

Coronavirus FAQs for the UWC community

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What is the current situation at UWC schools?

All UWC schools have been taking action in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Each school's response has depended and depends on their location, context and advice from local authorities and constantly adapts to any new developments or guidance issued. For an overview of the current status of each UWC school, please click [HERE](#).

What information is available about the situation at each individual UWC school?

In this [OVERVIEW](#) you can see the current status of each school. It is updated regularly. Additionally, each school is sending regular updates to its students, parents and the UWC national committees who selected their students.

What does it mean that in-person learning is suspended at some schools?

While most UWC schools welcomed their students back on campus in August/September 2020 for the start of the current academic year, some of them have had to later modify or suspend in-person teaching again in compliance with national regulations. This means that, while boarding facilities remain open, online or blended learning is now taking place. In the case of Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, where the new academic year started in January 2021, the school has not been able to welcome students back to campus yet due to very strict visa and travel restrictions - and online learning carries on. For an overview of the current status of each UWC school, please click [HERE](#).

Have UWC schools reopened for the academic year 2020/2021 (WKUWCSA 2021)?

Most UWC schools opened for the start of the new school year in August/September 2020. Since then, some of them have had to modify or halt in-person teaching again in compliance with national regulations. Boarding facilities do remain open and online or blended learning continues. Due to very strict visa and travel restrictions, Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, where the new academic year started in January 2021, has not been able to welcome students back to campus yet - and online learning carries on. For an overview of the current status of each UWC school, please click [HERE](#).

What measures are the open UWC schools taking?

All UWC schools are strictly following local health advice and taking precautionary actions to support the health of the community, both within each campus and in the surrounding area. These include, but are not limited to, cancelling trips and activities outside of campus, enforcing hygiene norms as suggested by the World Health Organisation and stopping or limiting the number of external visitors to a minimum. UWC schools continue to heed the advice within their country and have contingency plans in place, should the situation change.

How are students from the closed UWC schools continuing their education?

Most UWC students are now on campus and continue their UWC education in person or through blended learning. Where in-person teaching is not possible, students continue their education through an online learning and teaching system that ensures the continuity of the academic programme. We have been so impressed by the capacity of students and teachers to embrace online learning for many months. Across the UWC movement we are learning from and with each other to continuously improve the online learning programme and to better support students.

Can a student transfer from a closed UWC to an open UWC school?

No, current students cannot be transferred to another UWC school.

Can a UWC student go study at a local IB school?

Enrolling in a new IB school would mean formally leaving UWC. Most UWC students have been able to start the new academic year at their UWC school's campus in August/September 2020 - or have started their UWC academic year in January 2021 through online learning in the case of Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa.

Will UWC short courses continue?

The global outbreak of COVID-19 is also having an impact on UWC short courses, e.g. international travel restrictions and local measures such as lock-downs. Because of this, and in order to protect the

health and well being of all involved, most short courses have been cancelled, postponed or will be offered online. As the situation evolves, we will continue to update the [UWC short course section of our website](#). If you have been offered a place at any of our UWC short courses, the organisers will be in touch with you regarding what will happen next.