



Admission Policy

WHOM DO WE SERVE?

United World International School serves the educational needs of the international community in Bishkek. We welcome boys and girls of all races, religions and cultures and we consider applications throughout the year based on space availability.

The aims of the admissions policy are:

- To regulate the age criteria for entrance to the school at a particular year level.
- To ensure that students enrolled at the school are placed in a class where their social, emotional, cognitive and psychological needs are effectively catered for.
- To ensure that UWIS can meet the educational and social requirements of enrolled students.
- To ensure that IGCSE and Diploma students have the essential language and other skills to undertake these programmes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Language

English is the language of instruction. The ability to successfully access the curriculum within a reasonable time and to thrive in our English-language learning environment are the guiding principles for admission to the school.

In their youngest years, immersion in the English language curriculum is usually sufficient for children to quickly develop proficient English language skills. On this basis, children may be admitted to our Primary School regardless of their level of English proficiency. UWIS teachers are trained to support language acquisition and learning by non-native English speakers. However, we offer a free separate ESL programme within our academic programme for students.

Students entering **Upper Primary (Year 3 – 5)** are expected to have sufficient competency in English in order to benefit from our academic programmes. Should we have some concern regarding an applicant's ability to access the curriculum, we test applicants' level of English, and if necessary provide ESL support during school programme.

At the **Secondary**, we offer a challenging academic programme geared toward students who are planning to go on to college or university in Europe, North America and other areas of the world. At this level, students must have a fairly high degree of competency in English. All students applying to UWIS must provide school records for the previous two academic years



and/or other documentation regarding their level of English language proficiency. They may also be asked to take an academic assessment test.

Provided academic ability is evidenced, the School will consider the student to study ESL programme and the same time mainstream class.

The admissions team will send a school reference form to the student's current school if they see fit and require more information.

OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

School Counseling Department – Applicants with mild social/emotional issues, learning difficulties or other special needs are referred to our Head of the School Counseling Department for evaluation. The decision to admit the child will be made by the relevant Principal based on the recommendation of the Head of the School Counseling Department.

The school pays due regard to the Equality Act and reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Subject to our entry requirements being met, we welcome pupils with special educational needs or physical disabilities. We advise parents of children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the school before registering for a place. This will enable the school to determine whether the school can make **reasonable adjustments** to ensure that the child can flourish as a learner.

We will consider what is reasonable in the context of our school, given the circumstances of each individual case. Where necessary, parents will be asked to provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report and the school may need to discuss provision with external agencies. The cost of such reports is the responsibility of the parent. Where specific provision is required, parents may be asked to pay an additional charge to meet these needs (staffing and/or resources).

Academic Achievement – Although UWIS offers a stimulating and challenging educational programme, we accommodate students with a range of academic abilities, provided they are able to adequately access and benefit from our curriculum. We make this determination primarily by reviewing applicants' school records and in Secondary School also taking academic assessment tests.

Parent Communication – English and Russian are the primary languages for communicating with parents. At least one parent or guardian should be able to communicate comfortably with school personnel in English or Russian.

Early Years Foundation Stage – All students must be toilet-trained to enter Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten.



CLASS ORGANISATION

As a coeducational international school, we try our best to maintain a balance of genders, abilities and nationalities in each of our grade years and classes.

Our classes are limited to 18 pupils. When these numbers are reached a waiting list system will apply.

AGE PLACEMENT

Pre-Kindergarten is for children who have turned 4 years of age in the year of entry.

Kindergarten (**Year 0**) is for children who have turned 5 years of age in the year of entry.

Primary School – Placement in all years is strictly determined by age in the academic year of entry as follows:

| Entering Year Group | Age in the year of entry |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Year 1 | 6-7 |
| Year 2 | 7-8 |
| Year 3 | 8-9 |
| Year 4 | 9-10 |
| Year 5 | 10-11 |

Students come to UWIS from many different countries with varying school calendars and enrollment age practices. Our age placement policy reflects what we believe to be the most appropriate classification for the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of children attending the school. Therefore, while we recognize that some parents may wish to have their children placed in years reflecting their home country systems, to ensure the most appropriate learning environment for all students in the Primary School, we do not allow exceptions to the above age placement policy.



Secondary School – Age placement for Years 6 – 12 is strictly determined by age in the academic year of entry. The age and grade placement categories are as follows:

| Entering Year Group | Age in the year of entry |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Year 6 | 11-12 |
| Year 7 | 12-13 |
| Year 8 | 13-14 |
| Year 9 | 15 |
| Year 10 | 16 |
| Year 11 | 17 |
| Year 12 | 18 |

For the same reasons mentioned above, age placement for Secondary School is almost always according to the above protocol. At the discretion of the School Principal, exceptions may be made if a student is already established in an equivalent class in another school system and is considered able to access the relevant UWIS curriculum for the year group.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

A student may be admitted to the School at any time during the school year (if places are available).

SCREENING AND INTERVIEWS

Pre- Kindergarten/Kindergarten – All children applying for admission are suggested to come into the school for a trial day before formal acceptance can be offered. (If application for admission is during the summer months, the first day in the school will be considered as an informal play session and interview. The formal acceptance will be offered accordingly.) The trial day, which enables applicants and teachers to meet and interact with each other in the actual school environment, helps to identify any issues that may affect the applicant's ability to comfortably access the programme, while also serving as an informal orientation for the children who are accepted to the UWIS.

Primary School – Children applying for admission to Year 1- 5 are required to have a formal interview, although we encourage families to visit the school and meet the Head of Primary School and/or Admissions Officer. In reviewing an applicant's eligibility, we look at current/prior school records. Without obligation, we may also invite applicants to attend school on a trial basis to assess their ability to access the curriculum.

Secondary School – Students applying for admission are required to have a formal interview, and we encourage families to visit the school and meet the Head of the Secondary School and/or Admissions Officer. In reviewing an applicant's eligibility, we look at his/her school records. In addition, all applicants must take an assessment test. To ensure that candidates will



be able to meet academic requirements for graduation from UWIS, they may also be referred to our Examinations Officer/Deputy Principal. In reviewing an applicant's eligibility, we look at his/her school records and assessment tests. We may also ask for a reference from the current school if we consider this necessary.

STUDENT RECORDS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

The School requires student records in English or translated into English from the applicant's previous school before any student is accepted. These records may include reports, transcripts, and results of standardized tests, any reports by a counsellor or psychologist and recommendation letters from English teacher or Principal. The School reserves the right to contact the applicant's previous school prior to acceptance.

Parents must agree to the UWIS Admissions Policy before enrolment. By signing your application for admission you agree to the terms and conditions stated below. The application forms, documents and fees need to be received by the Admissions Office.

IGCSE and A levels ADMISSION POLICY

In the admission process the school will look at each applicant individually. To enter the **IGCSE and A levels** Programme, applicants are not only expected to have a high proficiency in English and a solid foundation in Mathematics, but also to possess personal qualities that demonstrate a good character and willingness to work dedicatedly with schoolwork.

It is expected that all students at UWIS will commence studying the full **IGCSE and/or A levels**. If, during the course of the programme, it becomes extremely unlikely that they can achieve a pass, and after all support has proven fruitless, with agreement from the school, the students and the parents, students are allowed to complete the school with Kyrgyz Attestat.

Current students

Students who have completed Year 10 at UWIS require the following as a minimum standard for A levels programme:

- Successfully completed Year 10.
- IGCSE Grade C
- Meet UWIS attendance policy requirements
- Obtain teacher recommendations for each chosen course

In the event of IGCSE results not being confirmed before the commencement of the A level programme, a student is deemed to be a probationary member of the A levels cohort until either the requisite grade is achieved or the first semester of the A level programme has been



satisfactorily

completed.

New students

Students wishing to join UWIS in Year 11, who have completed their IGCSEs, require the following as a minimum standard for entry:

- Passes at Grade C or above in a minimum of five subjects including English, Mathematics and Science
- Parental interview with the Head of Secondary and/or College Counselor.

In the event of IGCSE results not being known before the commencement of the A level programme, a student is deemed to be a probationary member of the A levels cohort until either a validated copy of the results certificate is received, the requisite grade is achieved or the first semester of the A levels Programme has been satisfactorily completed.