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Looking back on school year
2025 - 2026



Your support continues to make a meaningful difference at UWC Maastricht. Thanks to you, we are able to offer opportunities to talented young people from a wide range of backgrounds, helping ensure that financial circumstances are not a barrier to accessing a UWC education. At the same time, the impact of scholarships extends far beyond the students who receive them. They help shape the diverse and internationally minded community that defines life at UWC Maastricht, where students learn with and from one another every day. Throughout this report, you will read stories from students and alumni whose journeys reflect the wider impact of our educational mission. Some received scholarships themselves, while others have been shaped by being part of this uniquely diverse learning environment. Together, they demonstrate how education at UWC Maastricht encourages young people to engage with the world around them and contribute positively to their communities. We strongly believe in transparency and in sharing with our supporters how their contributions help strengthen our school community and mission.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and commitment of everyone who supports UWC Maastricht. Together, we continue to invest in a generation of young people determined to help build a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Class of '26



168

Students graduated in May!



72

of them received a full or partial scholarship.



UWCM was like a rollercoaster that never really stops, you just enjoy it as it keeps going up and down. At the same time, it felt like a huge cake that I loved so much that even when I was too full to keep eating, I still wanted another bite. And now that I've had the last one, I'm just really grateful I got to experience it all.

Pierina, Venezuela / Italy

130

will start higher education at universities around the world, the vast majority of whom have been awarded scholarships or financial aid.



One of the most impactful parts of my time at UWCM was participating in the International Peace Conference. It showed me how individuals like us can truly make a difference in the lives of others. The experience broadened my worldview in ways I never expected.

Zanchao, China



Being surrounded by people from more than 100 nationalities and learning their stories deepened my empathy and strengthened my belief in the power of community. It helped me realise that I want to spend my life helping others in whatever way I can and giving back to the communities around me.

Samara, India

38

students are taking a gap year - for instance to travel, volunteer, pursue internships or complete their military service.

Philanthropy

We received
€1.872.320,- for
scholarships in the
2025-26 school year.

UWC INTERNATIONAL

We received **€1.179.052,-** in partnership with UWC International, the representative body of the UWC global movement.

FOUNDATIONS & FUNDS

Davis - Dare to Dream Programme, Horizon Foundation, RISE Foundation, The EU Scholarship Programme for Cypriot Youth at UWC and other programmes.

UWC MAASTRICHT

€693.268,- was donated directly to UWC Maastricht.

INDIVIDUALS

31% came from individual supporters inside and outside of UWC Maastricht. Parents, philanthropists, alumni and other people who want to contribute to a better world.

COMPANIES

31% came from businesses that identify with our mission for peace and a sustainable future and want to invest in young talent. These are companies that support us as part of their corporate social responsibility policy.

We want to explicitly thank these major donors: Allostasis Comm. V., Borgen Tax, Boston Scientific, Centrum voor Stressmanagement, Coney Minds, Daelmans Vastgoed, DHL SSC, Eurocontrol, Hannah Skin Improvement, Kevlar Bids, Marieke Vreugdenhil coaching, training en mediation, Maxion Wheels, Medtronic, Nedlin, NOVUM Hotels B.V., Oh My People, Ruijters Vastgoed, Sabic Europe, Schlössels Financieel Advies, ScS Invictus, SHV Energy, Simone Levie Company, Vrouwen Medisch Centrum, Westfalia Fruit and Zakenvrouwenclub.

FOUNDATIONS & FUNDS

38% came from foundations and funds, from global to more local oriented partners.

We want to explicitly thank these major donors: Cura II, dsm - firmenich Progress Foundation, HUP Foundation, Sint Clemens Stichting, Stichting de Hoorn, Stichting Den Brinker, Stichting Kanunnik Salden and Stichting R.K. Weeshuis.



"As a mother of a UWCM graduate Class of 2024 and two current secondary school students, I have always felt grateful that our kids have the opportunity to attend the UWC IB curriculum. Realizing how important it is to share opportunities in an increasingly divided world, it is wonderful to support talented young women from the MENA area and other students from conflict zones. Education is a powerful path to personal growth and the students remind us time and again that most learning comes from getting out of your comfort zone, resilience and determination."

Gemma van der Ende – Sponsor
Female Empowerment Project

Access & Opportunity

At UWC Maastricht, we believe that education is important for all young people, regardless of their background. Our classrooms bring together students from a wide range of countries, cultures and economic situations. To ensure this diversity, we offer scholarships to students who have the talent and drive to thrive at our school but lack the financial means. These scholarship students learn alongside peers from different walks of life, enriching the educational experience for everyone. While our community is made up of students from all over the world, we actively raise funds to support specific groups who face greater barriers to access, such as young women from the Middle East and North Africa, students from conflict zones and refugees. We are confident that the education they receive here will not only empower them and strengthen our community, but also help them contribute to a better future for their home countries.

Highlights

2025 - 2026

Our primary highlight of this past year is, of course, the numerous scholarships we awarded to students. But that's not all!



» UWC Maastricht received the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award at the TES Awards for International Schools 2025. The award recognised our Female Empowerment Project, which provides scholarships and opportunities for young women from conflict-affected and disadvantaged backgrounds.

» We celebrated the 5th edition of our United Women Conference. Together with students, donors and partners, we looked back on five years of the Female Empowerment Project, which has already enabled more than 44 girls from war-affected and post-conflict regions to complete their education at UWC Maastricht.

» UWC Maastricht celebrated the opening of its Tiny Forest, transforming part of the campus into a thriving green space for biodiversity, education and community engagement. The project reflects our commitment to sustainability and hands-on environmental action.

» UWCM student **Balsam** from Sudan represented the province of Limburg in the national final of the V-rede, a nationwide speaking competition focused on peace and dialogue, after winning the provincial selection round.

And of course, these are just a few of the many initiatives and achievements that made an impact this year.

Our Impact

LOCAL IMPACT

Making a positive contribution to society is deeply embedded in life at UWC Maastricht. Through community service and social engagement, our students are encouraged to look beyond themselves and actively connect with the world around them. Together, they contribute around 40.000 hours of service each year to initiatives across Maastricht and the wider region. Their involvement takes many forms, from supporting elderly people and mentoring children with disabilities to environmental projects, food bank initiatives and other community-based programmes. Through these experiences, students not only support others, but also develop empathy, responsibility and a deeper understanding of the role they can play in creating positive change.



This school year, Nico has been volunteering at Resto Van Harte, a community initiative that brings people together through shared meals and conversations. Here, local residents come together for a warm dinner and the chance to connect with others in their neighbourhood. Through this service, Nico has supported the local community while also learning from the stories and experiences of both guests and fellow volunteers. At the same time, he has been developing practical skills in hospitality and large-scale catering.

GLOBAL IMPACT

The impact of our students extends far beyond the Maastricht region. Through their education at UWC Maastricht, they develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to address challenges in their own communities and countries. Many continue this work during school breaks or alongside their studies, leading initiatives and contributing to causes they care deeply about.

Across the world, our students and alumni are driving positive change. They are advancing human rights, developing solutions for environmental challenges, improving access to education and healthcare and working towards more just and sustainable societies.

Louis launched a youth-led initiative aimed at strengthening literacy, public speaking and debate skills among young people in rural communities in the Philippines. Together with local volunteers, he reached more than 100 students across three schools through literacy activities and storytelling sessions.

To support learning beyond the workshops, he also organised a large-scale book donation campaign, collecting around 500 books and providing school supplies to participating students. By combining skills development with access to educational resources, the project helped empower young people to build confidence, develop critical thinking skills and continue learning after the workshops ended.



Since graduating from UWC Maastricht, **Aoife** has combined her passion for social justice, gender equality and storytelling in both her professional and personal work. As a lawyer, policy advisor, activist and co-owner of an independent bookshop, she is committed to amplifying voices that are too often overlooked.

In 2026, Aoife published *Vrouwen van Amsterdam*, a book highlighting hundred women whose contributions to society are commemorated in Amsterdam's street names.

Through the project, she draws attention to the limited visibility of women in public spaces and the importance of recognising diverse role models from history. Aoife hopes her work will encourage more inclusive representation and inspire future generations to see themselves reflected in the world around them.

Through her writing and advocacy, Aoife continues to challenge inequality and promote a society in which more stories, perspectives and experiences are seen and valued.



2026 - 2027

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue growing the impact of UWC Maastricht, both through scholarships and through initiatives that strengthen our mission of education for peace and a sustainable future.

On 1 October, we will host the 6th edition of the United Women Conference, bringing together people from different backgrounds who share a commitment to creating opportunities for young women around the world.

We also look forward to further strengthening the culture of philanthropy that already exists across our community, engaging more students, families, alumni and staff in creating opportunities for future generations of UWC students.

The new school year will also mark a transition within our Advancement Team. After more than ten years at UWC Maastricht, Sandra van den Tillaard has left the school. The team will now enter a new chapter under the leadership of Charlotte Groven and Nadine Lemmens.

And of course, we look forward to welcoming **193** new students to UWC Maastricht in September, **89** of whom will join us on full or partial scholarships. Keep an eye on our newsletters and invitations for more updates. And if you'd like to connect, feel free to reach out for a personal appointment. We always enjoy hearing from you!



HELP US BE THE CHANGE.

uwcmaastricht.nl

This paper is eco-friendly, it consists of 75% agricultural waste and 25% bamboo. No trees were felled for this paper. In addition, PaperWise paper is food-safe and fully compostable.

Advancement Team - UWC Maastricht

- **Charlotte Groven**, *Director of Advancement (Lead Philanthropy & Fundraising)*
- **Nadine Lemmens**, *Director of Advancement (Lead Marketing, Communications & Alumni Relations)*
- **Nikos Gourgouletis**, *Junior Communications & Alumni Officer*
- **Olina Hakala**, *Management Assistant Advancement Team*