

POSITION: SCHOOL COUNSELOR (FULL TIME)

START DATE

August 1, 2022

DIRECT REPORTS / MAIN WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

The School Counselor reports to the Lead School Counselor. The main working relationships are the School Counselor, Deputy Head of Pastoral, School Nurses, Advisors, Residential Team.

OVERVIEW

UWC ISAK Japan's school counselors provide a space for students to be accepted and supported in challenges they may face. Challenges can range from academic stress, peer relationships, relocation, conflicts at home, or other issues that may be overwhelming. The counselors work collaboratively with students to develop resources that help them face these challenges in a healthy way. If students need additional resources not available within the school community, ISAK counselors will work together with local and regional professionals, along with relevant faculty/staff and the family of the student, to provide support for the student.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Administration:

- Support students in navigating their mental and emotional well-being
- Offer times to meet with students, where they can feel heard and supported in a non-judgemental setting
- Provide a space where students can de-stress in a guided/supported manner
- Coordinate adequate support for students with the faculty/staff and their families
- Refer students to other medical professionals when necessary
- Provide psychoeducational information and workshops for students, their families, and the faculty/staff

Communication:

- Provide information about the counseling and wellbeing program to parents, students and faculty
- Support relationships and communication between community members

The counselor will:

- Possess an understanding that Mental health and wellness is at the core of a student's academic and university application success as well as their ability to be happy
- Hold student-initiated meetings and meet with students referred by teachers, parents and administrators. Listen to student issues, ask clarifying questions and encourage students to guide a discussion of strategies that he/she might employ to address their issues.
- Where necessary, organize regular sessions with students to support them and follow up on their progress.
- Where necessary, refer students to a therapist or psychiatrist. Work with external professionals and parents, to support students in treatment.
- Work with Advisors and teachers to gather information about students' emotional well being and support required follow up where necessary.
- Support the adults in the school community with their own issues as they arise.
- Offer social-emotional programs to students on relevant topics based around health and well being.
- Work with the Residential Life Programme Coordinator to create student programming.
- Attend weekly meetings of the Counseling Department.
- Serve as a member of the Student Support Team and attend weekly meetings.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding student information disclosed during sessions.
- Keep accurate notes of counseling sessions in a timely manner.
- Notify and work with administration when there is indication or the belief that a student is in harm's way or that the counseling department lacks the resources to adequately support a student.
- Notify and work with Safeguarding Lead when the counselor has information or believes that a student is not safe.

REQUIRED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Requirements

- Master's or PhD degree in a helping profession or school guidance program with supportive counseling/therapy as part of the curriculum
- Professional training is required in the form of an internship if no employment experience

Professional Experience

- Experience working with teenagers in a mental health setting

Personality / Successful Traits

- Resonates with the UWC ISAK leadership model and willing to be an active participant in it

- Curious about and open to exploring mindfulness and design thinking in personal and professional life
- Positive; Enthusiastic about creating and contributing to a school that is evolving
- Pragmatic and resourceful; Able to identify needs and willing to address them
- Patient and flexible; Comfortable working in a school that is growing and evolving
- Self aware and motivated; engaged in continuous reflection and improvement
- Able to work independently and complete tasks without supervision while respecting existing roles and structures within the school
- Able to work in a team; enjoys collaborative teaching among different fields and inspired to work interdisciplinarily
- Enjoys a residential lifestyle; understands the demands and flexibility required of adults in a **residential environment**, including needs that come up unexpectedly.

INITIAL CONTRACT PERIOD

August 1, 2022 - July 30, 2024. Thereafter employment may be renewed by agreement.

SALARY

Salary is competitive for the region. The School Counselor role will be given priority for on-campus housing.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit a cover letter and resume using the subject line "School Counselor Job Posting" to: recruit@uwcisak.jp. Resumes will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

For more information about UWC ISAK Japan, please visit our website at www.uwcisak.jp

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are looking for applicants who will be a strong fit for our unique educational environment. Please read this general information and give it careful consideration before submitting an application.

UWC ISAK JAPAN CORE VALUES

A Shared UWC Mission

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

Our Distinct Identity

At UWC ISAK Japan we empower each other to be transformational leaders who explore new frontiers and make a positive impact today and in the future.

We believe not only in the power of education, but also in the power of young people to become catalysts for positive change. We aim to create an environment where students learn to understand and appreciate different perspectives, challenge themselves academically and emotionally, and develop their innate potential as change-makers who can identify what is most important and needed, take action in the face of discomfort, use diversity as a strength, and support others in this practice.

Our Motto

Our school motto reflects our hopes for and dedication to all UWC ISAK Japan students as they journey through one of the most important and exciting times of their lives.

One Life. Realize Your Potential. Be a Catalyst for Positive Change.

Leadership Education at UWC ISAK Japan

Part of our distinct identity as a UWC is our focus on leadership, specifically leading ourselves and leading with others. **We believe in transformational leadership.**

Who is a transformational leader?

A transformational leader is someone who consistently identifies what is most important and what is needed, takes action in the face of discomfort, uses diversity as a strength, and supports others in this practice. With continuous practice, a transformational leader creates positive change within self and the community at large.

A transformational leader consistently applies these foundational skills of leadership:

- Awareness: Deeply observes oneself and the environment, and understands what is important for self and the greater good.
- Connection: Empathizes with members of a community, understands their diverse potentials and values, and supports them towards a common goal.
- Action Taking: Steps out of one's comfort zone to courageously bring ideas to life.
- Self-Discipline: Responds positively to challenges with measured reflection, growth mindset, resilience and optimism.
- Creativity: Generates innovative ideas and questions and builds upon those of others

Leadership is a practice.

Leadership is not a position or status that a selective group of people earn, whether by the virtue of their economic or social position in society or their innate demeanor or personality. At UWC ISAK Japan, we believe that leadership is a practice. This practice is integrated into our [curriculum](#), and we believe that with practice, individuals can grow and integrate the essential skills of leadership.

About UWC

Founded in 1962, UWC (United World Colleges) is a global education movement that makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. UWC comprises schools and colleges in 18 countries, with national committees and selection contacts in more than 155 countries. UWC fosters a lifelong commitment to social responsibility, and to date has inspired a network of 60,000 alumni who believe it is possible to work for positive change.

The majority of students attending UWCs are selected by UWC national committees. In support of the belief that education should be independent of a student's ability to pay, 70% of national committee selected IB Diploma students receive full scholarships. The UWC movement places a high value on experiential learning, outdoor education, service and other cultural understanding, alongside the academically challenging International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

About UWC ISAK Japan

UWC ISAK Japan opened in 2014 as Japan's first full-boarding international high school. Following the Japanese school system, UWC ISAK is a three-year high school, with all students in grades 11 and 12 following the IB Diploma Programme curriculum. The school is accredited by the Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT) and all graduates receive a Japanese high school diploma.

Nearly 200 students from approximately 80 countries attend UWC ISAK Japan, with 70% of students receiving full or partial need-based scholarship support. 30% of enrolled students are Japanese, with the remaining 70% coming from homes outside of Japan.

Location

Karuizawa is located in Nagano Prefecture, home to the 1998 Winter Olympics and fondly referred to as the “Roof of Japan.” Karuizawa has been attracting an international mix of visitors since the late nineteenth century. The mountainous climate keeps Karuizawa cool and comfortable during Japan’s summer months, making it a popular escape from Tokyo’s heat and humidity. Karuizawa experiences four seasons with regular snow in the winter which generally lasts from early December through February. Monthly temperatures average between 21 and -5 throughout the year.

While the full-time population of Karuizawa is fewer than 20,000, the population of the town increases dramatically during the summer tourist season. From Tokyo, it takes approximately 70 minutes to reach Karuizawa station on the Shinkansen (Japanese bullet train).

Karuizawa is a favorite destination for outdoor enthusiasts and offers year-round recreation including hiking, cycling, tennis, golf and skiing. In addition, a vibrant arts & crafts scene includes art galleries and museums, a performing arts center, a symphony hall, and a community symphony. There are also many good restaurants with wide ranging cuisines, a large upscale outlet mall with designer shops, a variety of onsen hot springs and a local volcano, Mt. Asama.

UWC ISAK Japan is located on the outskirts of Karuizawa, in a quiet residential community and the school is not within easy walking distance to a train station or a large supermarket. Schooling options for faculty children are limited to the local public schools where all instruction and communication is in Japanese. We are not able to guarantee admission to UWC ISAK for faculty children in grades 10-12 or to guarantee scholarships if faculty children are admitted.

For more information about the town of Karuizawa, please go to the following website:

<http://www.japanvisitor.com/japan-city-guides/karuizawa-guide>