

GAT Programme Director



Andrew Webb

United World College, Phuket (Thailand)

As an educator Andrew believes passionately in the IB mission's to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people in order to create a better and more peaceful world. He sees the World Student Conferences as a perfect distillation of this spirit and as such, an ideal opportunity for students to come together to translate positive intention into meaningful action. He brings to Rotterdam the experience of three previous WSCs and an abiding enthusiasm for transformative collaboration and learning - elements at the heart of our 'Vital Cities, Vital Citizens' conference. Andrew has taught in England, Hong Kong and now Thailand, where he teaches DP English Language and Literature as well as Theory of Knowledge at United World College Thailand.

GAT Leaders



Aisha Beck

Lincoln High School, Oregon (USA)

I am Aisha Beck and I teach IB math and geometry at a public high school in down town Portland, Oregon, USA. It's very beautiful here in Oregon and I like to spend time hiking in the mountains and going to the beach. I'm looking forward to traveling to Rotterdam this summer to be part of another IB World Student Conference (this is my 5th). I'm particularly excited about Rotterdam's theme of Vital Cities, Vital Citizens as it's so relevant to my hometown. I look forward to talking with and listening to students and teachers from around the world as we explore issues around this theme. Every conference I've been to has inspired me with new ways of looking at the world. The photo of me is taken on the Interstate freeway bridge in Portland. They close the bridge down once a year for a bike ride over the city's bridges. My band plays on the top deck.



Jelena Došlov

Gimnazija Banjaluka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

I am a DP Philosophy and Theory of Knowledge teacher. While in my '20s I studied Philosophy and Sociology as my majors but two years ago I decided to explore a new field of knowledge for my Masters' degree. Then I chose to study International Studies and Public International Law, in particular.

I have been teaching for 7 years both in international and national education programs and during that time I have been given a number of opportunities, to explore, together with my students, the beauty of the world's miraculous diversity. I also have many versatile interests, ranging from reading epic fantasy, myths, philosophy, among others, to engaging myself in organizing and implementing different charity activities. I truly believe that a teacher should first inspire students to believe in their dreams and after that to motivate them to work hard on making these dreams to become true.



Catherine Jäger
Hillsboro High School, Oregon (USA)

Hi my name is Catherine Jäger, and I am from Bend, Oregon. I currently work in Hillsboro, Oregon where I teach IB HL DP History and am a Learning Resource Specialist. I am excited for the IBWSC and to learn from the students attending the conference and in turn to assist them in creating a respectful, thoughtful, and productive environment for discussions and action towards creating a better and more peaceful world.



Amy Schuff
*International School of Beaverton,
Oregon (USA)*

I am IB Diploma Program Coordinator and ToK Teacher (and HL History of Asia teacher) at the International School of Beaverton, in a suburb just West of Portland, OR. When I'm not working, you can find me gardening, hiking, cooking, walking my two dogs, going to movies, traveling, and participating on my Neighborhood Tree Team. I'm curious about how people manage to access nature while living as urbanites, and I want to know more about what city governments are doing to help their citizens have relationships with nature. And, so I'm very excited to learn more about how cities use urban design and city planning to make citizens lives better this summer in Rotterdam. See you soon!



Jayashankar Selvadurai
*International School Braunschweig –
Wolfsburg, Germany*

I am a teacher, research scientist, challenger, traveller, cricketer and a cook. This IBWSC is a one in life chance for a teacher to put himself among some vibrant and challenging minds. The “why and how” are the ones which is going to bring clarity and give birth to free thinkers. To assist such a team and to be part of it, is dream come true. This is going to be very challenging, this is going to be more than being smart, this is going to be absolutely thrilling, but this is what I want to experience. At the same time being part of the global event with a global player like IB is one proud moment. As an IB teacher, I also want to meet other IB educators and exchange learning experience, various aspects of approaches to teaching and be a lifelong learner. I would like to put myself in a new dimension and take that experience to further excel in my IB teaching career.



Kristen Wilcox

*Samuel Clemens High School, Texas
(USA)*

I am a high school art teacher from a small town near San Antonio, Texas, USA. I love to travel and meet people and usually travel to Europe each summer with students. I am so excited to have an opportunity to learn and grow with our future leaders as we all work towards finding sustainable solutions for our changing world!



Osman Yavasca

TED Ankara College, Turkey

I am an IBDP English and TOK teacher, and MUN advisor at TED Ankara College, and also a PhD student. I'm a keen traveller and amateur photographer, always after new experiences and memories. I'm looking forward to IBWSC 2018 Rotterdam as I know I will meet great people, great minds, great ideas, and will make great friends and memories. I hope to see you all there!



Omar Zúñiga

*Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School,
California (USA)*

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, USA. I am the youngest son of two amazing parents that immigrated to the United States from Mexico, in search of a new life. I currently serve as the IB Diploma Program Coordinator and IB Mathematics SL instructor at Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School in Lynwood, California! I have been involved in the IB DP for 10 years now. This is my first time serving as a GAT Leader at an IBWSC. I am very excited about meeting and working with students and colleagues from all over the world. I know that together, we will design amazing projects that will have a significant impact throughout the entire world! See you soon!!

Chaperones



Nancy Goss Duran
Portland (USA)

I am Nancy Duran from Portland, Oregon, USA and this will be my twelfth IBWSC as a chaperone. After raising three children and retiring from work I have enjoyed attending these conferences and meeting interesting young people from all over the world, making lifelong friends among the other chaperones, and seeing fabulous and beautiful universities while learning and touring in the process. I have spent memorable time in the Netherlands, but have not yet been to Rotterdam so am eagerly anticipating the conference and the appealing topic which is relevant to me at my age as well as upcoming generations of world citizens.



Dylan Ackerman
Falmouth (USA)

I am currently pursuing a major in psychology
I am from Cape Cod MA, USA
Very excited to see returning students and the GAT projects



Alejandra Acosta Casarez
Mexicali (Mexico)

Hi my name is Alejandra Acosta, I live in Mexicali, Mexico and I have been an English teacher for 15 years. I love reading, traveling, and spending time with my two dogs. I speak three languages but I'd like to learn more, and also more about different cultures. I enjoy working for the IB program because my students and I are constantly learning and discussing topics from all around the world.



Nazia Adeel
Karachi (Pakistan)

Hi, I am Nazia from Pakistan. I am a very passionate and enthusiastic teacher and a true believer of the IB philosophy.
I love to connect with people to explore and learn. So I am eagerly looking forward to IBWSC and the experiences I will imbibe therein.

I love singing, dancing and cooking; both at a bearable level. :)



Robert Buga
Kampala (Uganda)

I am Robert Buga D'jalo (very few use that, most people call me Bob). I was born in Uganda in the capital which is in East Africa and specially at the largest University in East Africa that is Makerere where my father was a professor.

I currently work at Kampala International School where I have worked for the last 10 years. I am the head of IT and Networks and ICT teacher. I teach IGCSE ICT and IB ITGS(I am also an IB ITGS Examiner). I am also one of the school football coaches. I coach the U11, U16 and U20 boys' teams. I am also a student pursuing my MBA in IT Executive Systems.

I am excited about the IBWSC this summer because I enjoy and love working with young people from diverse cultures and places. I always make friends at these conferences and I have kept in touch with many people I have met at the conferences. This is going to be the 4th IBWSC I am attending. I am also excited about touring the Netherlands which I have not visited before. Above all, I get to tell students about where I come from and what my part of the world is like.

Amanda Day
Dallas (USA)

My name is Amanda Day and I have been teaching high school for 15 years. This is my second IBSWC to chaperone and I excited to work with the students and to explore the wonderful city of Rotterdam.



Anita Ives
Broadstairs (UK)

I am a pastoral support officer and CAS coordinator in Broadstairs, Kent, UK. I work in a large mixed secondary school and have about 180 students completing CAS.

I am very lucky as I live very close to seaside, with lovely sandy beaches. I am also a girl scout leader.

I am really looking forward to meeting everyone and seeing Rotterdam. It was fantastic last year to see people making friends from around the world and coming up with some great CAS projects. I am sure this year will be even better!



Jaya Kalsy
Pune (India)

Jaya, is as an IB educator with over 10 years of experience. She has taught in National and International schools in India. Jaya has held variety of positions including, MYP Coordinator, Instructional leader, head of department, subject teacher and as a Head of Career's department. Her current role as a Diploma Programme Coordinator allows her to explore, ponder and seek inspiration from students all over the world. She works very closely with more than 100 esteemed universities across the globe to help and guide students for their university placements. Jaya is supporting the International Baccalaureate as an IB Examiner. She is enthusiastic about the IB Student Conferences and has served more than eight conferences in the past few years. She loves to interact with colleagues/ students from different countries to explore and experience what it means to be globally engaged.



Gerardo Lopez Verdugo
Mexicali (Mexico)

My name is Gerardo Lopez Verdugo and I'm from Mexicali, Mexico. I teach language B in the IB program. I have been in the program for seven years. This is my first time I have the chance to attend IB conferences and I am really excited about it. I hope it becomes a wonderful experience.



Lisa Mutter
Salem (USA)

I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA and now live in Woodstown, New Jersey; a small rural town in Southern New Jersey, USA. I am an IB Teacher/Librarian; Webmaster & Social Media manager for the Salem City School District & Salem High School, Salem, New Jersey. I attended the 2016 IBWSC in Switzerland as an Observer. Being an Observer was a fantastic experience, so I am looking forward to taking the next step as a Chaperone. I look forward to the opportunity to spend more time with students from around the globe; and, hope that this experience will allow me to be of further support to our rising IB seniors and future IB students. And, Erasmus University Rotterdam looks like a fantastic venue for this conference.

The picture is with a former IB student (I have the Candy Cane headband, which was a gift from Kristaly during our Candy Cane Gram sale)

Shelley Maximitch Johnston
Abbotsford (Canada)

My name is MJ and I teach at an IB school in British Columbia, Canada. I have been participating in the IBWSCs since 2012 and I am excited to learn how Rotterdam has used its own experiences to shape the theme for the 2018 IBWSC.



Jacob Navarrete
Dallas (USA)

I'm Jacob Navarrete from Dallas, Texas USA where I am the Associate Head of Upper School at Alcuin School, a Montessori and International Baccalaureate School. I love to travel, try new foods, and meet new people. This will be my first time in the Netherlands, and I'm thrilled to be engaging with everyone at the conference. While it's been a while since I was a high school student, I spend my days working to develop student life, so I'm looking forward to working with a globally diverse group of attendees! I cannot wait to see the wonderful creations and ideas that will surely occur during the conference.



Jeanette O'Brien
Düsseldorf (Germany)

I am the CAS coordinator at the International School of Dusseldorf in Germany.

This will be my second time as a chaperone at the IBWSC. It was a real pleasure to experience the conference and support the students from all over the world. I'm looking forward to meeting you all.



Kim Sieminskie
Poulsbo (USA)

I am from the USA, in transition from West Sound Academy in Poulsbo, WA to the Universal American School in Dubai in August. I teach French. This is my 6th IBWSC and I'm a firm believer in the value of these conferences. The speakers are always fantastic, the activities are fun and I've made friends from around the world.

Student Leaders



Hannah Tabor
Florida, USA

The IB World Student Conferences I attended were life changing in many aspects. I often refer back to the lessons I learned from the guest speakers in my studies as well as keep in touch with the incredible friends I made. The conferences implanted an international and intersectional mindset when dealing with issues of social justice and human rights. The conferences had such a profound and lasting impact that I actually aspire to direct student conferences on similar topics as a career in the future to educate and inspire people across the globe! I am ecstatic to return as a student leader to help ensure this year's IB students have as incredible of a week as I had!



Asterix Hassan
Montreal, Canada

Looking back at the conference I attended, the facilitators and speakers provided a lively experience for me. It imparted me with understanding of Social Justice and Human Rights. Looking forward to the 'Vital Cities, Vital Citizens' conference, I hope to enable others to make most of their time at the conference too. More importantly, I anticipate that all students will get new perspectives on how we plan and manage lives in cities in the future. As a student leader, I trust it's a week that most students attending will live remember.

Conference Management

We are the Conference Managers of the IBWSC and have been working behind the scenes for months to bring together a programme that will hopefully be inspirational, fun, and engaging for students and staff! We cannot wait to finally welcome everyone to Rotterdam!



I'm very much looking forward to seeing the students' take on the theme of vital cities and vital citizens, as I think it would be a huge inspiration for me raising my three sons. Also, I'm very excited to meet all of the GAT leaders and chaperones from around the world, and I'm thankful for their contribution to the programme. I'm sure we will all have an amazing time together!

Ernst Bakker



Ever since attending the IBWSC in Rochester last summer, I've been looking forward to hosting the conference in our hometown – the beautiful "010". I can't wait to hear what all the students' thoughts are on the theme, and what projects they will work on during the week... hopefully while gaining life-long friends and enjoying all the activities we have in store for them!

Emma Hamilton

And of course, we could not do this without some help... so we are very lucky to have some support on our Conference Management Team!



As Event Coordinator at Erasmus University Rotterdam, and having been born and raised in Rotterdam – I cannot wait to give the students and you an unforgettable Rotterdam Experience!

Jolande Blansjaar



Part-time I am a social activist on my own social media channels.. So I am particularly interested in equality, and I cannot wait until the conference to hear out all the students' amazing ideas on 'Vital Cities, Vital Citizens'!

Cece Dao

If you have any questions at any point in time, please feel free to reach out to us!
And make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and/or [Instagram](#) for the latest updates leading up to the conference!