



SUMMARY

“Connecting with the Mediterranean” is an exciting project that will bring together 45 young people from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and America for a two-week summer leadership course in Lebanon to:

- Encourage critical thinking and awareness of the MENA region in relation to Europe.
- Create a safe space for dialogue, in which similarities and differences, on a personal, and cultural level between participants can be explored together.
- Promote a sense of idealism, international and intercultural understanding, compassion and service, personal responsibility and integrity.
- Equip participants with the courage to apply the skills, knowledge and ideas gained from the short course in community projects back home that they either join or initiate themselves.
- Apply theoretical knowledge in practice by working hands-on with local initiatives in Lebanon.
- Benefit from cultural exchange through teamwork and collaboration with young people from around the world.
- Become inspired to start up development initiatives in their home communities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To instill in the participants a deep sense of responsibility and commitment to the idea of connecting across cultural and socio-economic divides, to foster personal and social awareness; and to inspire them to be pro-active agents for social change through their own initiatives.

DATE & LOCATION

This two-week course will take place from July 2 -16, at Shangrila, Laqlouq, Lebanon.

PROGRAMME

The programme will cover a wide range of subjects relevant to social and political issues in Lebanon, the MENA region, Europe and globally, including:

1. Identity: the self versus the other (political and cultural bias)
2. Lebanon: historical and cultural context, current challenges
3. Social movements
4. Sustainability: climate, pollution and waste management
5. Theories of change: conflict mediation
6. Migration and Integration
7. The digital future

MODULES

Introductory session: introducing Lebanon and the Short Course; team building including outdoor activities

Theme days: in-depth engagement with topics listed above. Predominantly theoretical knowledge will be passed on in workshops and seminars

Community breakout days: Participants will be given a chance to meet local activists and community leaders, allowing them to see how the theories are applied in the real world. This will also provide a more concrete understanding of how people function in the real world. We will dedicate a day to understanding Lebanon, its history and complexities, delivered in Byblos

Project Days: Participants are expected to develop their own projects. The aim is to give students the skills and knowledge on how to brainstorm, plan for and put into action projects that they are passionate about and which contribute to the community.

Global Cafes: Daily, participants will be invited to deliver their own workshop on an aspect of life from their country/community to the other students. These are done individually or in groups.

Outdoor activities: This year, we are building in far more outdoor sporting activities into the programme, with specialized monitors overseeing camping, hiking, swimming and climbing. Students will also be encouraged to organise their own recreational games like football, basketball and yoga.

Closing Days: Feedback and thinking ahead, with a keynote speaker to help put the short course in a broader context

ORGANISING TEAM

Our team of organisers and facilitators are volunteers experienced in the management of youth courses. The coordinators from the UWC Lebanon national committee will be working with the eleven facilitators to direct and support the curriculum development.

FACILITATOR TEAM

Marea Grinvald *UWC Short Course Montenegro '02*

Marea is a Societies, Environmental Studies, and Biology teacher at UWC Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Originating from Serbia, she holds a Master degree in International Development and another in Conservation Biology. She spent many years consulting and conducting humanitarian aid projects for refugees in Serbia, France, and the Czech Republic. Marea believes education is the root of protection for vulnerable populations, and previously volunteered on the UWC Short Course in Montenegro in 2006.

Christof Ephraim *UWC Adriatic '08*

Christof is a policy officer at the Directory-General Police in the Ministry of Justice and Security in the Netherlands. He holds a Master degree in Intelligence and International Security from King's College London and Liberal Arts Degree in Global Challenges from Leiden University College. In addition to Christof's experience working in security analysis and intelligence, he continues to support UWC by participating in student selections in the Netherlands and Lebanon.

Rabail Habib *UWC Red Cross Nordic '12*

Rabail is a Communications and Partnerships Development Intern at the United Nations Office for Project Services in Islamabad, Pakistan. She is Pakistani and holds a BA in Communication from Northwestern University with a focus on film and video. Rabail organized and coordinated three short courses in Turkey, Bulgaria, and Tanzania. She also volunteered her time at the International School of Moshi in Tanzania, assisting the school in its journey to become a UWC.

Sanne Luijendijk *UWC Maastricht '13*

Sanne is pursuing a Master's degree in Intensive Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at SOAS University of London. She holds a BA in World Politics with a minor in Security Studies and Journalism from Leiden University College in the Hague. Sanne is Dutch and has a deep interest in issues of forced migration. She participated in numerous refugee initiatives in Haiti, Morocco, and the Netherlands.

Mohamad Chamas *UWC Costa Rica '14*

Mohamad is Lebanese, holding a BA in Global Cultural Studies and Education from Duke University. He teaches Math and Computer Science at Goodwill International School and is a UWC Lebanon national committee member. Mohamad combined his background in technology with his focus on education to design and implement interdisciplinary technology-driven curricula.

Mohamad facilitated last year's Lebanon Short Course and is on the organizing team of this year's edition.

Florentina Abendstein *UWC Adriatic '15*

Florentina is an Austrian fourth year student at the Edinburgh College of Art seeking a BA in Sculpture. She has extensive experience working with young people in Canada, Austria, Belgium, and the UK, and is passionate about identity and self exploration through visual art, as well as guiding others through the process.

Ardis Onnerfors *UWC Short Course Turkey '15*

Ardis is a third year Sociology student at the University of Glasgow. She is a recipient of the Global Citizen Award, for her volunteering work with youth in a variety of settings. Ardis' personal experience as a participant in a UWC Short Course inspired her to focus on youth education, specifically child-minding and refugee integration.

Haneen El Diri *UWC Dilijan '16*

Haneen is a Lebanese third year Psychology student at McGill University, where as floor fellow, she is responsible for the wellbeing of 50 university students. She has extensive research experience and starred, wrote, and directed in numerous plays. Haneen is assisting on a project documenting the experience of Lebanese women during the civil war. She facilitated last year's Lebanon Short Course and returning this year both on the organising team, and as the Participant Wellbeing Coordinator.

Bilal Hindi *UWC Atlantic College '16*

Bilal is a Palestinian third year student at the University of Richmond majoring in Psychology with a focus on Neuroscience while obtaining a minor in Biology and Health Care Studies. A Palestinian refugee from Lebanon, Bilal has a passion for understanding behaviour and cognition through biology and psychology. He has facilitated several UWC Orientation Camps in Lebanon, and hopes to see more youth benefit from a UWC education.

June Warde *UWC Mostar '17*

June is a Lebanese second year Economics and Psychology student at Northwestern University. She is fascinated about studying human behaviour through the perspective of economics, and hopes to someday work in education. June is Lebanese and is part of the production team for the largest student-run music festival in the US, Dillo Day. She is joining us again this year after being a facilitator on last year's Lebanon Short Course.

Mohammed Akel *UWC Atlantic College '18*

A Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, Mohammed is volunteering on the committee and at Mentor Arabia, the leading NGO in the Arab region promoting healthy lifestyles among youth. He will be joining us again this year as a facilitator on the Short Course, and will embark on his education at Brown University in the fall of 2019.

PARTICIPANTS

45 students, from 15-18 years old, will be chosen for their engagement, openness, intellectual curiosity and English ability, through application essays and individual Skype interviews.

The target breakdown of the participants in 2019 is the following:

- Lebanon 15 students
- MENA: 15 students
- Europe, Asia, Africa: 15 students

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Participants form bonds with peers from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.
- Participants conceive a personal development plan that includes concrete steps to implementing the change they want to see in their societies.
- Participants are exposed to multidisciplinary methods of understanding and solving problems on all levels.
- Participants acquire knowledge about the sociopolitical complexities of Lebanon and the region.

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For general information on UWC short courses, please see the international UWC website:

<https://www.uwc.org/shortcourses>