

ISAK Receives Final Approval to Join United World Colleges

Well-established international network further enhances ISAK's diversity, sustainability.

KARUIZAWA, Japan – October 31, 2016 -- The International School of Asia, Karuzawa (ISAK) has received final approval by UWC (United World Colleges) International Board to become a UWC member school, making ISAK the first UWC school in Japan.

UWC is an international education organization that aims to cultivate courageous action, selfless leadership, peace and a sustainable future through education. Students are selected to attend by national committees in more than 150 countries worldwide. At present, UWC has 16 member schools and colleges, including schools in the UK, Norway, USA, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Italy and Costa Rica.

Currently, more than 9,500 students are studying at UWC schools, with more than 530 students from Japan joining UWC schools over the years. (The UWC Japan National Committee operates under the auspices of Keidanren.) Nearly all of the UWC schools and colleges implement the International Baccalaureate curriculum, and UWC has been a leading contributor to the establishment and development of the IB program.

ISAK's name will gradually transition to UWC ISAK Japan, and in August 2017, ISAK plans to welcome 30 UWC students selected from 30 countries around the world for Grade 11 enrollment. ISAK's mission and vision will remain the same, and will become even more powerful when combined with the UWC mission to "make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future." ISAK plans to host a UWC opening ceremony in September 2017. (Details to be announced at a later date.) <https://isak.jp/>



BENEFITS OF JOINING UWC

ISAK's Founder and Chair of the Board, Lin Kobayashi, is a graduate of UWC Pearson in Canada, and from the start, ISAK's mission and values shared many characteristics with the UWC movement. UWC membership will provide the following benefits:

1. Increased Diversity

ISAK's aim is to develop young people who can achieve social change to make the world a better place. We strongly believe in using diversity as a strength, enabling students to understand and accept ideas and perspectives that differ from their own. From the beginning, ISAK students have represented an impressive array of national, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. In the same vein, UWC utilizes a national committee system to select the students who will attend the 15 UWC college around the world. Under this system, national committees in approximately 150 countries are responsible for selecting the students from those countries who will attend one of the UWC schools. By joining UWC, ISAK will be able to welcome students from a wider range of countries and backgrounds than ever before.

2. World-Class Faculty

One of the most exciting benefits of the UWC system is the opportunity for students to learn from outstanding faculty who have a global mindset and a tremendous depth of experience in teaching the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme curriculum. ISAK is proud to have faculty of this caliber already; we look forward to increased opportunities for faculty growth and exchanges after we join UWC.

3. Opportunities for Students from All Backgrounds to Attend US Universities

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of philanthropist Shelby Davis, a long-time supporter of UWC, graduates of UWC schools who gain admission to selected US colleges or universities qualify for need-based scholarship support. Currently, nearly 2,500 UWC graduates are studying at 91 UWC colleges and universities on Davis UWC Scholarships. As nearly 70% of ISAK's students receive some level of financial assistance, the Davis UWC Scholarship Program will greatly boost their opportunities to study at some of the world's best colleges and universities. Additionally, international students who wish to attend Japanese universities will be eligible for scholarships from the Japan Foundation.

About UWC

Official Name: United World Colleges

Established: 1962 (Founder: German educationalist Kurt Hahn)

Mission: UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

Member Schools: 16 schools and colleges located (in order of establishment) in the UK, Canada, Singapore, Swaziland, USA, Italy, China (mainland and Hong Kong), Norway, India, Costa Rica, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Germany, Armenia and Thailand. ISAK will be the 17th UWC school.

President: Queen Noor of Jordan. Previous presidents have included South African president Nelson Mandela, Prince Charles and Lord Mountbatten.

Support Organizations: UWC National Committees in approximately 150 countries are responsible for the students who will attend the UWC schools and providing scholarships. (In Japan, the UWC Japan National Committee operates within Keidanren, and all scholarships are funded by 55 Keidanren member corporations who support UWC, as well as individual donations.)

ISAK & UWC Admissions

- For the 2017 school year, ISAK plans to accept approximately 40 students for Grade 10 (30% Japanese, 70% from overseas) and approximately 30 students for Grade 11 who are selected by the national committees worldwide.
- Students who wish to enroll at ISAK from Grade 10 will apply directly to ISAK. International students who wish to join ISAK for Grade 11 will need to apply through their UWC National Committee.
- As the Japanese UWC Committee is committed to giving Japanese students an experience outside of Japan, Japanese students selected by the UWC Japan National Committee will not be sent to ISAK

Contact

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