

SIL's Mission Statement: SIL exists to see: Papua New Guinea Empowered by the Written Word.

Mission Statement: The UIS mission is to support the work of the SIL by providing, in partnership with parents, a well-rounded educational program which is Christ-centered, academically excellent, culturally sensitive, and cognisant of individual personalities, needs and gifts.

The School:

- ☆ UIS is a Christian, Co-educational international school, teaching Pre-school through grade 12. We have three campuses: Pre-school; Kindergarten-Grade 6 (Primary School); Grades 7-12 (Middle School: 7-8 and High School: 9-12). Grades 7-12 are referred to as the Secondary School Campus.
- ☆ UIS is operated by SIL at Ukarumpa, the main SIL centre in PNG. It is located in the temperate climate of the Eastern Highlands.
- ☆ As an international school, we are accredited by the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) of the USA. The High School is registered by both the PNG and New South Wales (Australian) governments. It is also an established examining centre for the University of London.
- ☆ The Primary School has a special village program: Translators teach their children in the village with the school's curriculum and term outlines prepared by the classroom teacher. Village students have weekly radio contact with the classroom teacher in order to make the transition from village to classroom a smooth one.
- ☆ Total enrolment is about 400 students from numerous countries.
- ☆ The Primary School and High School each has its own administration (Principal and Vice-Principal) and they work together as a team to develop a coordinated curriculum and educational flow.
- ☆ Students at the High School, which is located on centre, have an eight period day with an hour for lunch. Most students go home during this time. The Primary School children begin their school day at 8:30 and end at 3:00, with 45 minutes for lunch, which is eaten at school.

The Staff:

- ☆ Teachers come with a wide range of teaching experience from many different countries such as Australia, Canada, England, Holland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, USA and others.
- ☆ Both long-term and short-term teachers are included on the staff. There is a good mix of young and retirement age, single and married teachers.
- ☆ The teachers all share a common professional and spiritual dedication, a vision for all the school's students and a oneness in Jesus Christ. We desire to see each of our students come to know Christ, and to present opportunities for growth in his/her Christian walk.
- ☆ The number of teaching staff varies, anywhere from 50-75 depending upon the number of part-time teachers at any given time.

The Students:

- ☆ The majority of students are SIL dependents (70%), with 16% national employee children, 7% from missions in the country and 7% commercial students, whose parents work at government/commercial offices located nearby.
- ☆ The majority of students speak English as a first language and core classes are taught in English. A number of students have English as a second or third language. 'Mother Tongue

Studies' are provided during certain periods of the school day for students whose first language is not English.

- ☆ There is a wide range of educational abilities among the students.
- ☆ Class sizes tend to be small.
- ☆ There is a frequent turnover of students during the school year as primary age students go in and out of the village with their parents, and students from all levels leave or return with their parents at furlough time.
- ☆ Many of the Middle and High School students spend part of the year in one of the six children's homes at Ukarumpa while their translator parents are in the village. These children's homes have married couples as houseparents and have about 6 - 10 students at one time.

The Curriculum:

- ☆ The school attempts to structure its courses in such a way that students will be equipped to enter the educational systems of their home countries (particularly American and Australian).
- ☆ Course offerings may change depending on the availability of teachers in the subject areas.
- ☆ Besides the academic courses, the school offers a variety of options in the practical and expressive arts when teachers are available.

The Calendar:

- ☆ The school year is in session all the year round. Currently the school year begins in July and ends in June.
- ☆ The school year is divided into four nine or ten-week terms, with a two-week break between each term in April and September, as well as a four-five week break in June and a five-six week break in December/January. Teachers are allowed four weeks of holiday each year. The two-week breaks are usually used to prepare for the next term.
- ☆ There are about 180 teaching days.
- ☆ There will be a "new teacher orientation" as well as a branch orientation when you arrive.
- ☆ Generally, students will arrive or leave the country during the June or December break. The Primary School has a more flexible schedule for comings and goings.
- ☆ You should plan to arrive at Ukarumpa shortly after Christmas or in early June in order to have time to get settled and prepared for school.

Supplies and Resources:

- ☆ We have available for your use: photo copiers, overheads with transparencies, multi-system VCRs, both MAC and Windows computers with CD ROM, general school supplies, background paper, textbooks, etc. Department heads can advise you about what to bring to help you in your particular grade level/subject or subjects.
- ☆ Each school has its own library.
- ☆ It would be wise to bring addresses and/or catalogues from your favourite supply houses.
- ☆ You may want to bring posters or borders for decorating a classroom.
- ☆ Most office supplies can be purchased in the SIL print shop or store.
- ☆ Check with the principal or department head concerning the availability of professional journals in your subject area. You may wish to order journals before you leave your home country.
- ☆ There are resources and reference materials available; however, we encourage you to bring teaching materials that you have found helpful in your teaching.

Teaching Atmosphere:

- ☆ The dress code of UIS is "comfortable." The men wear shorts or long pants and casual shirt. Women usually wear skirts or dresses to conform to PNG culture. Bring comfortable walking shoes and a pair of waterproof shoes. You will want warm clothing for cool days and nights.
- ☆ You might be asked to teach a range of subjects. Because of high school staff turnover, teachers are sometimes asked to teach courses outside their expertise.
- ☆ If you have musical talent, we'd love for you to share it with the staff and students. We have a good music program with bands and choirs.
- ☆ We have staff socials to say "hello" and "good-by" and just to have fun.
- ☆ We interact with the students in a variety of ways outside the classroom. We can meet one on one, work with Sunday evening youth groups, or be a class sponsor. We may even go on vacations with them or spend a school break helping out in a village of one of the students. (Things like this help keep us focused on the importance of teaching Missionary Kids.)

We have many extra-curricular opportunities available at the school: soccer, volleyball, softball, and track/athletics. Students can participate in extra musical or drama groups. We have a yearbook and student council. The Primary School has a Cultural Arts Day and a Book Week.

Professional Growth:

- ☆ In-service activities are scheduled for the full school staff in July and on other designated days.
- ☆ In an effort to continue professional growth, Azusa Pacific University (California, USA) offers a master's degree program in the area of Social Science with an emphasis on Human Resource Development. Professors visit Ukarumpa annually during the June break for workshops and classes.

Living Situation at Ukarumpa:

- ☆ We recommend that you bring things that will help you feel more "at home," such as pictures, knick-knacks, etc. If you have special soaps or medications, bring them. Bringing things that you are particular about would be wise, as purchasing ability is limited.
- ☆ The housing situation varies at Ukarumpa. Usually you will be staying in another missionary's home while he/she is gone. If someone is on furlough, you may rent a house from six months to a year or longer. If someone is in the village, it may mean anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. Each home has the essentials for setting up housekeeping so short-term teachers won't have to bring those items. Long-term teachers may wish to bring their own kitchen equipment, bedding, etc., but that is optional.