

Education for the future

At the new UWC Robert Bosch College in Freiburg, young people from **more than 70 countries** live and learn together.

By now, the last backhoes are long gone from the UWC Robert Bosch College campus, and the former Carthusian monastery, now freshly renovated, gleams in the sunshine of a Freiburg winter. With the completion of construction work, the hundred UWC students can finally settle into a daily routine at the college. These young people from around the world have now been living and learning together in Freiburg for more than three months. And they share more than just the residence halls or a four-person room. They also face everything life at a boarding school entails: stress with homework and feeling homesick, but also a strong sense of community and acquiring valuable lessons for life. "Living here with people from all different cultural backgrounds is really wonderful. The way we work together to approach different issues is incredible. We've become like a family," says 19-year-old Daniel from the Philippines, who shares his room with students from Germany, Serbia, and Spain.

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Daniel and his classmates attend lessons in a former monastery constructed by the Carthusian order. The curriculum includes traditional subjects such as mathematics and history, as well as classes in environmental



Bosch (left) at the opening ceremony for the UWC Robert Bosch College; the new buildings for students and teachers (top right).



studies, where students learn more about sustainability and conserving resources. The issues of nature and technology and the guiding principle "Sustainability through Innovation" are an important aspect of the new school's profile.

The UWC Robert Bosch College is "a school that makes the world a little bit better." So said Freiburg Mayor Dieter Salomon during the opening ceremony in late September 2014 in front of 400 attendees from the world of business and politics around the globe. Television presenter Sabine Christiansen and two former UWC students guided visitors through the program, which included song and dance performances by students.

This sort of creativity is typical for UWC. Extracurricular activities (also known as CAS - creativity, activity, and service) are an important component of daily life at the school. During their international baccalaureate program, the students also take on volunteer work - at a Freiburg nursing home, for example, or in the garden of the former Carthusian monastery. "CAS is a great opportunity to try out different types of work while at the same time pushing the limits of your abilities," Daniel explains.

"We can only succeed through global cooperation." The grandson of Robert Bosch, Christof Bosch, directed these words at the visitors and students from around the world at the school's opening ceremony - knowing full well that global cooperation begins in the classroom - and sometimes in the garden! *JMB*

The project

The groundbreaking ceremony for the UWC Robert Bosch College in Freiburg was held in 2011 on the **150th birthday of Robert Bosch**. Robert Bosch was a proponent of the philosophy of German educator Kurt Hahn, who later founded the first UWC in Wales. The UWC Robert Bosch College is the first of its kind in Germany; there are 14 in other countries. A former Carthusian monastery was renovated and converted into premises for the school. The former chapel is now a library, and the gatehouse serves as the

principal's office. The Robert Bosch Foundation and Robert Bosch GmbH expanded the baroque monastery buildings from the 18th century, adding a modern cafeteria and auditorium as well as 12 new residence halls for students and teachers. The foundation and the company invested over €40 million, making the UWC **the biggest single project in the history of the foundation**. Bosch oversaw construction, and provided the combined heat and power unit and the school's appliances.

Students describe their first impressions

Marina, 16, Germany

New friends from all over the world, teachers who invite you over for tea, roommates who help you with your German homework, endless discussions, burning the midnight oil doing schoolwork, running to class in your pajamas at 7:59 in the morning - all those experiences were typical of my first weeks at UWC. It might sound crazy, but I've already made 102 friends from around the world. My cousin told me about UWC one-and-a-half years ago. I got excited about it right away and just had to apply. My most important goal here is to have two wonderful, thrilling, educational, enriching, dizzying, and happy years. I also want to learn how to live in a more sustainable way, to discover more about the environment, to make a cookbook with recipes from around the world, and to learn at least one new language.



Daniel, 19, the Philippines

Learning at a school with people from so many different cultural backgrounds is a fantastic experience. Right when I arrived, I was greeted with cheers and applause. I already feel at home here. We have a close relationship with our teachers; they encourage us to contribute our ideas and hone our critical thinking skills. I made it to UWC thanks to a scholarship and the strong support I received from many people. That was overwhelming for me because, after finishing school, I had planned to work for a fast-food chain in my hometown and then see what sort of prospects were available to me. I still don't know where life will lead me. Now, it's important for me to learn how I can make a difference in my environment, and how even the littlest things I do can make people smile. Because I know how it is to be alone, to not have anyone there for you.



Maria, 17, Peru

I arrived late at night. The next morning, I met Victor on the way to breakfast. He introduced himself and hugged me right away. Then he showed me around the campus and stayed by my side the entire day. We've become best friends. I really enjoy the fact that in class we look at issues from a wide range of different perspectives, and we can make comparisons because we all come from different countries and cultural backgrounds. I applied to UWC because I'm convinced that it is the best place for me to discover and develop my talents. And I want to learn how to influence what happens in my country and the rest of the world, so I can make things a little better. I want to show the world what I can do, always do what I love, and love what I do.

