffenden Kollegen unterrichtet zu werden.

07.05.2015 • Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

#### "Besser als Sozialprogramme wären Arbeitsplätze"

[Schüler Daniel von den Philippinen im Gespräch mit der Zeit.] Ich hatte Glück, dass mich immer wieder aufmerksame Menschen unterstützt haben. Eine Organisation namens Childhope Asia hat mir ermöglicht, die höhere Schule zu besuchen. In der Zeit habe ich geholfen, Straßenkinder zu unterrichten, mit ihnen Theater zu spielen und ein bisschen erste Hilfe zu leisten. Dann hat mich ein Sozialarbeiter für ein Stipendium vorgeschlagen, um im United World College in Freiburg das Abitur zu machen. Es gibt kein Wort dafür, wie ich mich gefühlt habe, als ich nach der Aufnahmeprüfung akzeptiert wurde. Die SMS mit der Zusage habe ich ungläubig gelesen, wieder und wieder.

03.06.2015 • ZEIT Online

#### "Fürs Leben Lernen"

Nicht das Erlangen von handwerklichen Fertigkeiten steht im Mittelpunkt der Gartenarbeit. Die Schüler sollen erfahren, wie viel Arbeit im Anbau der verschiedenen Obst- und Gemüsearten steckt. Sie lernen, dass nicht alles rund ums Jahr zur Verfügung stehen kann. Und sie erkennen, dass ökologisch verträglicher Pflanzenbau im Einklang mit der Natur arbeitet.

29.06.2015 • So schmeckt Garten

#### "Das ist kein Salem"

Nicht nur im Wohnkonzept spiegelt sich der soziale Gedanke wider: Der Zusammenhalt, das gemeinsame Anpacken, gegenseitige Helfen und Verstehen werden groß geschrieben am UWC. Soziales Engagement ist auch ein wichtiges Kriterium für eine erfolgreiche Bewerbung um einen Platz in einem UWC-Internat. Und es gehört zum Konzept, dass Schüler in sozialen Einrichtungen und beim Collegebetrieb helfen.

04.08.2015 • Badische Zeitung

# MAKING UWC POSSIBLE A THANK-YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

UWC Robert Bosch College would like to thank all the donors, supporters and friends who have enabled the College to develop and blossom. Without this support, we could not maintain the degree of diversity present at the College today. Up to 70% of the students at UWC RBC receive a full scholarship – they could not attend without one. An additional 30% of the students are supported through partial scholarships. For this contribution, we are grateful and delighted!

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# **UWC ROBERT BOSCH COLLEGE**STUDENTS AND STAFF 2014 – 2015

International education means bringing people together from all over the world. For the pioneer year, the meant:104 students from 71 nationalities and 35 staff members from 11 different countries. Meet the founding team of students and staff at UWC Robert Bosch College.



#### Students

ALI SAJJAD SUNNY Pakistan ALQURWANI DEA SANTI Indonesia ANFINSET GAUTE ALMAS Norway ARAGÓN ORREGO MARÍA FÉ Peru ASANTE-APEATU NANA ANIM Ghana ATTIAS YARDEN SARA Israel BEHRENDS MARTHE MARIE Germany BITSADZE NINO Georgia BORGSTEDT IACOUELINE Germany BRACKE VINCENT Austria BUCKWITZ SOPHIE Germany BURGER SOPHIA MARIA ARIANA Germany CAMERON TALULLA KATE BOOTH **UK** CHAUDHR MARIE SAKINA Denmark CHENG YICHAO China COCKERHAM CLAIRE GRACE Texas/USA DAI ÜGGE STEPHAN Germany DAMRONGSOONTORNCHAI KANLONGTHAM Thailand DEJAPIN DANIEL Philippines DIOP NDEYE FATOU BAKA Senegal ELMOKHTAR MOULAY FATMA AZIZA Algeria ENGIN RENGIN MELIS Turkey FAROOO MIAN RIZWAN Germany FAWZI JASMINE ALI Iraq FLOTTRONG LEONIE MARA Germany FONDERICA LUIGI Italy FRANCO CECEÑA MARIA EMMA Mexico GAVA TAFARA PANASHE Zimbabwe GRADANIN ILIJA Montenegro GVOZDI ANA BOSNIA AND Herzegovina HAMDI MOHAMED HASSAN KHALIFA ISRAA Egypt HASHEM MARWAN RIFAT Palestine (West Bank) HERCHENRÖDER TILMANN **Germany** HNIN OO WAI (MAY SHIN LYAN) MAY SHIN LYAN Myanmar HONGCHITH SOULINTHONE Laos HUSSAINI MINA Afghanistan JACKSON SHEMMAR FITZROY Jamaica

KABANDANA FAISAL NAMANYA **Uganda** 

KÖNIG ELIAS Germany KŘÍŽEK JAN Czech Republic LAMBERT LUCIUS WILLIAM PLACE Louisiana/USA LARIA CANCAX CÉSAR FERNANDO Guatemala LEE SHEUNG CHAK Hong Kong I FFM SELINA NEIROK Marshall Islands LEHMANN BASTIAN Germany LIENDO MOLINA JUAN PABLO Venezuela LIMA BEATRIZ Portugal LIN PHYLLIS PHYLLIS LEONG Singapore LOIOLA SILVA THAÍZA Brazil LUCKE KONRAD Germany LUONG OUYNH TRANG Vietnam MARAVILLA GERARDO ERNESTO El Salvador MÁRQUEZ RODRÍGUEZ CÉSAR MIGUEL Venezuela MASCHEK MARINA Germany MAZIYA SANELE Swaziland MCCLURE RHONA ANNE New Zealand MEYJOHANN PHILINE Germany MOCANASU ANCUTA Romania MOLS HELENE Germany MUENDO NTHENGE AUGUSTINE Netherlands MUHAMMAD HASAN Iraq NÁDASI TAMÁS JÁNOS Hungary NAZAR MUSHIR YASSIR Iraq NEUMBO KELAO Namibia NJOKI MBURU LUIZER **Kenya** PÉREZ SOTO ANTHONY RAMON Costa Rica PIXNER LUCA Austria RADOIEVIC PETAR Serbia RAHN TIRIL HOYE Norway RENUSE SIDDHIMA India RENUSE TEJAS (GEETA) India RIEFLER MELISANDE Germany

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Mission Statement



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