



Project Plan

Green Jobs in the Green Economy

Buddies Without Borders Online Forums

October 7 - November 18, 2023

Updated as Needed - September 12, 2023

Contact: BuddiesWithoutBordersOnlineForums@GlobalEducationDestinations.org

For Reference: www.GlobalEducationDestinations.org

Application

The Application Form is now closed. Please sign up in [the Interest Form](#) for future forums.

Please note that we can only accept no more than 5 students per country to keep the forum as diverse as possible. We have a rolling admission policy. Once your country's seats are filled, you will be placed on a waitlist.

Program Fee

If accepted, the program fee is \$50 usd. Merit-based scholarships may be available to under-represented countries. To inquire, please email us your school's website, proof of your nationality and a copy of your current report card.

Overview

Students aged 13-18 around the world are invited to brainstorm ideas to solve challenges that impact us all.

According to [the International Labour Organization](#) of the United Nations, the transition to a green economy is necessary for an environmentally sustainable future for the human race. More importantly, this transition is an opportunity to create decent jobs for all, especially underprivileged communities. Creative, sustainable and fair businesses are needed to lead the way.

This October, each of the 10-12 teams of students from 25-30 countries will be assigned a business as their Case Study Partner. Students will learn about the latest trends and technologies, research the environmental/social/economic impact their assigned businesses have on the community, and articulate their findings by creating a video through the lens of sustainable production (guided by Disney's Sustainable Production team).

Details

Four - five students from different countries will be grouped as a team to work across the borders, jointly representing an assigned country as equal global citizens. They will meet weekly online for 7 weeks.

Students meet online via Google Meet weekly for 60-90 minutes. Two identical sections are created to accommodate the time zone difference. Teams are assigned to a section based on diversity. Students are allowed to visit the other section and meet more buddies if interested. Global Sessions are on **Saturdays at 8 AM CEST (2 AM ET in Washington DC) and at 4 PM CEST (10 AM ET in Washington DC)** Be sure to check your local time as there are no make-up sessions. The online meetings will feature guest speakers (including subject matter experts, IB, MUN and ELL- pre-recorded), students' own reflections and discussions with peers. **During the Global Sessions, each team will meet face-to-face to coordinate tasks.** Regular attendance is strongly encouraged (guardians must send in notes for any absence). Any participant who misses two consecutive global meetings without advanced notice will be dropped from the Forum competition.

Between meetings, students are monitored by assigned Team Coaches to do their independent research and connect with their teammates via a private BWB Messenger Chat Group to work on their projects. Students must participate in a dedicated Buddies Without Borders Online Forum Facebook group to find resources, discuss ideas, findings, etc. throughout the month. Each team has the right to issue an alert to their team coach if any team member is not participating effectively. We will in turn alert the counselors and guardians. After the third warning, the nonresponsive team members will be removed from the team and be disqualified from any Awards. **A Score Sheet** will be used to keep track of each participant's status.

Future forums will feature topics based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> such as Innovation, Climate Change, Ending Poverty, Public Health and beyond.

The Case Study Partners are:

- AgriTech - Supply Chain - GreenPod - Deepak Rajmohan
- Circular Economy - Composter - Provecus - Zack Abdi
- AgriTech - Urban Farming - Edith Chekwube Ezema
- Renewable Energy - Evolectic - Jakson Alvarez
- Renewable Energy - solar power - Daavid Christa
- Corporate Responsibility - Saving the Amazon - Paulina Arango Mora
- Fashion - MATT - Mina Kovacevic
- Hospitality - The Transformational Travel Council - Ivana Damjanovic
- Ecotourism - The International Ecotourism Society - Jon Bruno
- Circular Economy - Ecobricks - Kashaf Akhtar

Key Dates

- Starting September 23 - Messenger Mingle
- By September 30 - FB Self Introduction
- **October 7 - Mandatory Tech & Tools**

- **October 14 - Kick-Off Speaker:** Laura Astudillo Mesías, [Sustainable Lifestyles Communications, UN Environment Programme / UN School](#)
- **October 21 - Landscape Presentation - Summarize your assigned industry. Start team video production planning (who/what/when/where/why/how/how much)**
- **Between October 21 - October 28 - Consultation - contact a Case Study Partner for their insight.**
- **October 28 - Destination Workshop - Environmental Science with IE University (Spain)**
- **November 4 - Rough-cut Presentation and Feedback.**
- **November 11 - Video Presentation. Top Five announced.**
- **November 18 - Forum Celebration. Team Papers Due. Voting opens.**
- *December 4 - Voting closed.*
- *December 9 - 10 AM ET (Washington DC time) - Award Ceremony*

Awards

All participants who complete the program successfully will receive a Program Certificate. There will be four categories of Awards:

- **The Best Team Award:**

The total team point average will determine the top five teams in the Final round. A team of international panelists will then evaluate the Final Five's video production based on their productions' 1) creativity 2) content and 3) persuasiveness.

- **The Top Five Award:**

Top Five Representatives are chosen based on personal points earned.

- **Best Representative Award:**

The Best Representative is voted by their forum peers among the Top Five. If there is a tie, the final winner is determined by the ranking of his or her team's final presentation. The Best Representative will be the Spokesperson for the Buddies Without Borders Online Forum and conduct an interview with a Forum speaker or an official to be featured on the GED website.

- **The BWB Pioneer Award:**

Students who have exhibited consistent leadership throughout the Forum by inspiring others to work for the common good will be nominated by their team coaches to receive the BWB Pioneer Award. One nominee will be selected to receive the Award Scholarship to launch a BWB Club.

- **The People's Choice Award:**

All proposals will be posted on our website for the public's votes. The proposal that receives the highest votes wins the People's Choice Award.

Prizes

- **Scholarship Seats for the Following Forum:**

All award winners (Top Five, the Best Team, the People's Choice Team, Pioneer Winner) will be offered a scholarship seat for the following forum. The scholarship seat can be transferred to another student in his or her school (a teacher recommendation letter and a current report card will be required).

- **BWB Club (2023-2024):**

The Best Representative and the Pioneer Award recipients will receive scholarships to launch a BWB Club in their schools to put their ideas into action (\$300 value) during the school year 2023-2024 (pending school approval). BWB Clubs are now operating in 20 countries around the world and enable students to think globally and act locally year-round.

BWB Club applications are by invitation only. Pioneer Award Nominees will receive an invitation to apply (without scholarships).

- **Internships (2024-2025):**

Students who have successfully completed their Forum competitions and BWB Club projects will be invited to apply for a seat on our International Internship Team. There are three tracks of the internship opportunities (Business, Law, Public Health) organized by Leadership Initiatives and sponsored by Microsoft and Starbucks. The Internship will start in August 2024 and conclude in May 2025.

Purposes

1. If you are an IBDP student, we meet your Learning Outcome Requirements.
2. If you are an AP Capstone student, you may use data from the forum to base your findings.
3. Understand SDG challenges.
4. Connect, discuss and collaborate with participants around the world online, under the guidance of a college student team coach or an educator.
5. Learn how to create proposals and potentially win recognitions that may benefit the future college application process.
6. Practice English speaking, listening and writing in a formal setting.
7. Successful participants will be considered for future college student team coach jobs based on performance evaluations.
8. Be invited to establish a BWB Club which allows more students to connect and practice English during the school year. BWB Club schools enjoy Forum discounts and many other benefits to students, teachers as well as schools. [Click here for details.](#)

Specifications

Each Forum is attended by 40 - 60 students from 20-25 countries. For more on our past participants and collaborators, please visit www.GlobalEducationDestinations.org

- **Technical Requirements:**

Audio and Video capability to participate in the weekly global meetings on **Google Meet**. Account in **Facebook** and **Facebook Messenger** for forum discussions. Students may choose any existing social media platform or software to create their videos.

- **Parental Consent:**

A parent or a guardian needs to sign off on the application form to acknowledge that the student will be communicating with other program participants on social media. A Score Sheet and a Final Progress Report are made available to all guardians and counselors.

- **School Counselor FYI:**

The student's school teacher or counselor will be kept informed of the student's progress.

Deliverable

- A Creative Video (less than 5-10 minutes)
 - Use news footage in the public domain. Example: Renewable Energy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kUEOBZtTRc>
 - Visit and record your local green businesses if possible. Example: AgriTech - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4SaSfnHK3I>
 - Interview your case study partners or other experts. Example: Plastic Waste - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFcPqXxAUWM>
 - Use graphics to tell your story. Example: Sustainable Farming - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrQ_wu67ltM
- A Team Paper of 1000 words (3-4 pages) Executive Summary of your findings.
- Demonstrated critical thinking and writing via the Forum Facebook page: What is your hypothesis/observation? (1 point) What is your source of information and research findings? (1 point) What are the counterarguments (1 point) and source of their information (1 point)? What is your follow-up question or new hypothesis (1 point)?
- Demonstrated collaboration with your teammates and fellow forum participants via screenshots (meetup points) and Team Collaboration Doc.
- Demonstrated participation via Global Session Attendance points. Absences are permitted but notes from guardians are required.

- A personal reflection (via Google Forms) will be required for each participant to evaluate their personal progress and their experience with their team and the forum.

Contributors

Please visit our **“About Us”** webpage for a full list of speakers, supporters and reviewers.

- Laura Astudillo Mesías, Sustainable Lifestyles Communications, UN Environment Programme, France and Colombia
- Deepak Rajmohan, CEO, GreenPod Labs, India
- Zack H. Abdi, Managing Director, Provectus. Canada and UAE
- Advisory Board/Panelist: Hon. Teta V. Banks, Ed.D, National Chair, United Nations Association of the United States of America, USA
- Advisory Board/Panelist: Andrew Hand - Admissions and International Schools Outreach Officer, Forward College, France
- Panelist: Angolwisye Paul Mwakisu - Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, NYU, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Panelist: Elisa Melendez Martin - Director of Global Markets, IE University, Spain
- ELL Lecturer (pre-recorded): Anh Nguyen- ELL Teacher, Hanoi Academy, Vietnam
- Inquiry Lecturer (pre-recorded): Shane Hanna- IB Coordinator, Villiers School, Ireland
- MUN Lecturer (pre-recorded): Nicole Bohannon - ESG Research Associate at ISS, USA
- Sponsor: Marshal Bailly - Executive Director, Leadership Initiatives, USA
- Student Forum Director - Kate Buszka, Forward College (Germany), Poland
- Student Scorer - Marlena Casavant, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA
- Student Coach - Timsa Bajpai, King's College (UK), India
- Student Coach - Mahi Singh, University of Glasgow (UK), Morocco/India
- Student Coach - Miyu Sakurai, NYU (US), Japan

Forum Reference Material

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