

A PROUD MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY – PEARSON COLLEGE UWC

Pearson College UWC (www.pearsoncollege.ca) has been a proud part of the Metchosin and Westshore communities for more than 45 years!

Founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific (a name we proudly use!) the College was inspired by the legacy of the former Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize (1957) laureate who asked: “How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don’t know each other?”

The commitment by Mr. Pearson and his peers to global education led to the creation of Canada’s only United World College here along the shores of Pedder Bay on the traditional territory of the Scia’new (Beecher Bay) First Nation. Today, Pearson College is one of 17 UWCs worldwide.

Nearly 4,200 young people – aged 16 to 19 -- from British Columbia, every province and territory of Canada and up to 160 countries and territories around the world have attended Pearson, which known as a “pre-university” school (Grade 12 and a pre-university year). Pearson’s academic curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program and is complemented by a strongly outdoors and community-oriented experiential education.

Experiential education means that you could easily run into our students anywhere in the community. For example, student emergency responders train with the Metchosin Volunteer Fire Department, students work with refugee and other newcomers through organizations like the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and are friendly visitors to regional seniors’ homes.

Over the years many Metchosin and Greater Victoria families have been part of our Host Family Program – an opportunity for local families to welcome Pearson students into their homes during school breaks – sometimes for a weekend or longer, sometimes just for a meal. Host Families share their home with young people who, in some cases, have never before travelled abroad.

Sometimes, people assume Pearson is “just another private school for the wealthy.” Nothing could be further from the truth. This year, thanks to the generosity of local, regional and international donors, more than half our students attend on full scholarships. Almost 90 per cent of students receive full or partial financial assistance.

LESTER B. PEARSON COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC AND UNITED WORLD COLLEGES (CANADA) INC

650 Pearson College Drive, Victoria, BC, Canada, V9C 4H7

P: +1 250 391 2411 E: info@pearsoncollege.ca www.pearsoncollege.ca

Located on the unceded territory of the Scia’new (Beecher Bay) First Nation

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This allows Pearson to welcome many students – from Canada and other nations -- who could not otherwise access this type of education. Many come from disadvantaged economic circumstances, some have even grown up as refugees and are the first in their families to reach this level of education. Most Pearson students go on to post-secondary institutions which can be a path to a more secure and stable future for entire families.

Merit and promise, not ability to pay, are the prime criteria for choosing students who attend Pearson and the 16 other UWC schools. We honour and practice “deliberate diversity” in student and campus life. That means, in any given dorm room housing four students, you could meet a young Indigenous scholar from an up-Island First Nation, a student from the Palestinian Territories, another from Israel and another from Burkina Faso.

The UWC network of schools take applications through UWC national committees through which students apply to attend a UWC school, not Pearson or another specific UWC institution (students can indicate preferences). For example, The [National Committee of Canada](#) (UWC-NCC) invites applications from any Canadian student in Grade 11 generally between August and late November every year. Young Canadians are selected to attend Pearson and every other UWC school.

Selection requires intellectual curiosity and motivation, active commitment, social competence, resilience, personal responsibility and integrity, as well as support for the [UWC mission and values](#). Those families who can afford to take on all or part of their child’s tuition are asked to do so. We believe that reflects both the principles of fairness and deliberate diversity.

We always welcome visitors to our campus for the many special events we host or just for a walk round our natural environment. Chances are, you’ll meet some of the friendliest and most interesting young people anywhere!

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