



Project Plan

AquaAlliance: Flood, Drought, or Pollution?

Mobilizing Youth to Solve Water Crises

Buddies Without Borders Online Forums

July 15 - Aug 26, 2023

Updated as Needed - May 9, 2023

Contact: BuddiesWithoutBordersOnlineForums@GlobalEducationDestinations.org

For Reference: www.GlobalEducationDestinations.org

Application

The regular application is now closed. [Please click on the link for the Standby Application](#). Any open seats that are still open on June 28 will be made available to applicants on the Standby list.

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.

[The Interest Form](#) is open for our November, February and April Forums. Sign up to receive early bird notifications for advanced consideration.

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 12-18 around the world are invited to brainstorm ideas to solve challenges that impact us all.

Life starts with water. More than 60% of the human body is made of water. Yet almost half of the people on earth do not have access to this basic necessity. Around 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services (WHO). This has severe consequences on public health, food security, and economic development, particularly in marginalized communities. Climate change further intensifies the water crisis, with increased frequency and severity of droughts, floods, and other water-related disasters (NASA).

An estimated 43,000 people perished in Somalia last year due to the severe drought. One in five people in Bangladesh is poisoned by arsenic in their drinking water. The desalination plants against the rising sea levels in the Middle East can cause environmental and health problems. Flash floods destroyed homes and displaced more than 10,000 people in Brazil and Bolivia.

Addressing the water crisis is essential for achieving sustainable development, as it impacts multiple dimensions of human well-being, including health, livelihoods, and ecosystems. It requires collaborative efforts, innovative solutions, and policy interventions to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all, protect water resources, and promote sustainable water management practices.

This summer, students will examine the underlying issues around the global water crisis and its impacts on society. They will analyze and propose solutions to address water-related challenges in their assigned country. From national policy reviews to consumer behavior examinations, students will recommend innovative products, services and policies to solve the water challenge before it is too late.

Each team will propose a water-themed awareness campaign fundraiser (online or in-person) for teens in their assigned country. [BWB club schools](#) will be invited to vote for and implement the proposals. Donations to [H2O for Life](#) will be made on behalf of the winning team and all participating BWB Club Schools.

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. Each team will meet before and/or after the global sessions for collaboration. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged but not required (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 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.

Key Dates

Two identical sessions: Seven 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 convert to your local time to check your availability. There is no make-up session.

- July 15 - Tech & Tools (mandatory to all participants)
- July 22 - Kick Off (Workshop Speaker: H2O for Life - Mitchel LeGrand)
- July 29 - Landscape Presentation
- August 5 - Consulting Session
- August 12 - Rehearsal Presentation
- August 19 - Final Presentation
- August 26 - 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 proposals based on their ideas' 1) creativity 2) sustainability and 3) fairness.

- **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 (2023-2024):**

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 2023 and conclude in May 2024.

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 demonstrate their concept.

- **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

- An artifact in any medium: such as PPT, APP, webpage, blog site, visual art, infographic, poster, video (less than 5 min), etc.
- A Team Paper of 1000 words (3-4 pages) Executive Summary of your idea: including why, what, who, when, and how / how much.
- 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 counterargument (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

[Click here](#) for a full list of speakers, supporters and reviewers.

- 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
- Guest Speaker/Panelist: H2O for Life - Mitche LeGrand
- 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 - Graduate Student, MSc in Public Policy & Management, King's College London, Business School, UK
- Sponsor: Marshal Bailly - Executive Director, Leadership Initiatives, USA
- Student Forum Director - Kate Buszka, Forward College, France
- Student Scorer: Joy Yang, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
- Student Coach: Timsa Bajpai, King's College (UK), India
- Student Coach: Camila Peña Eljuri, Bowdoin College (US), Ecuador
- Student Coach: Miyu Sakurai, NYU (US), Japan

Reference Material

https://thewaterproject.org/water-scarcity/water_stats

<https://floodlist.com/>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>

<https://sealevel.nasa.gov/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/meimeifox/2022/09/28/6-teens-who-make-the-world-a-better-place/?sh=1779ace176f9>

<https://www.h2oforliveschools.org/projects/1333>

