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Parent Guide

How You Can Help Your Child Succeed in Model UN & Beyond

What is Model UN?



Whether you heard about it from the United Nations, your school, the over 500,000 students that do Model UN each year, or an episode of Parks and Recreation, Model UN is a rapidly growing activity for students around the world. Whether you're in elementary school or university, and whether you're interested in health, technology, peacebuilding, or human rights, there's a Model UN conference and committee for you. Model UN is a transformational, cross-cultural activity that helped celebrities, Supreme Court justices, and even the UN Secretary General get where they are today, but what exactly is Model UN.

At a Model UN conference, you become a World Leader for a weekend. As a Model UN "Delegate", you take on the role of a representative of another country to the United Nations, where you will argue for the policies of that country on your assigned topic, and eventually write a resolution on behalf of your assigned country. This means you have to put yourself in the shoes of an international diplomat and learn the issues facing another country, as well as how they would respond to that issue.

As a Model UN delegate representing your country, you will participate in a "committee" with assigned topics. You may learn about access to technology in developing countries, how sports can help promote peace, how to reduce the risk of nuclear war, or how the world can come together to stop the threat of global climate change. It will be your job to decide what the UN should do about these issues, and lead the other delegates in your committee to approve your "resolution"- your document of solutions to the issue.

Most of a Model UN conference is based in your "committee". where you will debate and discuss your topic, and ultimately write your resolution. Your committee is a room of 10-400 delegates, though usually 20-50, who are representing countries just like you are. Throughout the conference you will be led by your "Dais", the conference staff that is there to make sure committee is orderly and that you are having a good experience. There are many different types of staff roles, however you will be led by a "Chair" who helps guide your committee through debate, and the other members of staff will help your Chair maintain control of your committee. These staff are there to help you, so feel free to write them notes to ask questions, or ask them for help before or after committee; they'll be happy to help you have the best time possible!

Why Model United Nations?



The Educational Experience

Students in Model UN gain a wide range of skills and information critical to their success in high school, college, and beyond. Students learn public speaking and deliver their first speech in front of an audience. They hone their research skills and synthesize information from all over the world. They practice how to write policies, and learn about cultures they never even knew existed.

However just as importantly, students will learn critical social skills that will help them throughout life. Whether it's learning to discuss complex issues and compromise, or learning how to be a leader for the first time, many students will "find their voice" through Model UN, and realize their leadership potential and social ability. Model UN helps students build the *Confidence* to succeed.

Access to the UN, NGOs, and incredible keynote speakers

Model UN is enormous with over half a million students participating each year. UN Officials, NGOs, business leaders, and public figures have taken notice, and actively engage with these students. Officials from the UN Department of Public Information and organizations around the world teach students Model UN, even help MUNers on their path to college, internships, and careers! Students often get to meet incredible leaders who deliver the Keynote Address at Model UN Conferences— notable keynote speakers include UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the Director of the FBI, and even Pope Francis! Model UN introduces students to a global Community of leaders.

College and Careers

Model UN helps students on their paths to college and careers - from our MUN programs alone, we've had dozens of students go on to Ivy League universities, and MUNers fill youngest generation of employees at the UN, Foreign Services around the world, and a wide range of the most prestigious careers around the world. We'll talk even more about how Model UN can help students get into college later on! Model UN gives students the ideas and tools they need to make real *Change* in the world. **And of course, M-U-N is F-U-N!**

What do students do at Model UN Conferences?

What does a typical day in a Model UN conference look like?

Model UN conferences can take anywhere from 1-4 days, however each conference follows a similar schedule with the following key stages. For this example, we'll use a normal 1-day training conference to show what your child may do at a Model UN Conference:

The Typical MUN Day	
Before the conference	You've researched your country and your topic. You've also submitted a document called a "Position Paper" - a research paper that you turn in to the conference to show what you know about the topic and your country.
8:00am- 8:30am	You go to a big auditorium for the "Opening Ceremonies" of the conference, where the "Secretary General" will deliver a speech and officially start the conference.
8:30am- 8:45am	You go to your committee room to meet the other delegates you'll be working with during the conference. Every person or set of partners will be representing a different country. Introduce yourself and get to know the other delegates in the room!
8:45am- 10:00am	The "Chair" who is the staff member leading your committee, will officially start your committee and explain the rules. They will ask who wants to be on the "Speakers List" - this list determines when delegates will give their opening speeches. After this, delegates will proceed to deliver their speeches about the topic to the committee.
10:00am- 11:00am	After some time with speeches from the "Speakers List", your committee may start "moderated caucuses" - these speeches focus on a specific part of your topic, and delegates raise their placard to speak when the Chair chooses them to.
11:00am- 12:15pm	Your committee has their first "unmoderated caucus." During this time, there are no formal rules, and delegates move around the room to form groups and start writing their "resolutions" to solve the topic your committee is discussing. After this time, your committee will alternate between "moderated" and "unmoderated" caucuses.
12:15pm	Lunch
1:00pm-3:30pm	Groups start to finish their resolutions, and turn them into the Chair for approval. Once resolutions are approved, delegates will "present" their resolutions by reading them and then answering questions about their solutions.
3:30pm-4:15pm	Delegates debate the resolutions and try to convince the other members of their committee that their resolution is best and to support them, and to oppose the other resolutions in their committee if they are in opposition.
4:15pm-4:30pm	The committee enters "Voting Procedures" and votes to approve or reject each resolution. Delegates can vote yes, no, or abstain from voting. After voting is finished, the committee will officially "adjourn" to end their work.
4:30pm- 5:00pm	All the delegates gather again in the auditorium for "Closing Ceremonies" where some conferences will hand out awards, and then officially end the conference.

What kinds of Model UN Programs are available?

Model UN Conferences are available around the world at the middle school, high school, and university levels. There are programs available for all levels of MUN experience, and can be hosted by community organizations, high school students, or university students.

“Diplomat” (Novice) Level Conferences

In most cities, you can find small, 1-day or 2-day conferences for training new Model UN delegates at local schools or community centers. These novice conferences are usually very inexpensive and include training workshops for all the first-time delegates at the conference. The goal of these conferences is learning, not awards, and students are in small committees so they have plenty of opportunities to participate and practice their skills.

“Ambassador” (Advanced) Level Conferences

Once students have outgrown local conferences and small training events, the next step is to move on to regional and national level conferences with stronger educational or competitive objectives. These conferences are generally held in major cities, and can range anywhere from 500-3000 students. Usually lasting 3-4 days, most of these events are held at universities or hotels, and students will stay on-site for the duration of the conference. At the largest of these conferences, Model UN clubs from around the world will bring teams, with some countries hosting students from over 50 countries at a single conference. These conferences are an intense and usually competitive experience, but are a great way for experience students to test their skills and make new friends from around the world.

“Secretary-General” Level - Hosting their own conference!

The greatest challenge for a student in Model UN isn't competing at a conference- it's hosting their own! University, High School, and even Middle School students around the world host their own conferences of 50-3000 students. By taking on a new role in Model UN, students actually learn how to become better delegates as well, by putting themselves in the shoes of conference organizers for the first time. Hosting conferences challenges students to hone their leadership skills, looks incredible to colleges, and can be a great fundraiser and a great learning experience for any Model UN club.

The Model United Nations Institute

Each summer, Best Delegate hosts the Model United Nations Institute at the top universities across the U.S. The Model UN Institute includes classes during the day, and fun evening programs for residential students from all over the world. Programs are available for middle and high school students. We offer 4 levels of the MUN Institute: Level 1 Diplomat, Level 2 Ambassador, Level 3 Crisis (for crisis committee training), and Level 4 Secretary-General. These programs designed for the needs of students at each level of MUN expertise!

How you can help your student succeed in Model UN

Get them to sign up!

Many high schools are full of clubs for students to get involved with. It can be overwhelming for a high school freshman to decide what to do- so they may just default to whatever their friends are in. Encourage you student to join Model UN- that little push may be all it takes to get them to go to their first meeting and find out if this activity is right for them. Talk about the benefits of meeting new people, traveling to different conferences, or even how it will look on a college application- just get them through the door that first time, and see where it takes them!

Ask them Questions

While you may be able to help your students with their Algebra or Social Studies homework, odds are you're not going to be able to teach them each of their topics at an MUN conference- unless you work in these fields, you probably aren't an expert on Climate Change Related Natural Disasters, Communication Technology's Role in Development, or the Conflict in Yemen. That's okay! At a Model UN conference your student is going to have to intelligently speak about these issues in front of an audience, and explain what it means to them- so be their first audience! Sit down and ask them about their topic, what it means, who it impacts, and how to fix it. If they can't explain it to you, they've got more research to do! Just by talking it through with you and explaining concepts to you for the first time, their confidence about these topics will soar, and they may even come up with new ideas from your conversation!

Sending them to programs and conferences

Local conferences are great, but students that don't experience a broader range of Model UN programs are missing out! Sending your student to a major conference someplace they've never been, or a summer program at a college campus with dozens of new friends are a great way to deepen their experience past what's available in your city. The potential to meet thousands of like-minded students from dozens of countries opens up their mind to a whole world of possibilities about college, careers, and may help them find what they're passionate about.

Parent Booster Clubs

Just like for any sports team or marching band, many Model UN clubs across the U.S. are supported by parent booster clubs! Chat with the other parents of club members and see if there's any interest: booster clubs have a broad range of ways they can help out their students' club. During Saturday practice conferences, the Parent Booster Club at the Escuela Internacional Sampedrana in Honduras brings in lunch for the students. At Mission Viejo High School in California, the Parent Booster Club will lead huge fundraising campaigns to help students attend conferences. Booster Clubs may help with everything from fundraising, to chaperoning students on trips to conferences, or even helping them with the logistics of organizing their own conference!



Parent Guide

How Model UN Helped Rebecca Get a Full Scholarship to Harvard

Model UN Success Story: From the Rio Grande Valley to Harvard

How Model UN helped Rebecca get a full scholarship to Harvard!



Every year, seniors in high school – and their parents – eagerly await college acceptances letters. Last year, Rebecca Hernandez, an MUN Institute Alumni, was thrilled to learn she was accepted to Harvard and joined the Harvard Class of 2019.

“When I saw ‘congratulations’ I screamed and teared up. It was a very happy moment for me,” explained Rebecca.

Rebecca Hernandez, a senior at IDEA Mission College Preparatory High School in Texas, never knew if she would have the opportunity to attend university outside of her community. Rebecca will be the first in her family to complete her Bachelors Degree.

Rebecca was born in Veracruz, Mexico. She spent her childhood growing up in the Rio Grande

“Model UN opened a door or me to explore new places”

Valley region of Texas. For many years Rebecca did not have the opportunity to travel outside of Texas. This changed for Rebecca in High School.

Rebecca joined the Model UN Team her sophomore year of High School and began training with the team. During her junior year Rebecca traveled to Georgetown’s NAIMUN Conference with her Model UN Team. After her junior year Rebecca attended the Model United Nations Institute by Best Delegate at Georgetown University.

“At first I was timid, but the Model UN Institute taught me to engage the audience”

At the MUN Institute, Rebecca participated in public speaking, negotiation, and international relations lessons. She also learned to represent different countries during interactive simulations on topics ranging from the use of Child Soldiers in war to the use of Drones.

While at the program, Rebecca’s skills in Model UN improved as well as her confidence. During the first speaking exercise Rebecca was shy and quiet, but by the end of the week she spoke with confidence about complex international issues.

“Model UN has helped me to be a better leader in my school”

Rebecca also served as the Vice President of her Model UN Team. She utilizes the skills she learned at the MUN Institute



and focuses on training new delegates by “teaching them the skills necessary to succeed in Model UN.” Rebecca explained how this year one of the highlights for her was watching delegates she helped to train compete at Georgetown’s NAIMUN conference.

When she was not busy with the Model United Nations Team during her senior year of high school, Rebecca competed in Varsity Soccer, participated in the National Junior Honor Society, and served as Class President.

“I had to give a speech in front of all of the 12th grade”

When Rebecca returned from the MUN Institute she ran for senior class president. Rebecca said that speaking in front of everyone, “made me nervous, but I learned a lot from the summer program, because I knew exactly where to stand, how to use my hands, and how to look at the audience.”

“I knew how to convey my ideas during interviews”

Rebecca was elected as class president and credits her ability to speak in front of other students to her time in Model UN and at the MUN Institute.

Like many college seniors Rebecca had interviews as part of the college admissions process including with Georgetown and Harvard.

Rebecca said that, “I learned a lot from the MUN Institute! I know how to present myself in front of other people and how to engage the audience even in an interview.” Rebecca also explained how the MUN Institute exposed her to a variety of perspectives and a diverse group of students. Rebecca feels that this helped her to relate to her interviewers in a more meaningful way.

“I want to start a program for immigrants”

Rebecca is now studying Mathematics at Harvard. She then hopes to go to graduate school and study education. One day Rebecca hopes to start a program for immigrants to help provide them with opportunities to succeed.



Parent Guide

How Model UN Leads Students to Incredible Colleges and Careers

Model UN Career Success Stories



Ryan Villanueva— Co-Founder, Best Delegate

"The confidence I gained from Model UN helped me get into Yale. The skills I developed through Model UN helped me find my first job at Goldman Sachs. And my passion for Model UN is the reason why I quit Wall Street to partner with one of my best friends and started Best Delegate."



Ilhan Dahir— Rhodes Scholar, Fulbright Fellow

"Model UN allowed me to cultivate my public speaking, interpersonal and diplomatic skills while also putting me in contact with some very ambitious and intellectually curious young people. If I could recommend any one extracurricular to students it would be Model UN, you can't ask for a community as challenging and supportive as this one."



Finn Carlson— Intern, UN Department of Public Information

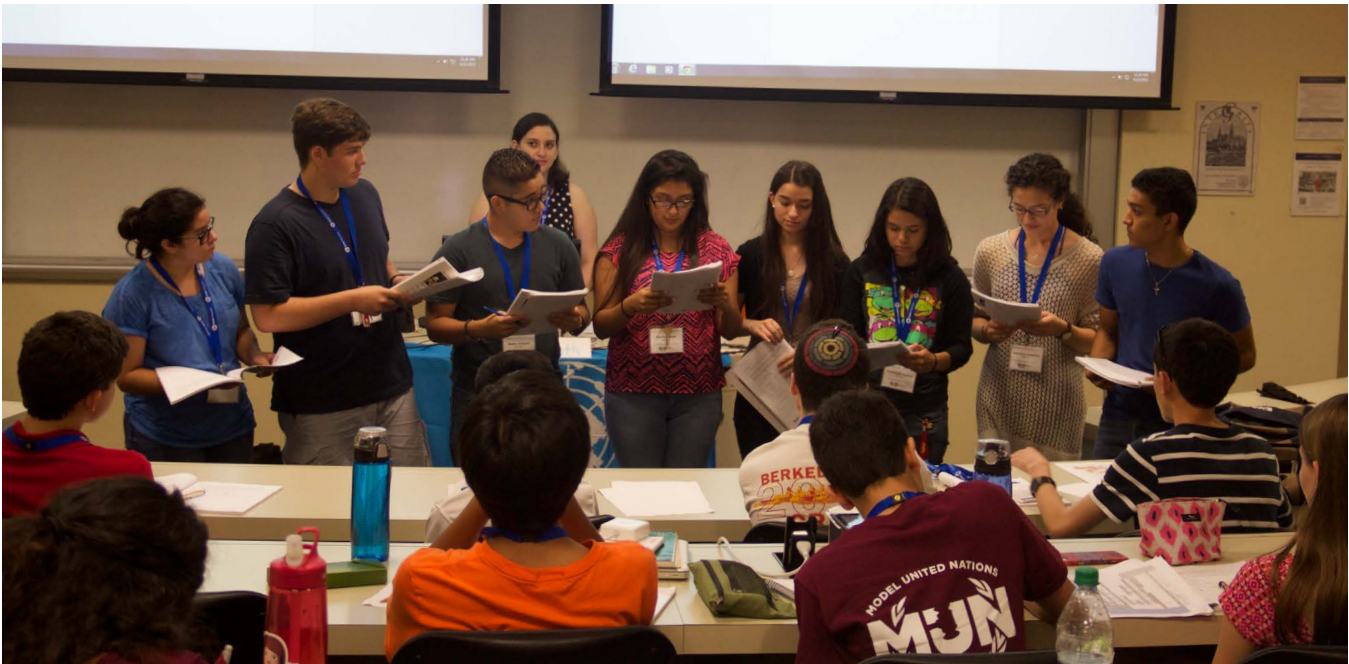
"I started participating in Model UN in my junior year of high school in 2010 and continued throughout my undergrad. Thanks to Model UN, I not only improved my personal and academic skills and found a college major to follow, but also had the opportunity to intern for the real United Nations. During my internship, I worked with the Department of Education Outreach, and Model UN gave me the experience I excel at my job!"



Stephanie Sobek— US Foreign Service Officer

"As a Foreign Service Officer, it is essential to be able to speak on foreign policy issues in front of an audience, collaborate with people from different countries and cultures, and negotiate policies that will have a real impact on people's lives. My participation in Model UN in college prepared me to do just that. I went from debating solutions to the Syrian civil war with college students to collaborating with UNHCR and the Jordanian government on how to provide Syrian refugees with work permits and access to education in Jordan. In addition to learning about a wide range of foreign policy issues, Model UN taught me how to research, refine and present the interests of a different country and how to convince my peers to jump on-board with my proposed policies. I use these skills every day working as a U.S. diplomat and I continue to work with Model UN programs in Jordan."

How Model UN can get students into college



It takes more than good grades and strong test scores to get into competitive colleges like Harvard, Yale, or Princeton. High school students today have to stand out by excelling in their extracurricular activities. Many do this through sports, science, or the arts, but others join activities such as speech and debate, mock trial, and Model United Nations. While not everyone who does MUN makes it their main activity, many invest a considerable amount of their time and energy into it. Model United Nations is a large part of their personal growth as a high school student, and they can leverage their MUN experience to get into college.

While students may join Model UN because it is a fun way to study history or politics, it also develops communication skills and gives students the confidence to express themselves. Students gain leadership experience by winning awards, chairing committees, running conferences, and training their club. Students are able to seek advice from people they met through Model UN that go to the most prestigious universities in the world. Here are just a few tips for your students to use Model UN to help with college applications:

1. Demonstrate leadership by winning awards, chairing committees, running conferences, and training your club.

Admissions officers are looking for examples of leadership. Model United Nations offers many opportunities to demonstrate leadership. As a delegate, students win awards by becoming a leader in committee. As a chair, students jobs are to lead other delegates. As a conference organizer, students manage delegates, chairs, and support staff. And as they rise through the ranks of their MUN club, they pass on their knowledge to others. MUN is all about leadership; the very premise of the activity is pretending to be a world leader for a weekend!

2. Seek advice from people they met through MUN who are attending or have attended competitive colleges.

You can read books and blogs about how to get into competitive colleges, but the best source of advice comes from speaking with people who've already done it. Whether it's alumni from school, older delegates they've met at conferences, or chairs who are already in college, MUN provides a network of people to reach out to for advice. They may know what their university is looking for, and could even put them in touch with the right people to talk to about their interest in the university!

3. Reflect on MUN experience in essays and interviews.

It's not enough to put down awards won or conferences managed on a list of accomplishments. Students have to communicate their success to admissions officers through essays and interviews. Reflection takes time; it's not something your student can do the night before the application due date or the day of their interview. It also requires solitude; they have to think deeply about themselves, who they are, and what they want to do.

Model United Nations can be a vehicle for personal growth. Students should leverage their experience and their network. They can use it to launch into the next stage of their student career. Model United Nations is their opportunity to stand out.



Model UN can also help your student succeed and have a great time in college!

On college campuses across the US, Model UN clubs are some of the biggest and most successful student organizations on campus. Many organizations have hundreds of members and host several conferences throughout the year. The most successful organizations have budgets over a million dollars, and send their members to host conferences around the world.

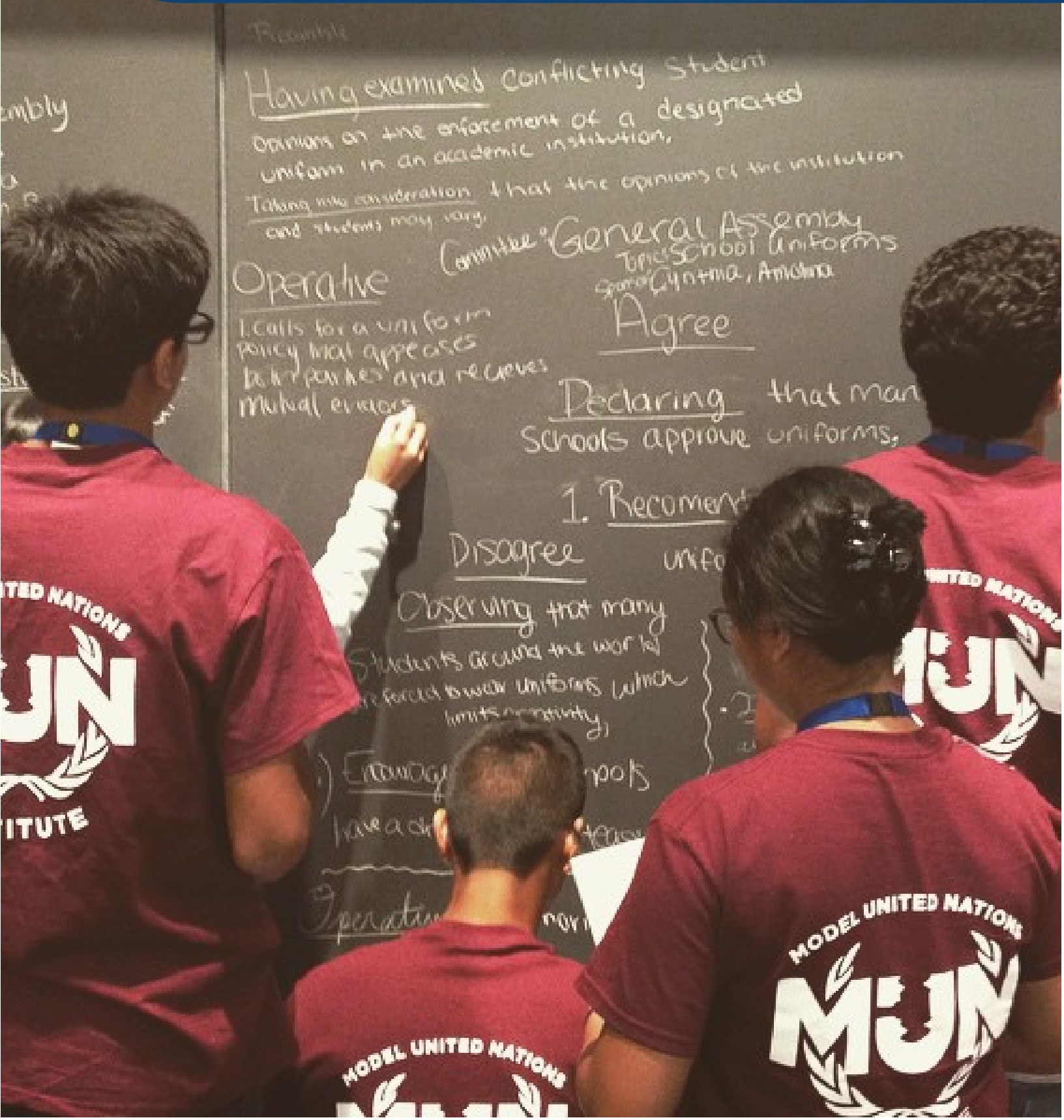


Members of the Harvard International Relations Council in 2016 will send their members on trips to India, China, Italy, and Brazil. The Georgetown International Relations Council is the largest organization on campus, and they have a student CEO responsible for managing all the programming and enormous budget. Model UN students are sought after for leadership roles on campus, the prestigious fellowships available in international relations, politics, and business, and gain access to the top professors at their university. Even at schools with smaller Model UN organizations, the teams will be able to travel for free across the US and Canada, and go on to win Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, Fulbright Fellowships, and many other accolades from their school for successful work in Model UN.



Parent Guide

The Model United Nations Institute by Best Delegate



The Model United Nations Institute



Model UN is a transformational activity, but it can be an intimidating activity to get involved with for newcomers. It has distinct procedures, lingo, and stages that if a student doesn't know already, it can be a real challenge during their first conference. That's why Best Delegate created the Model United Nations Institute- to teach students from around the world the activity that has changed our own lives in so many ways.

Programs For All Levels and Ages

We firmly believe in our goal of "MUN For All". Because of this, we offer summer programs at Harvard, Georgetown, Columbia, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, and UCLA. Programs are available for Elementary, Middle, and High School students aged 9-18. For new Model UN delegates, we host the "Diplomat" program to teach them the fundamentals of public speaking, research, and resolution writing. For advanced delegates, we host the "Ambassador" program to teach delegate strategy and the most advanced skills for students. For students that enjoy "Crisis" committees, we host a crisis program. And for delegates taking on leadership roles in their organizations, we host the "Secretary-General" program to teach them how to be strong leaders in Model UN clubs, and how to host successful conferences.

Expert Staff From Top Universities

To train your students, we bring in the top university Model UN delegates from around the world. Secretaries-General of the largest conferences, Head Delegates of the top ranked teams, and leaders from the world's best universities join us to teach our passion to your students. Our MUN Mentors hail from universities such as Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Georgetown, and other top schools, and bring their expertise to give your students the best Model UN training available anywhere.

Fun Activities and Newfound Friendships

During the day, students practice delivering speeches, researching the world's biggest problems, negotiating, writing resolutions and research papers, and learning about international relations. However, once the day is done students get to spend their evenings exploring campus, hanging out with new friends, or playing soccer, board games, and group activities with new friends.

An Established Record of Success

Our goal is to prepare students to succeed in Model UN and in college, and we have a track record of success on that front. Our students have gone on to win Best Delegate (first place) at the most competitive conferences in the world hosted by Harvard, UPenn, Yale, Columbia, Georgetown, the University of Chicago, and more. However, we are most proud of our alumni that have been accepted to their dream schools - Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Brown, UPenn, Dartmouth, Stanford, the US Military Academy at West Point, the University of Chicago, and many, many more!





Learn Model UN!

Summer
2019

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

HARVARD
GEORGETOWN
COLUMBIA
U.C.L.A.



We offer beginner, intermediate, and advanced programs for high school students ages 14 to 18.

LEARN FROM PASSIONATE STAFF

MUN Institute Staff are passionate about helping students gain confidence & learn Model UN.

RECEIVE PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTION

Our program provides a small group setting (1 to 12 ratio) so students obtain personal feedback on public speaking, position papers, & resolution writing.

ENGAGE WITH INTERACTIVE CURRICULA

Our day to day includes lectures, simulations, feedback, and free time. Our programs culminate in a final full day Model UN simulation.

ACCESS ADVANCED MODEL UN RESOURCES:

Our students receive exclusive resources that prepare them step-by-step for MUN conferences.

GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND NEW SKILLS

Our program teaches Model UN which enables students to gain real world skills, learn about global issues, enhance their leadership, and get accepted into great universities.

Our students rated our program
4.8 out of 5



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