



CASE STUDY

Summary

Since its inception in 2015, Ukraine Global Scholars has been on a mission to help talented, high-need students gain admission into the world's top colleges and universities, most of which are found in the United States. With UWorld's help, international students are seeing increased test scores and improved acceptance rates.

**Ukraine
Global
Scholars**

International Volunteer Group Prepares Low-Income Students for the American College Experience with UWorld

Since its inception in 2015, Ukraine Global Scholars has been on a mission to help talented, high-need students gain admission into the world's top colleges and universities, most of which are found in the United States.



Many of the UGS founders, board members, and mentors are alumni of American colleges and universities themselves, and the organization was founded on a desire to invest in the next generation of international students. Katerina Manoff, Director of Partner Relations, says:

“We want to see creative, ambitious Ukrainian students thrive academically and use what they learn to make a positive change in the world, especially here at home.”

Challenges abound for Ms. Manoff and the rest of the all-volunteer team of directors, but foremost among them is preparing students who come from impoverished communities for the SAT® or ACT®, America's college entrance exams. These students, though determined and loaded with academic potential, simply have not had access to quality educational opportunities.

“We accept a cohort of students each June. Most have zero experience with the SAT®. Some have never even heard of the test. Their initial test scores are low, 1000-1100. Our challenge is to raise these scores to over 1400 by early October.”

Katerina Manoff
Director of Partner Relations

In an effort to meet this challenge, UGS implemented a variety of test prep resources for their students such as practice tests, print materials, and sponsored content, but their students still were not hitting their target scores, leaving students and staff feeling frustrated.

–It wasthe students who first discovered UWorld.

Leadership within UGS was looking unsuccessfully for three things to help their students prepare for the SAT or ACT: 1) A rigorous test prep product that approximated the exam; 2) Fresh material that the students had not previously seen; 3) Accessibility for a grassroots, volunteer-run organization with a minimal budget.

Though the staff was having a difficult time checking all three boxes, the students weren't. The UWorld solution was student-driven. Ms. Manoff said it this way:

“We heard from our students, who had scoured every possible source of SAT practice problems and tutoring, that UWorld was one of the absolute top resources.”

After hearing from their students, UGS immediately implemented UWorld's online learning platform with over 2,100 practice questions that mimic the actual SAT exam as a learning supplement. Combined with other resources, the challenging questions and detailed answer explanations made an instant impact, contributing to student scores that increased by as many as 300 points in a month.

Valeriia's Story

Valeriia, a 17-year-old UGS student from a small town in Ukraine, is a recent example of the organization's success.

Valeriia is a typical UGS student, loaded with academic potential but denied many of the educational resources found in larger cities. Students in these cities have access to superior schools, modern educational equipment, and tutors to supplement their school curriculum. Valeriia did not.

Dreaming to attend college in the United States, Valeriia knew that a high SAT or ACT score was crucial, but once again, study resources are difficult to come by in the small town Valeriia calls home.

However, through UGS and their UWorld experiment, Valeriia was never at a disadvantage. The UWorld online learning tool helped give her the knowledge and confidence she needed to be successful on test day.

Not only did Valeriia apply to her dream college — Northwestern University — she recently found out that she was accepted! Thanks in large part to a 1520 on her SAT, beginning in the fall of 2020, Valeriia will be studying in the United States, wearing Wildcat purple.

"I used UWorld as a part of my preparation materials, and I increased my score from 1270 in August to 1520 on the real test in October. I appreciate UWorld for questions in Writing especially, which allowed me to review my mistakes and read explanations. It helped me to learn the various types of questions. On the real SAT®, I realized that I remembered how I answered similar problems within the UWorld materials. Improving my score with UWorld gave me the opportunity to apply to my dream college."

Valeriia



Scholars and mentors at the 2019 in-person intensive seminar in Ukraine. The annual summer tradition introduces new UGS cohorts to the US admissions process and formally welcomes them to the UGS family.

Stories like Valeriia's remind us that when hard work and a never-give-up attitude are paired with quality online test prep, every student — no matter what the circumstance — can hit their dream score and begin walking down the path to success.

Valeriia is just one of the many students who have gone through the Ukraine Global Scholars program and increased their test scores with UWorld. And UGS believes the best is yet to come.

When an organization with that kind of commitment and an educational partner like UWorld work together, a student's dream of attending a top college or university is one step closer to coming true.

“Our mission is to change the narrative for as many high-need Ukrainian students as possible. Our scholars are some of the brightest, most talented young men and women in their country. They do not deserve to be shut out from a high-quality education simply because they didn't have the luck to be born into wealthy families. We rely on support from organizations like UWorld and other partners who share this belief and help us support our students in the [college] application process.”

Katerina Manoff
Director of Partner Relations

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