

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

INVITATION PACKAGE 2011

23-25 February 2012
University of Alberta Campus
Fantasyland Hotel



Secretary-General's Welcome

Nolan Sawatzky

Dear Teachers, Students and Conference Attendees,

It is my pleasure to cordially invite you to the University of Alberta's High School Model United Nations (HSMUN) 2012 Conference! This year marks the 10th anniversary of HSMUN, and we are very excited to keep the tradition alive and well. For the past 10 years the University of Alberta campus has been transformed for three days of each year into a realm of negotiation and intrigue. We look forward to providing you with the incredible experience you have come to expect, with a few new twists thrown in.

HSMUN is a three day United Nations simulation, as part of which students will have the opportunity to take on the role of a UN delegate, representing a country or Non-governmental organization. Seven multilateral committees will work individually to draft resolutions to issues at hand, and a few from the past, before presenting these resolutions at plenary. We have many exciting topics on hand this year, ranging from developing a lasting and tenable peace settlement for Arab Spring states, to the question of the standardization of organic food labels. We hope that by giving students the chance to surround themselves in an environment of interstate diplomacy, they will learn about current global issues, the structure and function of the United Nations, the triumphs and challenges of international relations, and the relevance of globalization. We also hope that HSMUN will allow students to gain confidence in their public speaking abilities, and expand their capacity to think critically about the world around them.

HSMUN 2012 will take place from Thursday February 23 to Saturday February 25, 2012 on the U of A main campus. The conference will commence with opening ceremonies on Thursday night and wrap up on Saturday afternoon with closing plenary. There will also be a banquet and dance for all conference attendees held at the Fantasyland Hotel on Friday evening. The conference fees are \$65 (or \$60 for the early bird rate), and cover the cost of the conference and banquet, as well as a pizza lunch on Saturday. As well, new this year, students will have the opportunity to purchase HSMUN t-shirts for \$15.

I strongly urge you to check out our website, www.ualberta.ca/~hsmun as it will be the main source of conference information. As well, follow the HSMUN blog, which contains important information for delegates. Emails and our website will be the main form of communication, in the interest of sustainability and making the transition to be a "green" conference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at hsmun@ualberta.ca. With a full array of exciting topics, an amazing staff, and outstanding facilities at the U of A, we fully expect to put on a conference that will do the last ten years of HSMUN proud. The only thing missing from this equation is a group of delegates prepared to learn about international affairs, and fun doing so. I look forward to meeting you all in February!

Sincerely,

Nolan Sawatzky
Secretary General HSMUN 2011



“HSMUN gave me a chance to improve on my own research and public speaking skills in a way that just doesn’t happen in the classroom. Here, you want to do well, but it’s not about the grades.” – Student Delegate



Conference Information

What

The tenth annual University of Alberta High School Model United Nations Conference is an opportunity for high school students to assume the role of delegates in simulated high-level meetings of United Nations committees including the Security Council and the General Assembly. Students research their country’s foreign policy position ahead of time, and then work in mock multilateral committees of approximately 60 delegates to draft, deliberate, and vote upon United Nations resolutions seeking solutions to global problems. This year’s committees and topics are attached.

Where

The conference will be held on the main Edmonton campus of the University of Alberta. Registration and Opening Ceremonies will take place in the brand new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) in the north-west section of the campus. Committee sessions will be held in the Natural Resources Engineering Facility (NREF). The Friday evening banquet will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall.

When

The Conference will take place 23-25 February 2012. Opening ceremonies and registration will be held on the evening of Thursday, 23 February. Committee Sessions will take place over the following two days. A banquet and dance will be held for all delegates on the evening of Friday the 24th. The plenary and closing sessions will take place on the afternoon of Saturday the 25th.

Accommodation

Out-of-city schools are responsible for finding their own accommodations in Edmonton. However, we recommend contacting the Lister Conference Center for information. They can be reached by e-mail at guest.services@ualberta.ca or online at <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/conferenceservices/Accommodation.cfm>.

Why Attend HSMUN?

Understand Global Interactions

Model United Nations proceedings are a tremendous way of exposing students to the fundamentals of international relations and global governance. More than 90% of delegates to the 2006 HSMUN conference agreed or strongly agreed that their “understanding of the United Nations and international affairs was improved by the conference.”

Critical Debate, Cooperative Solutions

HSMUN offers an opportunity for students from many different schools and backgrounds to work together to tackle complicated issues of an international scope. In drafting position papers, engaging in deliberations, and collaborating through resolution building, delegates are challenged both to think on their feet, and to sufficiently research their given topics.

An Engaging Experience

Given the track record of the conference as offering a compelling simulation of world affairs, it is no surprise that students respond very positively to High School Model United Nations. More than four in five of the grade ten and eleven delegates to HSMUN 2006 agreed that they would “consider attending HSMUN again in the future.”

It is also worth noting that an ever-increasing number of the conference volunteer staff is composed of past participants. If you have any questions about our experiences with conferences of past years, or with regards to HSMUN 2011, please send us an email at hsmun@ualberta.ca.

“I can’t remember the last time I had this much fun doing something educational. I will never forget this!” – Student Delegate





“HSMUN really helped me to improve my public speaking skills and self-confidence. I can’t wait for next year!”

- High School Delegate

Committees and Topics

As always, HSMUN aims to provide a variety of committees and expose delegates to topical current issues around the world. During the conference committees will spend the majority of their time reaching agreement on the prescribed topics listed below. However delegates should keep in mind that should a pressing international crisis arise in any committee all debate on their current topic will be suspended until the crisis is resolved.

United Nations Security Council

The Security Council is the most powerful body of the United Nations, as it alone has the power to make resolutions binding upon member states. It is also one of the most diplomatically challenging committees, as each of the permanent five members has the right to veto draft resolutions. Therefore delegations with seats on the Council will be asked to send two members who are well-prepared to meet the high-paced demands of governing on an international scale.

Topic: the question of fostering a lasting and tenable peace settlement for Arab Spring states.

This topic will be based on the events in North Africa and the Middle East in 2011. Unfortunately, they are ongoing, so the topic should be drafted in a wide, general sense. Issues to consider are the framework for arms control (e.g. carried out by UN or other agency), the political system (e.g. liberal democracy vs. theocratic dictatorship), and the question of deploying peacekeeping forces (e.g. UN/ AU/ NATO?). They will also have the opportunity to resolve a crisis situation which will develop as the conference nears.

General Assembly I - Disarmament and Security (GA I – DISEC)

The first committee of the United Nations General Assembly, DISEC, has a mandate to discuss those issues pertaining to international peace and security which are not under deliberation by the Security Council. This committee is often called upon to make resolutions to secure peace into the future.

Topic 1: The question of dealing with the cross-border proliferation of small arms.

Issues to consider within this topic include indicating the most likely ways in which small arms proliferate (e.g. trafficking/ state breakdown/ terrorism), the countries most implicated in this (both the responsible ones and the ones suffering), and ways of dealing with trafficking (e.g. assigning control to an agency answerable to UN or getting states to cooperate, etc.). This topic should reflect on previous UN resolutions and how to overcome their inadequacies. Arab Spring events should also be considered in light of how they may cause an upsurge in arms proliferation.

Topic 2: The question of military tactics resulting in a high percentage of 'accidental' civilian deaths.

Certain military practices have been banned in various UN and non-UN conventions (land mines, napalm bombs, certain biological weapons, etc). However, certain tactics and weaponry continue to be used despite their destructiveness and lethal consequences for civilians. Issues to consider include which tactics/ weapons which fall under this characterization (e.g. carpet bombing), which countries profit or are victimized by these practices, when they are legitimate, and how to deal with them. For an example, civilian death toll throughout the US involvement in Iraq may be considered.

General Assembly VI - Legal (GA VI - LEGAL)

The UN General Assembly has an express mandate to promote the progressive development of public international law. Article 13 of the UN Charter establishes, in particular, that the "General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of: encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification."

Topic 1: The question of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction in carrying out anti-terrorist operations.

This topic relates to the legality of carrying out anti-terrorist operations within the territorial borders of another state (e.g. US air-strikes against the Taliban in Pakistan). Questions to consider include the necessity of universal jurisdiction, which countries would benefit or lose from it, how to retain territorial integrity despite universal jurisdiction, and the definition of anti-terrorist operations.

Topic 2: The question of criminal accountability and immunity of UN personnel.

As diplomatic staff, UN personnel enjoy immunity from prosecution in foreign countries. While this may be necessary to protect them from arbitrary politicized prosecution, this has at times provided UN staff with impunity in carrying out criminal activity. Issues to examine include the costs and benefits of immunity, ways to balance it with criminal accountability, and which countries which lose and benefit from this policy.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO is tasked with the maintenance of international public health. It makes recommendations for measures and policies to improve health outcomes for people around the world.

Topic 1: The question of creating a framework for dealing the rapid spread of contagious diseases.

This topic should be framed in light of the experience of the avian flu pandemic. Issues to consider include production of vaccines, global distribution schemes, and the dealing with panic. This would tie into the relationship between pharmaceutical property rights and the needs of the global community.

Topic 2: The question of providing mental health services to developing countries.

While the UN and NGO's provide ample medical aid for regular health services, mental health is often neglected. This topic should appraise the importances of providing mental health services vis a vis other medical aid, and which countries would be the primary beneficiaries and benefactors of the framework. This issue can be viewed against the backdrop of conflict and the increased need of mental health rehabilitation connected to it.

General Assembly III - Social, Humanitarian Cultural Affairs Committee (GAIII - SOCHUM)

The General Assembly allocates to its Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee, commonly referred to as the "Third Committee", agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world.

Topic 1: The question of dealing with women's rights violations in countries which only formally prohibit them.

Most countries have officially signed on agreements testifying to their intention to respect women's rights. The extent to which these formalities are kept, however, is a different issue. Questions to consider include which countries are most notorious at violating women's rights despite formal protections and how to sanction violators.

Topic 2: The question of safeguarding human rights in prosecuting counter-terrorism policies.

Counter-terrorism policies may require extraordinary measures, but a balance must be found with basic human rights practices. Where should this balance be struck? Which countries have stakes in violations of human rights for security practices? How do we define counter-terrorism? These are the questions that this issue should unpack.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme aims “to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations”.

Topic 1: The question of environmental accountability for resource extraction.

Resource extraction often causes massive damage to the environment, but is undeniably necessary for day-to-day economic operations. The issue should consider the extent of permissible environmental damage that resource extraction entails, which states are the most notorious in these practices, and whether private-sector should be accountable (and to what extent) for repairing damages.

Topic 2: The question of standardization of the 'organic' food label.

The organic food label is used for cause-marketing in many Western countries, but standards are varied and sometimes a sham. A standard world organic brand could have impacts on environment (better practices) and economy (developing economies could have another cash-crop area). However, Third World countries may not have the resources necessary to grow in sustainable ways, and would become further disadvantaged in agriculture.

Historical General Assembly

For the first time ever, in celebration of HSMUN’s tenth anniversary, a special General Assembly will be held. This committee will include all of the countries who sat on the General Assembly in 1947.

Topic: The Creation of the State of Israel

Due to the historical nature of this committee, delegates will not be able to use information or examples from beyond November 1947. The intent in this is to recreate as much as possible the conditions of the original debate, and not to inform countries’ decisions in retrospect. More information will be provided to delegates who are placed on this committee closer to the conference date.

Press Corps

Participants in the press corps will be assigned particular committees to follow and be responsible for reporting to the Daily Delegate newspaper and International News Net video briefings at the end of each session of debate. The Press Corps at HSMUN plays an important role in ensuring debates in committees stay on topic, are productive and efficient, and that specific delegations follow their foreign policies. Positions in the Press Corps are limited so schools are asked to send no more than 3 press delegates (unless space permits)

University of Alberta HSMUN 2012

Registration Form

Thanks for your interest in HSMUN 2012, which runs from February 23-25, 2012! Please complete this registration form and email it to hsmun@ualberta.ca.

Registration will open on November 1. If you would like to be considered in the first round of delegation assignments, please submit all the necessary information by November 15, 2011. Thereafter, delegations will be assigned on a case-by-case basis. Please note: Teams registering within the first assignment period are limited to a maximum of 50 students (there is no minimum number). After November 15, 2010 they are free to register as many additional students as space permits.

The total fee for each delegate is \$65. However, if fees are paid before December 15, 2011, there is an early payment price of only \$60 per delegate. Fees paid on or after December 15th, 2011 are subject to the full price of \$65. Registration fees are due no later than February 11, 2012. Fees are fully refundable up until that date. Fees will be payable for all delegations registered on the 11th, even if they do not attend the conference. Cheques should be made payable to "University of Alberta High School Model UN" Please note: If fees pose a financial burden to student participation, please contact us at hsmun@ualberta.ca with regards to our bursary program.

T-shirts will be available for \$15. Please indicate how many shirts your school would like to purchase, and submit payment with the delegate fees.

Contact Information

School Name:

School Address:

Are you a school-sanctioned team? Yes or No

Supervisor's Name:

Supervisor's Email:

Team Contact's Name (if different from supervisor):

Team Contact's Email:

T-Shirt Information

Total number of T-shirts: _____

Sizes (please indicate how many shirts you would like in each size):

XS _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

Delegate Information

Total Number of Non-Press Delegates:

Total Number of Press Delegates:

List of Preferred Delegations

All Non-Press Delegate Names and Email Addresses (These will be used to send delegate preparation materials and conference information directly to students.):

All Press Delegate Names and Email Addresses:

Summary of Fees

Total number of delegate with earlybird payment: _____ x\$60 = \$ _____

Total number of delegates with normal payment: _____ x\$65 = \$ _____

Total number of T-Shirts: _____ x\$15 = \$ _____

Total Payment = \$ _____

Thank you for your interest in HSMUN 2012. Please send all information, and any questions, to hsmun@ualberta.ca. We look forward to seeing you in February!

“It was great to learn about other countries. I would definitely recommend this event to others for next year”
– Student Delegate



Delegation	Security Council	SOCHUM	World Health Organization	DISEC	UNEP	Legal	Historical GA
<i>Afghanistan</i>		X	X	X		X	X
<i>Algeria</i>			X	X	X	X	
<i>Angola</i>		X	X	X	X		
<i>Argentina</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Armenia</i>			X	X	X	X	
<i>Australia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Austria</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	X	X	X	X		X	
<i>Bahamas</i>		X	X		X	X	
<i>Bahrain</i>		X	X		X	X	
<i>Bangladesh</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Belarus</i>			X	X	X	X	X (Belorussian USSR)
<i>Belgium</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Benin</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Bolivia</i>		X	X	X		X	X
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Botswana</i>			X	X	X	X	
<i>Brazil</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Bulgaria</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Burkina Faso</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Burundi</i>			X	X	X	X	
<i>Cambodia</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Cameroon</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Canada</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Chile</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>China, P.R.</i>	P	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Colombia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Congo, D.R.</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Congo, Rep.</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Costa Rica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Croatia</i>			X	X	X	X	
<i>Cuba</i>			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cyprus</i>			X	X	X	X	
<i>Czech Republic</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X (Czechoslovakia)

Delegation	Security Council	SOCHUM	World Health Organization	DISEC	UNEP	Legal	Historical GA
<i>Denmark</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Djibouti</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Dominican Republic</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ecuador</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Egypt</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>El Salvador</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ethiopia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Fiji</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Finland</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>France</i>	P	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Gabon</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Germany</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Ghana</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Greece</i>			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Guatemala</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Guinea</i>		X	X	X	X		
<i>Haiti</i>			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Hungary</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Iceland</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>India</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Indonesia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Iran</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Iraq</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ireland</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Israel</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Italy</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Jamaica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Japan</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Jordan</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Kazakhstan</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Kenya</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Korea, D.P.R.</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Korea, Rep.</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Kuwait</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Latvia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Lebanon</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Liberia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Libya</i>		X	X	X	X		
<i>Lithuania</i>		X	X	X	X	X	

Delegation	Security Council	SOCHUM	World Health Organization	DISEC	UNEP	Legal	Historical GA
<i>Macedonia, F.Y.R.</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Madagascar</i>			X	X		X	
<i>Malaysia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Mali</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Mauritania</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Mauritius</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Mexico</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Morocco</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Mozambique</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Nepal</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Netherlands</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>New Zealand</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Nicaragua</i>		X	X	X		X	X
<i>Nigeria</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Norway</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Pakistan</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Panama</i>		X	X	X		X	X
<i>Paraguay</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Peru</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Philippines</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Poland</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Portugal</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Qatar</i>		X	X	X	X		
<i>Romania</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Russian Federation</i>	P	X	X	X	X	X	X (Soviet Union)
<i>Rwanda</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Saudi Arabia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Senegal</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Serbia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Sierra Leone</i>		X	X	X	X		
<i>Singapore</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Slovakia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Slovenia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Somalia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>South Africa</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Spain</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Sri Lanka</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Sudan</i>		X	X	X		X	
<i>Sweden</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X

Delegation	Security Council	SOCHUM	World Health Organization	DISEC	UNEP	Legal	Historical GA
<i>Switzerland</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Tajikistan</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Togo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Tanzania, United Republic of</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Thailand</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Tunisia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Turkey</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Uganda</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Ukraine</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X (Ukrainian USSR)
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>United Kingdom</i>	P	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>United States of America</i>	P	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Uruguay</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Uzbekistan</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Venezuela</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vietnam</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Yemen</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Zambia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Zimbabwe</i>		X	X	X	X		
<i>Holy See</i>		O	O	O	O	O	
<i>Palestine</i>		O	O	O	O	O	
<i>Amnesty International</i>		O	O	O		O	
<i>International Council of Women</i>		O	O			O	
<i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i>		O	O			O	
<i>International Organisation of Employers</i>		O	O		O		
<i>International Trade Union Confederation</i>		O	O		O		