



# UNITED WORLD COLLEGES

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**Building Bridges for Ukraine**

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## EDUCATION AS A FORCE FOR PEACE

UWC Maastricht's mission to make education a force for peace and a sustainable future becomes even more pertinent in a time of war and violent conflict. For decades, students from war torn countries, including from Ukraine and Russia, have been living and learning together peacefully on UWC campuses, alongside other students from the region and across the world. And we know that after graduation, they will continue to engage in conversations across divides, working in their communities for a more peaceful future.

At UWC Maastricht, we want to support a next generation of leaders in their pursuit of peace, by providing an international education characterized by dialogue, collaboration and mutual understanding.



# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UKRAINE

While we join the global community in calling for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine, we also want to contribute to the building of bridges for the future. We do this by providing additional scholarships for students from Ukraine, and by recruiting additional students from countries affected by this war.

By opening our doors to Ukrainian families, both day and residential students, we want to help the ones who are in immediate need. We provide an education that prioritizes ethical leadership and explores intercultural and inter-societal differences. By living and learning together with fellow students from all around the world, our students learn to build bridges together. Bridges to a common and peaceful future.

In the words of former UWC President Nelson Mandela: “No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

# OUR STUDENTS

## Elmaz

Elmaz comes from the Crimean Tatar minority and, evidently, represents her community with passion and determination. Elmaz is a speaker of the severely endangered Crimean Tatar language and facilitates others' efforts to master the local mother tongue. She also has been taking part in the traditional Crimean tatar dancing ensemble for more than half of her life. Elmaz also joined a Crimean tatar theatre and later helped research its history, receiving appraisal and winning various school competitions of the national level. Taking into consideration the girl's current interest and resolve to work for the benefit of her cultural environment, we truly believe that with appropriate schooling and assistance Elmaz will undoubtedly become a powerful voice of her minority and will stream her work to advocate for wider recognition of the Crimean tatar culture. In fact, she is already persisting at this task.

Yet, such specific cultural belonging and expression does not seem to compromise Elmaz's open-mindedness. Despite her region's current occupation, Elmaz is a committed Ukrainian patriot. Furthermore, she possesses an extraordinarily multifaceted personality and manages to excel in numerous areas at once. Her academic, personal and cultural interests fuse together harmoniously.

## Anastasiia

Anastasiia has a great passion for international relations and business, intending to study economics in the future. Her dream is to create a social enterprise that would help elevate the quality of education in Ukraine. She has already started making progress towards her goal, recently organising a series of workshops on financial literacy for her peers at school. For that, she needed to conduct research, find sponsors among local business owners in her town, and make an agreement with the school administration to access the facilities. All of this proves Anastasiia's determination to serve her community and take initiative to make the world a better place. She also devotes much of her time to a volunteering project in which she and her friends provide mental support to seniors in her hometown. Anastasiia has a clear understanding of the UWC mission and is eager to learn more about the world. She says that her interest in different cultures and their interactions has been present in her life since birth and comes from her family, as her mom and dad come from the opposite sides of Ukraine, speaking Russian and Ukrainian accordingly. Anastasiia is passionate about intercultural understanding, equality, and providing opportunities for underprivileged people.

## Viktoriia

Coming from a smaller town in the west of Ukraine, Viktoriia deeply values and takes advantage of the few opportunities to engage with the community and the world. She started her own project called "We have a dream" to spread awareness about children living with various health problems. She assembled a team that promotes the ideas of inclusivity and diversity in a local community through promotional videos and social media pages. Viktoriia is also actively involved in the Ukrainian Volunteer Service, a platform she uses to engage more people in volunteering throughout Ukraine. She believes that informal education allows more people to engage in social projects and make a difference in their communities. Viktoriia deeply values her volunteering experiences since she gets to help and learn more about people around her, and their needs and wishes. She wants to become a leader in her community and views UWC as an opportunity to develop her leadership skills to be able to coordinate the social projects herself in the future.

## Olena

Olena is an impressive UWC candidate, who is dedicated to academics, student government, and speaking up and action on issues. Despite coming from a small village, she managed to accomplish great achievements and had a fascinating amount of involvement. She engages in school parliament, is passionate about STEM subjects, engages in TED-Ed Club, and speaks up against issues, such as sexism. She has been the president of her school student government and deputy chairman of the regional council of high school students. She transformed it from something that existed only theoretically into a real voice for students in front of school administration. She brought to us an example when she showed the initiative to carefully examine administrative statutes and found a way for students' voices to be present in administration meetings. Such involvement helped her develop organizational, public speaking, decision-making, and teamwork skills.

## Denys

Denys has stood out as a candidate with an entrepreneurial drive and interest in socially relevant topics. As someone passionate about a healthy lifestyle, Denys decided to organize a small business that would sell healthy snacks for schoolchildren and adults. He assembled a team that succeeded in promoting the project (with around 50 regular customers) and raising awareness about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Denys believes in the importance of local initiatives, which he was repeatedly a part of. He was a participant and an organizer of the present exchange for St.Nicolas day in Ukraine. The profit from this project was used to buy presents for 200 children from local orphanages for the winter holidays. He also regularly volunteers in the local library and participates in the theatre performances in the Youth Center for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and disabilities. Denys is a candidate with many academic and personal interests and is an involved member of his community. He believes that his time at UWC will allow him to engage in conversations and actions to make the world a more peaceful and diverse place. In turn, he emphasizes his active position in life and eagerness to listen to the different perspectives as an essential contribution to the UWC movement.