

MUN Handbook

Introduction to MUN

Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the United Nations. It gives students the unique opportunity to debate and discuss issues that affect our world today with an aim to negotiate peaceful solutions. Pupils are asked to adopt the viewpoint of a particular country and negotiate topics ranging from human rights and security, to ecology and the environment and political issues.

What do you stand to gain from the experience?

MUN provides pupils with the unique opportunity to discuss and debate current global affairs so that they are more able to understand and appreciate causes of conflicts that affect our world.

The combination of research, preparation, involvement and interaction will help to develop delegates' debating, researching and public speaking skills - all skills that will help the delegates in their later life. MUN is not only highly educational, as it broadens your knowledge of the world we live in, but it is also fun!

Even though we try and encourage stimulating debate, we primarily want you to enjoy yourself. Model United Nations is also a great social event where you are able to meet and get to know new people. There are many MUN events across the UK and beyond, so it's a great chance to meet people from different backgrounds with different points of view.

Overwhelmed?

This is a detailed guide to the procedures of MUN, but please don't be put off. MUN is as much for beginners as for experienced delegates and our chairs will be happy to assist you on the day if you are still confused. There will be many first time delegates at the conference, so don't be nervous. Everyone has been a first time delegate at one point, and the MUN team is a lovely group of people who will be more than happy to help you throughout the day.

Before the conference, you can email members of the MUN Organising Committee for information and help or visit the website. You are also welcome to contact the chairs, who will be more than happy to help you in any way possible.

Guide to NB MUN

At the conference, your Chairs will explain the debating procedure, and do their best to help you throughout the day. Below is a basic guide to Model UN conferences. For more detailed information on each section, refer to the 'Information for Delegates' page of our website.



Initial research

For Country Profiles and lots of other useful information:

<http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

For issues of current international debate:

<http://www.newint.org/>

<http://www.idebate.org/>

<http://www.amnesty.org/>

The key to success at MUN is to not only have a detailed knowledge of the ins and outs of each issue but also to know your country's policy. The best delegates will know the policies of other countries and therefore be able to catch out delegates that stray from the view of their country.

Whether you are an experienced veteran or a newcomer to MUN, research is the key to success.

Committees

There will be five committees for this conference. Schools are invited to send teams of five pupils.

The committees are:

- Socio-economic Committee
- Health Committee
- Human Rights Committee
- Media Committee
- Political Committee

There will also be a General Assembly session in which delegates will have to react to an emergency situation.

Briefing Papers

Briefing papers will be provided on the website. These provide background information about each of the topics that you will debate on the day.

Position Paper

You will be asked to submit a short position paper (50 words) outlining your country's stance on the topics you are debating. This should be submitted to your Chair by the given deadline.

Resolutions and Amendments

The resolution is a document produced by the United Nations as a solution to each of the issues that it debates. The majority of resolutions are formed in committees and passed by the General Assembly. For further details please refer to our website.

Lobbying

Before the debate commences on each topic, you will be given ten minutes or so in your committees to garner support for your resolution. Your aim is to collect signatures of support to ensure your resolution is taken forward for debate.

Lobbying is a really good time to get to know delegates from other countries, particularly those allied with the country you represent.

Debating

This is the main aim of the day. There are set procedures for debate in Model United Nations. See our link on Debating Procedures for further information to help you prepare and on the day.

General Assembly (G.A.)

This is when all delegates join together as a delegation, and issues are debated by all delegates at the conference.

Notepaper

Notes may be passed during committees and in GA but must be on official headed notepaper. Each delegation should come with notepaper, which clearly identifies their country.

You may pass notes to another delegate or to the Chair both in committee and in the General Assembly. The chair reserves the right to suspend note passing at any time.

Note Paper is a great way to:

1. Form alliances and set up yield chains (see the link on Debating Procedures).
2. Get to know your fellow delegates.
3. Raise any issues or queries with your chair.

Notes may be read by secretaries or staff, so should pertain to the debate. The chair reserves the right to suspend note passing if frivolous notes are found.

Dress Code

Delegates should be dressed in business-style attire. Delegates will not be allowed to take the floor in military costume, national dress or inappropriately revealing outfits. School uniforms are also NOT appropriate.

Formal Items for Ladies Include:

- Trouser or skirt suits
- Dresses
- Smart blouses or shirts
- Smart shoes

Formal Items for Gentlemen Include:

- Suits / Blazers and smart trousers
- Shirts
- Ties
- Smart shoes

Other Items Not Permitted:

- Leather or denim trousers
- Leggings
- Trainers
- Baggy Jumpers
- Tracksuits