



GYLDC
Global Youth Leadership
Development Council



**Global SDGs and Leadership
Development Center**

GYLDC · GSLDC

STUDY TOUR GUIDEBOOK

*Ten flagship programmes preparing globally competent youth
for multilateral leadership.*

2026 EDITION



FOREWORD

From the Executive Director

The world our young people will inherit is being redesigned in real time. Artificial intelligence is reshaping economies faster than laws can adapt; climate policy is being negotiated in rooms that few outside the diplomatic corps ever enter; frontier technologies from space to synthetic biology are opening opportunities and risks that will define the century. In every one of these arenas, the decisions are being made at the multilateral level — in Geneva, in Vienna, in Bangkok, in Paris, in Nairobi, in Rome — by institutions and instruments that most young people, however capable, have never seen from the inside.

GYLDC exists to change that. The Global Youth Leadership Development Council, working in partnership with the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center (GSLDC) in Geneva, was established to build a serious pipeline of youth into the multilateral system: not as observers on a study tour, but as delegates equipped to engage international organisations, produce substantive research, and carry that experience forward into careers that shape global outcomes.

This guidebook presents our ten flagship programmes for 2026. They span six thematic pillars — AI and digital governance, climate and environment, space and frontier technology, multilateral diplomacy, culture and heritage, and rural revitalisation — and three participant tiers from secondary through postgraduate and executive, with a dedicated track for UN career preparation. Each programme is anchored by named UN agencies and international organisations, taught by faculty drawn from those institutions, and structured around a capstone deliverable that leaves participants with something they can present, publish, or build on.

We designed this collection so that every serious young person, whichever pillar they enter through, encounters the same architecture: rigorous institutional access, substantive intellectual work, and the beginning of an alumni network that will follow them for the rest of their careers. If any of what follows resonates with the young leaders in your life, we welcome your engagement.

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PART I

AI & Digital Governance

Where artificial intelligence meets multilateral governance.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

AI Governance Immersion · Geneva

AI & Sustainable Future Challenge · Singapore

AI Governance Immersion • Geneva

Where AI meets multilateral governance — a signature immersion for postgraduate and executive youth

Artificial intelligence is reshaping economies, institutions and the very texture of daily life at a pace that outstrips regulation. The most consequential AI policy conversations of the decade are unfolding not in any single national capital but in Geneva — inside the International Telecommunication Union, at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, and on the plenary stage of the AI for Good Global Summit.

The AI Governance Immersion • Geneva places postgraduate and executive-track participants at the centre of this global conversation. Over ten days, delegates attend flagship United Nations conferences, meet directly with senior UN officials and industry leaders, and undertake institutional visits to specialised agencies that are actively shaping the norms of the AI era.

This is the flagship postgraduate offering within the GYLDC Global Youth Immersion Series. It is designed for participants who intend to contribute — as diplomats, entrepreneurs, researchers or corporate leaders — to the multilateral systems that will govern artificial intelligence over the next generation.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE	
PILLAR	AI & Digital Governance
PRIMARY TIER	Postgraduate & Executive
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10–12 days
NEXT ITERATION	July 2027
LOCATION	Geneva, Switzerland
LANGUAGE	English (Chinese support)
COHORT SIZE	25–35
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

Between 2024 and 2027, the multilateral system is undertaking the most significant re-architecture of global digital governance since the World Summit on the Information Society first convened in 2003. The WSIS+20 review process, the operationalisation of the UN Global Digital Compact, and the emerging Governing AI for Humanity framework are converging in Geneva. Participants in this programme are not spectators to these processes — they are in the rooms where they happen.

©What Participants Experience

Delegates spend the first four days inside the WSIS+20 High-Level Event and the AI for Good Global Summit, attending plenary sessions, ministerial dialogues and youth track workshops alongside official country delegations. Days five through eight comprise structured institutional immersions at the International Telecommunication Union, UNITAR, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, UNEP, and the Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID). The final phase is a capstone innovation challenge on AI for Sustainable Development, adjudicated by a panel of senior UN officials and industry executives.

©Why GYLDC

GYLDC delivers this programme in direct partnership with the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center (GSLDC) — an ITU-affiliated centre with standing engagements across UNITAR, UNIDO, ITC and UNDRR. Delegates enter Geneva with GYLDC's institutional credentials, meet officials who are rarely accessible to outside groups, and leave with letters of recommendation from named UN principals where individual performance warrants.



© WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for postgraduate students, early-career professionals, and executives whose intended trajectory will bring them into meaningful contact with multilateral institutions, cross-border technology policy, or the governance of artificial intelligence.

Suitable participants typically include: graduate students in international relations, public policy, computer science, law or business; early-career professionals in technology firms, consultancies or government agencies working on digital policy portfolios; entrepreneurs building AI-enabled ventures with international ambitions; and mid-career executives whose organisations engage with UN agencies or international standards bodies. English working proficiency is required. Prior exposure to multilateral processes is welcomed but not necessary — the programme is designed to accelerate participants who are new to Geneva as much as to deepen those who already work in the ecosystem.

© LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the current global AI governance architecture, including the WSIS+20 outcomes, the Global Digital Compact, and the mandates of the UN specialised agencies engaged in digital policy.
- Established direct professional relationships with senior officials at ITU, UNITAR, WTO, WHO and adjacent institutions, and with peer delegates from over twenty countries.
- Produced and defended a capstone innovation proposal applying AI to a defined Sustainable Development Goal, evaluated by a panel of United Nations experts.
- Acquired the professional competencies — negotiation, cross-cultural communication, evidence-based policy argumentation — that distinguish effective participants in multilateral processes.
- Formed a lasting connection to the GYLDC alumni network and clear pathways into follow-on UN convenings (UNGA Science Summit, COP, ASEAN Youth Summits).

© COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION



© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases, each building on the last. The pre-programme online module ensures every delegate arrives in Geneva conversant with the substantive material; the on-site immersion converts that grounding into direct experience and professional relationships; and the capstone crystallises the learning into a defensible output that participants take with them into their onward work.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion in Geneva</i>	<i>Capstone Innovation Challenge</i>
▶ Foundations of the UN system and SDG framework ▶ Global AI governance — the WSIS process and the Global Digital Compact ▶ The role of ITU and specialised agencies in digital norm-setting ▶ AI ethics, intellectual property and cross-border regulation ▶ Delivered by former UN Under-Secretaries-General and senior specialists ▶ 8–10 hours across four weeks, culminating in a pre-arrival briefing pack	▶ WSIS+20 High-Level Event — plenary, ministerial and youth-track participation ▶ AI for Good Global Summit — keynote sessions, working groups, expo floor ▶ Structured visits: ITU, UNITAR, WTO, WHO, UNEP, IHEID ▶ Roundtable dialogues with UN youth envoys and senior officials ▶ Cross-cultural evening receptions with peer delegates from 20+ countries	▶ Team-based challenge: AI for a Sustainable Development Goal ▶ Coaching by ITU, UNITAR and GYLDC specialists ▶ 10-minute defence before a panel of UN experts and industry leaders ▶ Winning proposals recognised at the closing ceremony ▶ Selected teams invited to UNGA Science Summit and COP youth track

©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The AI Governance Immersion · Geneva is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions actively shaping global AI governance. Every partner listed below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, a working meeting on live policy files, or a structured tour of programmatic work — rather than a lobby visit.



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Convenor of the AI for Good Global Summit and WSIS process; host of the programme's core conference immersion, with dedicated youth-track access negotiated by GYLDC.



United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

GYLDC's institutional academic partner; delegates gain access to UNITAR's global training network as a delivery resource.



World Trade Organization (WTO)

Briefing on the digital trade agenda, AI in customs and supply chains, and the intersection of trade rules with cross-border data flows.



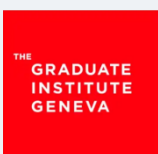
World Health Organization (WHO)

Session on AI in global health — regulatory frameworks, applications in diagnostics and epidemiology, and the ethics of health-data governance.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Working meeting on AI applications for climate action, biodiversity monitoring and circular economy — connecting the AI pillar to the programme's SDG capstone.



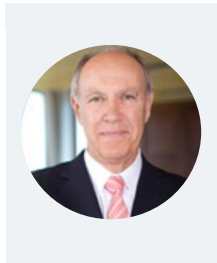
Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID)

Academic session on the political economy of multilateral governance; a rare opportunity to hear from Geneva's leading research faculty on the emergent AI order.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

Faculty are drawn from the ranks of former UN Under-Secretaries-General, sitting agency directors, and named specialists whose credentials open doors that no ordinary study tour can access. Every named faculty member below has been personally confirmed for the programme through GYLDC's institutional relationships.



Prof. Francis Gurry

Former Director-General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); Co-Chair, GSLDC Advisory Committee

Prof. Gurry led WIPO for over a decade and remains one of the world's most authoritative voices on the intersection of intellectual property, AI and international law. He delivers the programme's opening address on AI governance and personally chairs the capstone innovation challenge panel.



Fabrizio Hochschild

Former UN Under-Secretary-General; Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Digital Compact

Mr. Hochschild is the architect of the UN's digital cooperation agenda and led the negotiation of the Global Digital Compact. His session provides delegates with a first-hand account of how multilateral norms on AI are being negotiated in real time — material available in no other setting.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative of the 2025 and 2026 iterations. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement, aligned with the confirmed WSIS+20 and AI for Good agenda. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival & Orientation	Arrival in Geneva; welcome briefing; introduction to the multilateral ecosystem; opening dinner with GYLDC leadership.
Day 2	WSIS+20 Opening	WSIS+20 High-Level Event opening ceremony at Palexpo; Youth Knowledge Café; Digital Changemakers High-Level Dialogue; International Youth Reception at ITU headquarters.
Day 3	AI for Good Summit	AI for Good keynote sessions with global technology leaders; workshops on AI ethics and standards; participation in the Innovation Factory pitch showcase.
Day 4	Institutional Visit I	Full-day programme at ITU: briefings on AI standards, digital inclusion policy, and the ITU Youth Digital Hub initiative; roundtable with ITU officials.
Day 5	Institutional Visit II	Morning at WHO on AI in global health; afternoon at WTO on digital trade and AI in supply chains; evening cultural programme.
Day 6	Weekend Immersion	Free day for reflection and independent exploration; optional visits to CERN and the Red Cross Museum; capstone team formation.
Day 7	UNEP & Sustainability	Working session at UNEP on AI for climate and biodiversity; capstone workshop with UNITAR specialists.
Day 8	Palais des Nations	Formal visit to the UN Office at Geneva; briefing at UNITAR headquarters; career pathways dialogue with UN officials.
Day 9	IHEID Academic Day	Academic session at the Graduate Institute Geneva; capstone rehearsals; coaching by GYLDC faculty.
Day 10	Capstone & Closing	Capstone innovation challenge presentations; expert panel adjudication; award ceremony; formal closing dinner and certification.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value beyond the programme itself.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.

Letters of Recommendation

Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from named UN principals — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

Alumni Network Membership

Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — several hundred fellow participants across cohorts and geographies.

Follow-on Convenings

Priority nomination for the UN General Assembly Science Summit (September), COP youth track (November), and the ASEAN Youth AI Competency Challenge.

Publication Opportunities

Winning capstone proposals published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org), with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.

Internship & Career Access

Pathway into structured internship placements with GYLDC's UN agency, NGO and industry partners, subject to individual performance.



© APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Early application is strongly advised, as visa processing for Switzerland requires a minimum of eight weeks and cohort places are typically filled four months prior to commencement.

- **Eligibility**

Postgraduate students, early-career professionals, executives. Working English required.

- **Cohort**

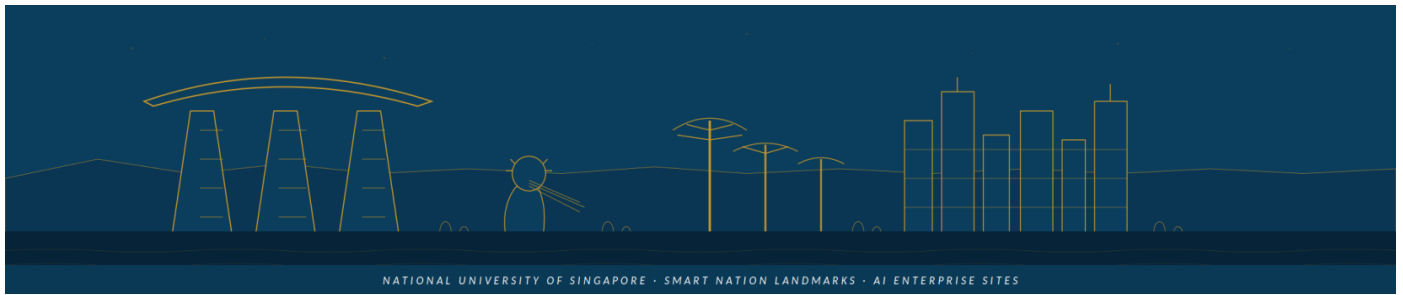
25–35 delegates, curated for diversity of background, geography and sector.

- **Fee**

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, materials, certification, and Geneva ground programme. International travel and accommodation are separate.

- **Contact**

admissions@ungylde.org · www.ungylde.org



AI & Sustainable Future Challenge • Singapore

AI meets Southeast Asian sustainability — an undergraduate innovation challenge in the region's most advanced Smart Nation environment

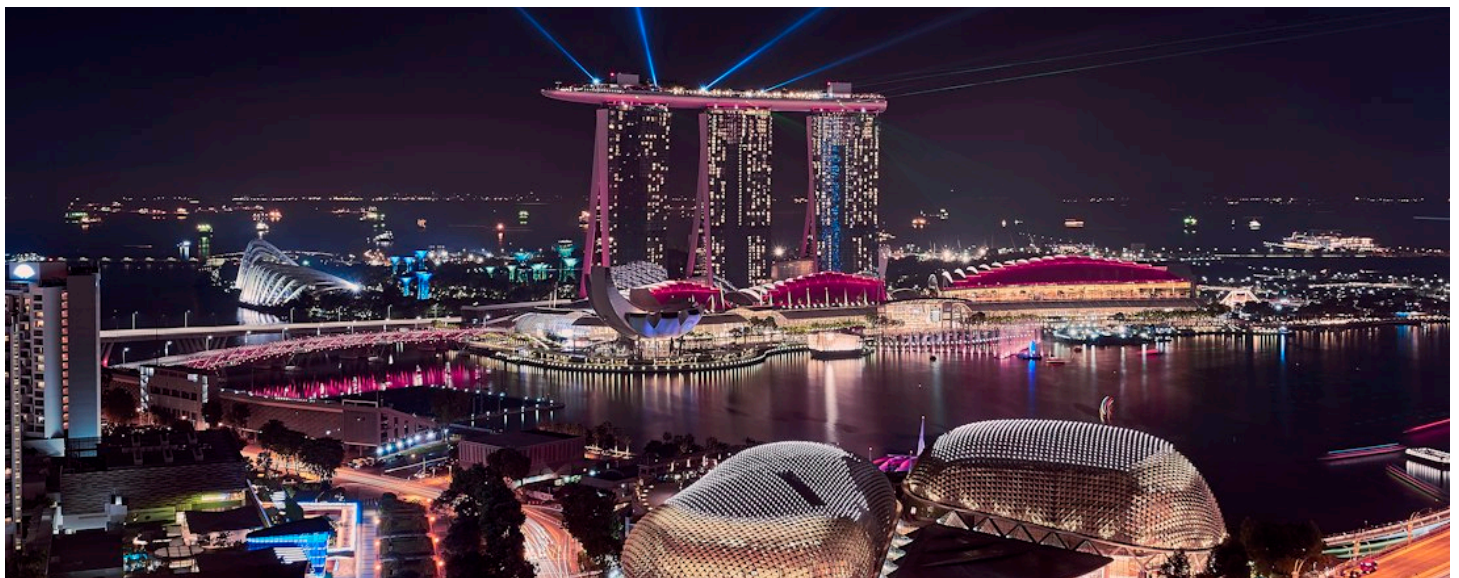
Singapore is Southeast Asia's most instructive laboratory for applied AI. In a single city-state, delegates can walk from a smart-nation traffic operations centre to an AI-native corporate campus to a green university precinct that runs on real-time environmental sensing. Nowhere else in the region compresses the full stack — policy, infrastructure, industry, education — into an equivalent radius.

The AI & Sustainable Future Challenge • Singapore places undergraduate delegates inside this stack for seven intensive days. Hosted on the National University of Singapore (NUS) campus and structured as an innovation challenge from day one, the programme runs a live competition track alongside expert lectures, corporate visits and site-based investigation.

This is the undergraduate anchor of GYLDC's AI & Digital Governance pillar and a direct pipeline into the annual AI for Future Global Youth SDGs Innovation Summit. Delegates who distinguish themselves in Singapore progress into the wider GYLDC ecosystem of UN convenings, publication opportunities and follow-on programmes.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

PILLAR	AI & Digital Governance
PRIMARY TIER	Undergraduate
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	7 days
NEXT ITERATION	July 2027
LOCATION	Singapore
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	30–40
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Regional Moment

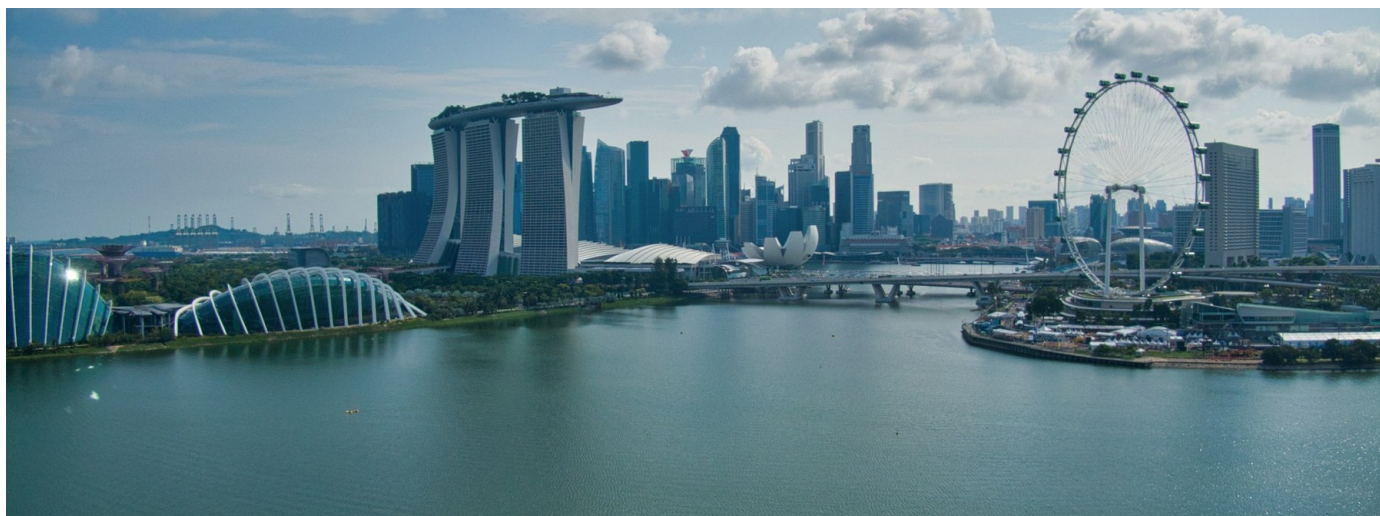
ASEAN is at an inflection point in its digital transition. Between 2024 and 2027, ASEAN member states are implementing the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, negotiating a regional AI governance framework, and integrating cross-border data flows into the ASEAN Economic Community. Singapore is where this transition is most advanced — and where the standards, use cases and career pathways for the next generation of Southeast Asian AI leadership are being defined right now.

©What Participants Experience

The programme opens with an immersive introduction to the NUS Green Campus, where AI is applied to energy management, water systems and biodiversity monitoring in real operational settings. From day two, delegates enter the innovation challenge track, forming teams that will develop, refine and defend an AI-for-SDG solution over the course of the week. Site visits to Singapore's Smart Nation landmarks, AI-driven enterprises and public-sector innovation centres feed directly into each team's work. The programme culminates in an expert-adjudicated final on day seven.

©Why GYLDC

This programme is co-organised by the China International Youth Exchange Center (CIYEC) and the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center (GSLDC) — the same institutional partnership behind GYLDC's AI Governance Immersion · Geneva. Delegates gain not only access to Singapore's institutional ecosystem but entry to a two-tier AI leadership pathway: Singapore for undergraduates, Geneva for postgraduates and executives.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for undergraduate students in their second, third or fourth year of study, and for exceptional first-year students with demonstrable engagement with AI, sustainability or Southeast Asian development. The programme is deliberately cross-disciplinary — it does not require a computer-science background.

Suitable participants typically include: undergraduates in computer science, data science, engineering, economics, business, public policy, environmental studies or international relations; student leaders active in AI, sustainability or entrepreneurship clubs on their home campuses; participants with prior competition experience (hackathons, case competitions, model UN); and students preparing for graduate study or careers in technology, consulting, development or public sector. English working proficiency is required. No prior programming ability is assumed — teams are formed to balance technical and non-technical skills.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working understanding of how AI is applied at scale in a Smart Nation context — traffic, energy, water, urban services, education, healthcare — and the governance frameworks that make it possible.
- Produced and defended, as a team, an original AI-for-SDG innovation proposal evaluated by a panel of UNDP experts, university faculty and industry executives.
- Established direct engagement with Singapore's AI enterprises and public-sector innovation centres, and formed a peer network of delegates from across China and Southeast Asia.
- Acquired hands-on competence in the workflow of an innovation challenge — problem framing, rapid prototyping, pitch construction, expert critique — that transfers directly to internship, hackathon and career settings.
- Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC and a clear pathway into the annual AI for Future Global Youth SDGs Innovation Summit, held in Hong Kong every January.

©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme's architecture places the innovation challenge at the centre, with pre-programme preparation, on-site immersion and post-programme continuation designed to feed into it. Every site visit, every expert lecture and every workshop is designed to advance the delegates' capstone project.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion in Singapore</i>	<i>Innovation Challenge Final</i>
▶ Foundations of AI applied to sustainability ▶ The ASEAN digital and Smart Nation policy landscape ▶ Case studies: AI for education equity, climate, health ▶ Innovation challenge framework and evaluation criteria ▶ Delivered by UNDP specialists and visiting academic faculty ▶ 6–8 hours across three weeks, culminating in team formation	▶ NUS Green Campus — AI applied to energy, water, biodiversity ▶ Smart Nation site visits — traffic operations, urban services ▶ AI enterprise visits — corporate labs, applied AI product teams ▶ City Walk investigation with structured field observation ▶ Daily coaching sessions and team stand-ups ▶ International Youth Dialogue with Singapore and ASEAN peers	▶ Team submission: proposal, pitch video, campaign poster ▶ 10-minute defence before expert panel ▶ Winning teams: AI for Future Summit progression ▶ Publication of winning proposals in IJYS (ijys.org) ▶ Introduction to internship placement pipeline



©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is structured around direct engagement with the institutions that have made Singapore a global reference point for applied AI. Every partner listed below hosts a substantive session — a briefing, a workshop, or a working visit — rather than an observational tour.



National University of Singapore (NUS)

The programme's host institution; delegates are based on the NUS campus for the duration, with sessions on the Green Campus initiative, the NUS AI Institute, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.



Smart Nation Singapore Office

Working session with the government agency coordinating Singapore's national AI and digital strategy; delegates observe how a whole-of-government approach to AI is designed and operated.



Singapore AI Enterprises

Structured visits to Singapore-based AI companies — corporate labs, applied product teams, and enterprise AI deployments. Confirmed hosts vary by cohort but include multinational and Singapore-headquartered firms.



China International Youth Exchange Center (CIYEC)

Co-organiser of the programme; provides the diplomatic and cultural framing that anchors the Singapore experience within China's international youth engagement agenda.



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP AI and sustainability specialists deliver keynote sessions and adjudicate the innovation challenge final, connecting delegate proposals to live UN programming.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

Faculty for this programme are being confirmed. Named faculty for each cohort will be announced approximately 60 days before commencement.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival & Orientation	Arrival in Singapore; check-in at NUS residence; welcome reception; Singapore in context — an introductory briefing on the Smart Nation vision.
Day 2	Opening & Challenge Launch	Opening ceremony; keynote by UNDP specialist; innovation challenge briefing and team formation; team-building activities; plenary on AI for sustainable development.
Day 3	AI on the Green Campus	NUS Green Campus field investigation — energy, water, biodiversity sensing; workshop on smart-campus AI architectures; team problem-framing session.
Day 4	AI in the Smart Nation	Smart Nation site visits — traffic operations centre, urban services innovation lab; City Walk field investigation; teams refine their proposal framing.
Day 5	AI in the Enterprise	Visits to Singapore AI enterprises — corporate labs, product teams; hands-on demonstration sessions; teams incorporate industry insights into their proposals.
Day 6	Communication & Craft	Workshops on pitch video production, campaign poster design, and public presentation; PPT preparation; rehearsal and expert coaching.
Day 7	Final & Closing	Innovation challenge finals — team presentations, expert adjudication; International Youth Dialogue Rounds I & II; awards ceremony; certification; closing dinner.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value beyond the programme itself.

Formal Certification Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.	Letters of Recommendation Winning-team members and outstanding individual delegates receive personal letters of recommendation from UNDP specialists or named faculty.
AI for Future Summit Pathway Winning teams progress directly into the annual AI for Future Global Youth SDGs Innovation Summit (Hong Kong, every January), with cohort travel support where available.	Publication Opportunities Winning innovation proposals published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org), with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.
Internship Pathway Introduction to structured internship placements with GSLDC's UN agency, NGO and industry partners, subject to individual performance.	Alumni Network Membership Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — several hundred fellow participants across cohorts and geographies.

©APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Early application is strongly advised, as places are typically filled three months prior to commencement.

Eligibility

Undergraduate students (Years 1–4). Working English required. No prior programming experience necessary.

Cohort

30–40 delegates, curated for balance of discipline, home university and technical background.

Fee

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, NUS residence accommodation, meals, ground programme, materials and certification. International travel is separate.

Contact

admissions@ungylde.org · www.ungylde.org

PART II

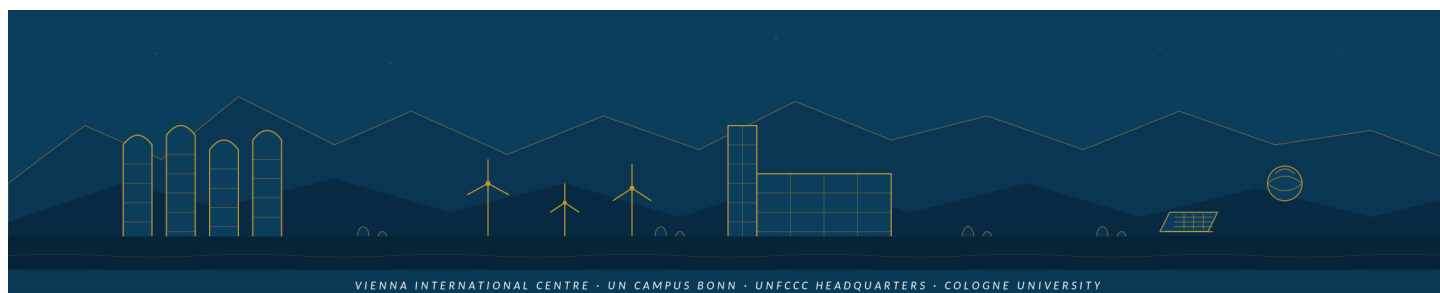
Climate & Frontier Science

Where the science and technology of global challenges are governed.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

Climate Governance Programme · Austria & Germany

Space & Frontier Tech Programme · Vienna · Geneva · Lausanne



Climate Governance Programme • Austria & Germany

Where global climate policy is designed and delivered — an undergraduate immersion in the UN's European climate infrastructure

The architecture of global climate governance is designed on two axes in continental Europe. Vienna hosts the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency — the institutions that translate climate policy into energy, industry and technology transitions. Bonn hosts the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change itself — the institutional heart of every COP negotiation since 1995.

The Climate Governance Programme • Austria & Germany places undergraduate delegates inside both. Over ten days, delegates move from Vienna to Cologne to Bonn — with a working visit to Germany's international cooperation agency (GIZ) in Frankfurt — engaging directly with the officials, negotiators and applied scientists who are actively shaping how the Paris Agreement is implemented.

This is the flagship undergraduate offering within the GYLDC Climate & Environment pillar. Delegates who distinguish themselves in the programme are nominated for the annual COP youth track and other UN convenings on climate action.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

PILLAR	Climate & Frontier Science
PRIMARY TIER	Undergraduate
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10 days
NEXT ITERATION	August 2027
LOCATION	Austria & Germany
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	25–35
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

The years between the current decade and 2030 are the decisive window for delivery on the Paris Agreement. Every UN member state is now required to submit an updated Nationally Determined Contribution, and the implementation architecture — carbon markets, loss-and-damage financing, adaptation frameworks, industrial transition — is being built in real time inside the institutions this programme visits. Participants engage with these processes not as observers but as the next generation of professionals who will make them work.

©What Participants Experience

The programme opens in Vienna with structured engagement at the UN Office at Vienna, UNIDO and IIASA, focused on the applied science and industrial dimensions of climate transition. Delegates then move to Cologne and Bonn for the core UNFCCC immersion — including a formal engagement with the UNFCCC Secretariat and dedicated sessions on the COP negotiation process, loss-and-damage finance, and climate adaptation. The programme concludes at GIZ in Frankfurt with a focused session on how Europe's largest development cooperation agency delivers climate finance in partner countries.

©Why GYLDC

This programme has been delivered in partnership with Guangdong University of Foreign Studies since its launch. The 2024 iteration engaged UNIDO, IIASA, GIZ, UNFCCC, UN-Habitat, UNOPS and IHEID — a partner roster that few undergraduate programmes anywhere in the world can match. Delegates enter Bonn and Vienna with GYLDC's institutional credentials, meeting officials who are rarely accessible to outside groups.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for undergraduate students whose academic or career trajectory intersects with climate policy, energy transition, international development or environmental governance. The programme is deliberately cross-disciplinary — it welcomes students from technical, social science and humanities backgrounds alike.

Suitable participants typically include: undergraduates in international relations, environmental studies, energy engineering, economics, public policy, law, or language and translation programmes with a global affairs focus; student leaders active in sustainability, climate or model UN activities on their home campuses; participants preparing for graduate study in international development, environmental policy or global affairs; and students on GYLDC's partner university programmes at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and comparable institutions. English working proficiency is required.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the global climate governance architecture — the UNFCCC process, the Paris Agreement implementation framework, and the roles of UNIDO, IIASA and adjacent institutions in translating policy into action.
- Established direct professional relationships with UNFCCC Secretariat officials, UNIDO programme managers, IIASA researchers, and GIZ climate finance specialists.
- Completed and defended a proposal for a COP side event or intervention on a topic of the delegate's choice, evaluated by UN officials in the actual working setting of the UNFCCC campus.
- Built cross-cultural fluency in navigating European institutional environments — from Vienna to Bonn to Frankfurt — a competency directly transferable to graduate study, internship and career settings in international organisations.
- Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC and a clear pathway into the annual COP youth track.

©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

©CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases. Pre-programme online modules establish the substantive foundations; the on-site immersion translates that foundation into direct institutional experience across two countries; and the capstone crystallises the learning into a defensible output — a COP side event proposal presented at the UNFCCC campus itself.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion — Austria & Germany</i>	<i>COP Side Event Capstone</i>
▶ The UN climate architecture and the Paris Agreement ▶ Global governance under multipolarity — opportunities and challenges ▶ Women's leadership in global climate governance ▶ UN internship and career paths — a shared experience session ▶ Delivered by former UN USG Fabrizio Hochschild, former ASG Janos Pasztor, and Peking University climate faculty ▶ Two intensive days online in the month prior to departure	▶ Vienna: UN Office at Vienna, UNIDO, IIASA ▶ Vienna: multilateral diplomacy roundtable at the UN campus ▶ Cologne: University of Cologne — climate and sustainable campus ▶ Bonn: UNFCCC Secretariat — dedicated engagement ▶ Bonn: UNOPS, UN-Habitat, UNITAR, UNESCO-UNEVOC ▶ Frankfurt: GIZ — European climate finance in developing countries	▶ Team-based capstone: propose a COP side event or intervention ▶ Coaching by UNFCCC officials and GYLDC faculty ▶ Presentation at the UN campus in Bonn ▶ Feedback and evaluation by UNFCCC and GIZ specialists ▶ Winning teams nominated for the COP youth track



©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions that operationalise global climate policy in continental Europe. Every partner below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, a working meeting on live policy files, or a structured tour of programmatic work.



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The Secretariat that coordinates every COP negotiation; delegates receive a dedicated engagement at the UN campus in Bonn, including sessions on the COP process, loss-and-damage finance, and climate adaptation.



UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Vienna-headquartered UN agency for inclusive and sustainable industrial development; delegates engage on the industrial dimensions of climate transition — from clean energy to green hydrogen to sustainable supply chains.



International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Vienna-based independent research institute providing scientific analysis to UN and national policymakers; delegates receive dedicated academic and capability training on integrated assessment modelling for climate policy.



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Germany's federal international cooperation agency; a Frankfurt-based session on how European climate finance is delivered in partner countries, particularly across Asia, Africa and Latin America.



University of Cologne

One of Germany's oldest and most established universities; delegates engage with the university's climate and sustainable campus initiatives, providing a comparator to the delegates' own home institutions.



UN-Habitat · UNOPS · UNITAR · UNESCO-UNEVOC

Bonn-based UN agencies whose mandates intersect climate governance — human settlements, project implementation, training and research, technical and vocational education. Delegates receive successive briefings from each.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

The programme's faculty combine former UN senior leadership, current agency officials, and specialists in the applied science and finance of climate transition. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.



Fabrizio Hochschild

Former UN Under-Secretary-General; Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

Mr. Hochschild delivers the programme's opening framing on the multilateral system and its role in the climate transition. His pre-programme online lecture on UN history and achievements provides delegates with the essential contextual grounding for engagement in Vienna and Bonn.



Janos Pasztor

Former UN Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change

Mr. Pasztor is one of the world's most senior former UN officials on the climate portfolio. His pre-programme session on global climate governance and UN career paths gives delegates unmatched insight into how the UN's climate architecture actually functions — and how they might enter it professionally.



Ms. Tan Lu Yue

Senior Carbon Analyst, London Stock Exchange Group; Special Adviser (Asia), Sustainable Finance Research Institute

Ms. Tan represents the applied finance dimension of climate governance — carbon markets, sustainable finance, and nature-based solutions. Her session, framed for undergraduate delegates, translates the abstract architecture of Paris Agreement implementation into the concrete markets and instruments that make it work.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative of the 2024 iteration. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival — Vienna	Arrival in Vienna; check-in; welcome briefing on the multilateral system in continental Europe.
Day 2	UN Vienna	Full-day at the UN campus (VIC); UNIDO briefing on inclusive industrial development; UN roundtable on multilateral diplomacy and stakeholder engagement.
Day 3	Vienna University	University of Vienna — climate and sustainable campus session; Vienna city investigation on climate-resilient urban design.
Day 4	IIASA & Cross-Cultural	Full session at IIASA on integrated assessment modelling; academic and capability training; peer exchange dialogue on China–EU relations.
Day 5	Vienna to Cologne	Rail transfer to Cologne; arrival and orientation; evening cultural programme.
Day 6	Cologne — Old City & Uni	Investigation of Cologne's climate-resilient urban design; University of Cologne — climate and sustainable campus session.
Day 7	Bonn — Cross-Culture	Transfer to Bonn; Bonn Museum Quarter — cultural understanding; Bonn central station district investigation on climate-adaptive urban design.
Day 8	Bonn — UN Agencies	Successive briefings: UNOPS on project delivery; UN-Habitat on human settlements; UNITAR on training and research; UNESCO-UNEVOC on TVET.
Day 9	UNFCCC & Capstone	Dedicated engagement at the UNFCCC Secretariat; youth dialogue on climate leadership; capstone presentations on COP side event proposals; closing ceremony.
Day 10	Frankfurt & Departure	Transfer to Frankfurt; GIZ session on European climate finance in partner countries; farewell dinner; departure preparations.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value beyond the programme itself.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.

Letters of Recommendation

Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from senior UN officials — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

COP Youth Track Nomination

Priority nomination for the annual COP youth track, including the current COP host country's dedicated youth programming.

Publication Opportunities

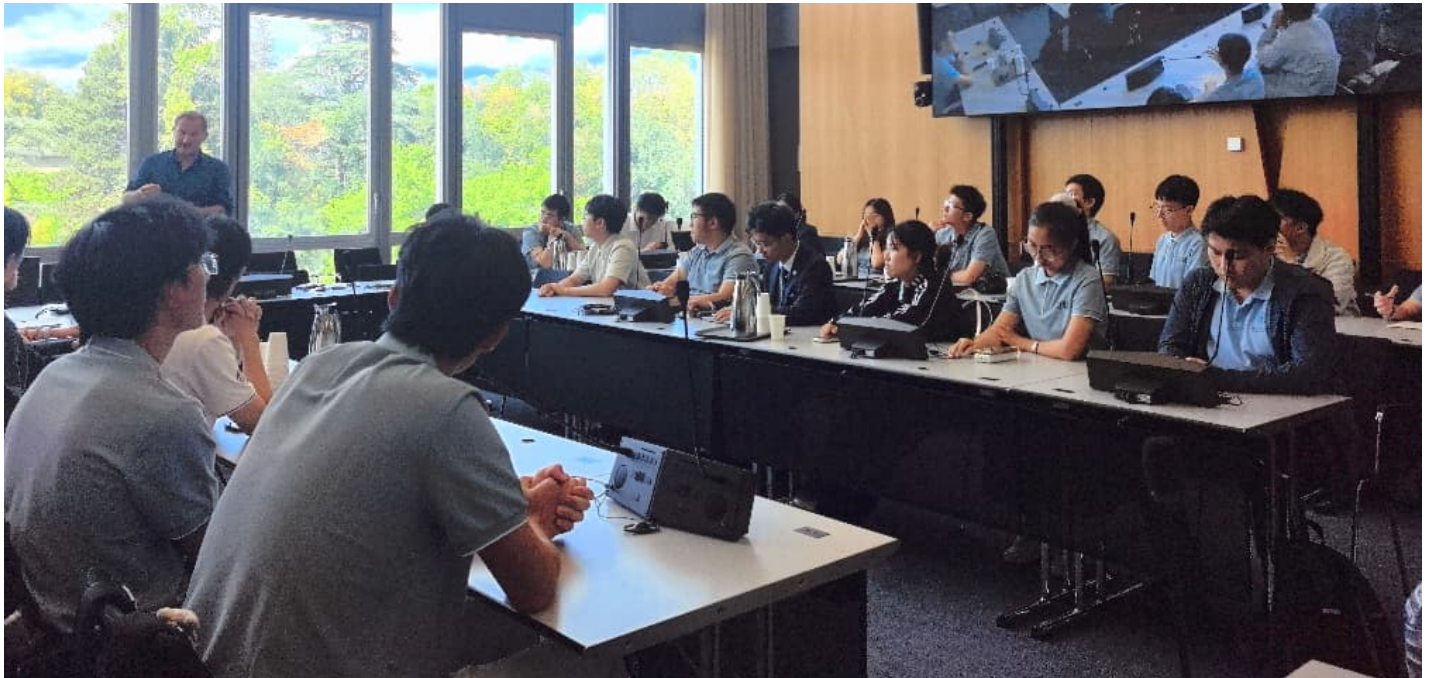
Winning capstone proposals published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org), with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.

Follow-on Convenings

Priority nomination for the Asia-Pacific Green Low-Carbon Development Forum (Asian Development Bank youth track) and other UN youth convenings.

Alumni Network Membership

Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — several hundred fellow participants across cohorts and geographies.



©APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Early application is strongly advised, as Schengen visa processing requires a minimum of six weeks and cohort places are typically filled four months prior to commencement.

Eligibility

Undergraduate students (Years 1–4). Working English required.

Cohort

25–35 delegates, curated for balance of discipline, home university and regional origin.

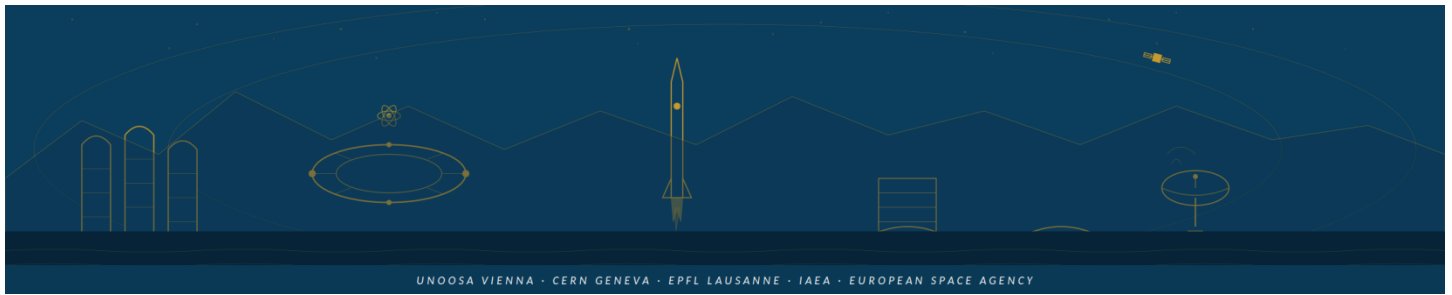
Fee

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, ground programme, materials and certification. International travel and accommodation are separate.

Contact

admissions@ungylde.org · www.ungylde.org





Space & Frontier Tech Programme • Vienna • Geneva • Lausanne

Where humanity's frontier technologies are governed — an undergraduate immersion at the intersection of space, science and the SDGs

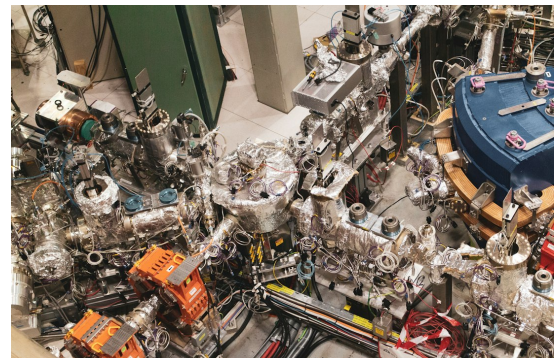
The technologies that will define the second half of the twenty-first century — orbital infrastructure, satellite Earth observation, particle physics, next-generation nuclear energy — are being simultaneously invented, governed and standardised within a single 500-kilometre corridor: Vienna to Geneva to Lausanne. Nowhere else on Earth are the space and frontier-tech dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals so densely institutionalised.

The Space & Frontier Tech Programme • Vienna • Geneva • Lausanne places undergraduate delegates inside this corridor for ten days. Delegates engage directly with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Space Agency and CERN — the institutions that will shape how humanity conducts itself in space and at the frontier of physical science.

This is a genuine differentiator within the GYLDC portfolio. Few undergraduate programmes anywhere in the world offer this combination of space governance, frontier science and multilateral institutional access. Delegates leave with credentials that distinguish them for graduate study, career pathways and future participation in international scientific institutions.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

PILLAR	Climate & Frontier Science
PRIMARY TIER	Undergraduate
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10–12 days
NEXT ITERATION	August 2027
LOCATION	Vienna • Geneva • Lausanne
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	25–30
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

Human activity in space is entering an unprecedented phase. Commercial launch capacity has multiplied. Low-Earth orbit is being populated with satellite constellations at a scale unimaginable a decade ago. National and commercial actors are planning permanent lunar infrastructure. The governance frameworks that will regulate this expansion — orbital debris, spectrum allocation, planetary protection, dual-use technology transfer — are being negotiated right now, primarily inside UNOOSA in Vienna. Delegates in this programme are not merely learning about these processes; they are in the rooms where they happen.

©What Participants Experience

The programme opens in Vienna with immersive engagement at UNOOSA, the IAEA and the Moon Village Association. Delegates then travel to Geneva for structured programming at CERN — including a visit to the ATLAS or CMS experiment and a working session on how the world's largest scientific collaboration is governed — and at UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). The final phase in Lausanne engages the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Europe's leading technical university, on frontier applications of space technology in climate science and sustainable engineering.

©Why GYLDC

This programme is one of GYLDC's most institutionally demanding to deliver. The access it offers — UNOOSA, IAEA, CERN, EPFL, ESA-linked partners — is the product of GYLDC's long-standing relationships with the Vienna and Geneva UN clusters. Very few undergraduate programmes worldwide can assemble this partner roster; among those in the Chinese-speaking market, we believe none can.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for undergraduate students whose intellectual curiosity and career trajectory intersect with space, frontier science, international scientific cooperation or the governance of high-technology systems. Delegates need not be technical specialists — but they should be prepared to engage substantively with technical content.

Suitable participants typically include: undergraduates in aerospace engineering, physics, computer science, mechanical engineering, or applied mathematics; students in international relations, space law, science and technology policy, or environmental studies with a space-technology dimension; participants preparing for graduate study in space policy, science and technology studies, or international scientific institutions; and student leaders active in space, robotics or physics societies on their home campuses. English working proficiency is required. A general familiarity with orbital mechanics or particle physics is welcomed but not required — the programme is calibrated to introduce non-specialist participants alongside those with prior grounding.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the global space governance architecture — the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the five UN space treaties, and the emerging norms on orbital debris, spectrum, and dual-use technology.
- Established direct professional relationships with officials at UNOOSA, IAEA, CERN and EPFL, and with peer delegates from partner universities across Europe and Asia.
- Produced and defended a capstone project applying space or frontier technology to a defined SDG — evaluated by UNOOSA and IAEA specialists.
- Acquired the interdisciplinary fluency — moving between engineering, policy, ethics and international law — that distinguishes effective participants in twenty-first-century scientific institutions.
- Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC and clear pathways into UN Space4Youth programming and the international space community.



©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

©CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme's architecture takes delegates progressively from governance to science to applied engineering — Vienna's institutional and legal frameworks, then Geneva's frontier physics and applied Earth observation, then Lausanne's engineering and integration. Each phase feeds the delegates' capstone: an applied proposal defended before UN officials and university faculty.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion — Three Cities</i>	<i>Capstone Project</i>
▶ The UN space governance architecture and COPUOS ▶ The five UN space treaties in practice ▶ Applied Earth observation for the SDGs ▶ Frontier science governance — CERN and the IAEA model ▶ Delivered by UNOOSA affiliates, IAEA specialists, and university faculty ▶ 8–10 hours across three weeks, culminating in a pre-arrival briefing pack	▶ Vienna: UNOOSA, IAEA, Moon Village Association ▶ Geneva: CERN — ATLAS/CMS visit and governance session ▶ Geneva: UNOSAT — applied satellite Earth observation ▶ Lausanne: EPFL — Space Center and frontier engineering ▶ Cross-city travel by rail — a working exchange en route ▶ Cross-cultural evening programme in each city	▶ Team-based capstone: space or frontier tech applied to an SDG ▶ Coaching by UNOOSA and IAEA specialists ▶ 10-minute defence before a mixed UN–academic panel ▶ Winning proposals nominated for UN Space4Youth programming ▶ Selected teams invited to the International Astronautical Congress

©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions that govern and advance humanity's frontier science and space activities. Every partner below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, a working meeting on live policy files, or a structured tour of active experiments and facilities.



UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

The UN body charged with promoting the peaceful use of outer space; hosts a dedicated multi-day engagement covering COPUOS, the space treaties, and current negotiations on orbital debris and space traffic management.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The UN agency for peaceful use of nuclear technology; delegates engage on nuclear applications for the SDGs — medicine, agriculture, energy — and on the IAEA's dual model of promotion and safeguards.



European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

The world's largest particle physics laboratory; delegates visit the ATLAS or CMS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider and receive a working session on the governance of the world's largest scientific collaboration.



UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT)

UN training and research on applied satellite Earth observation; delegates engage on how satellite data is deployed for humanitarian response, climate monitoring and SDG measurement.



École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

One of Europe's leading technical universities; delegates visit the EPFL Space Center and engage on frontier applications of space technology, including CubeSat design, satellite propulsion and space-based climate observation.



Moon Village Association

The international non-governmental organisation coordinating civil-society engagement in lunar activities; provides delegates with an entry point into the emerging governance of permanent lunar infrastructure.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

The programme's faculty combine current UN officials, sitting agency directors and named academic specialists from Europe's leading technical universities. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Director-level Official, UN Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Vienna

A director-level UNOOSA official delivers the programme's opening plenary on the state of global space governance — including current COPUOS negotiations on orbital debris, spectrum, and space traffic management. UNOOSA specialists also adjudicate the capstone project and provide follow-on engagement to standout delegates.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Senior Physicist, CERN ATLAS Collaboration

European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva

A senior CERN physicist delivers the programme's session on the governance and operational realities of the world's largest scientific collaboration. Delegates receive a working introduction to how a global project involving 5,000 physicists across 40 countries actually functions — material with no equivalent in any textbook.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Professor, EPFL Space Center

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne

A senior EPFL faculty member delivers the programme's session on frontier engineering applications of space technology — from CubeSat design to satellite propulsion to space-based climate observation. EPFL faculty also serve on the capstone project adjudication panel.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival — Vienna	Arrival in Vienna; check-in; welcome briefing on the space governance architecture; opening dinner.
Day 2	UN Vienna & UNOOSA	Full-day at the Vienna International Centre (VIC); UNOOSA plenary on space governance; introduction to COPUOS negotiations; UN campus tour.
Day 3	IAEA & Moon Village	IAEA briefing on nuclear applications for the SDGs; Moon Village Association session on lunar governance; evening cultural programme.
Day 4	Vienna to Geneva	Rail transfer to Geneva; en route working session on the CERN model of scientific collaboration; arrival and orientation in Geneva.
Day 5	CERN Immersion	Full-day at CERN: ATLAS or CMS experiment visit; senior physicist session on collaboration governance; hands-on demonstrations.
Day 6	UNOSAT & Applied EO	UNOSAT session on applied satellite Earth observation; case studies on humanitarian response and SDG measurement; capstone team formation.
Day 7	Geneva to Lausanne	Transfer to Lausanne; opening at EPFL; introduction to the Space Center; campus orientation and evening programme.
Day 8	EPFL Frontier Engineering	EPFL Space Center — CubeSat design workshop; satellite propulsion session; space-based climate observation demonstration; capstone coaching.
Day 9	Capstone Development	Capstone teamwork day; UNOOSA and EPFL faculty coaching; rehearsals; expert critique; final refinement of proposals.
Day 10	Finals & Closing	Capstone project defence before the UN—academic panel; awards ceremony; certification; farewell dinner; departure preparations.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value beyond the programme itself.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.

Letters of Recommendation

Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from UNOOSA officials, IAEA specialists or EPFL faculty.

UN Space4Youth Pathway

Winning teams nominated for UN Space4Youth programming and the International Astronautical Congress youth track.

Publication Opportunities

Winning capstone proposals published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org), with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.

Follow-on Access

Introduction to the Moon Village Association, ESA outreach programmes, and adjacent scientific communities — a rare gateway for undergraduates.

Alumni Network Membership

Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — several hundred fellow participants across cohorts and geographies.



©APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Cohort size is deliberately limited to preserve access quality at UNOOSA, CERN and EPFL. Schengen visa processing requires a minimum of six weeks; early application is strongly advised.

Eligibility

Undergraduate students (Years 1–4). Working English required. No specific technical prerequisites.

Cohort

25–30 delegates, curated for balance of technical and non-technical background.

Fee

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, ground programme, inter-city rail, materials and certification. International travel and accommodation are separate.

Contact

admissions@ungyldc.org · www.ungyldc.org

PART III

Global Governance & Diplomacy

Where the multilateral system operates.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

Global Governance & International Organizations · Geneva

Multilateral Diplomacy Programme · Switzerland · France · Denmark



Global Governance & International Organizations • Geneva

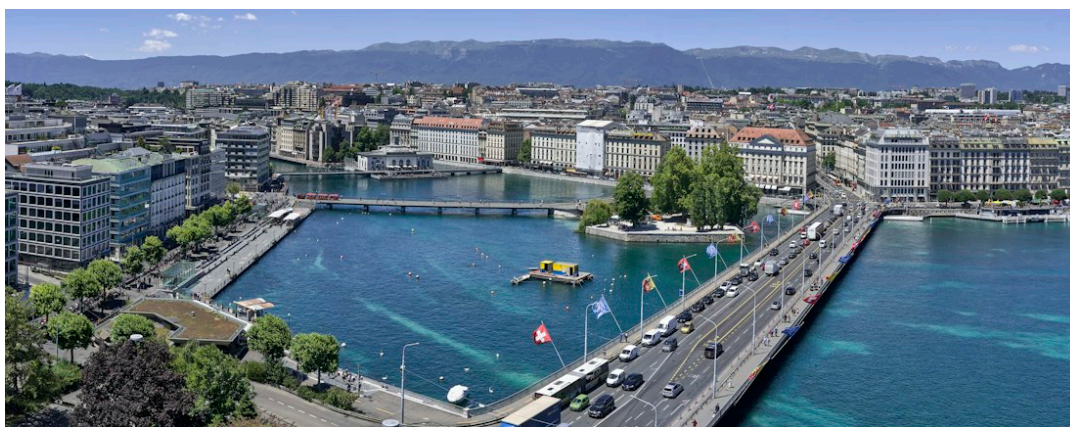
The foundational Geneva immersion — where undergraduate delegates encounter the full breadth of the multilateral system

Geneva is the operational capital of the multilateral system. Over thirty international organisations, thirty thousand international civil servants, and the substantive work of eight UN specialised agencies are concentrated within a single city — from the Palais des Nations along the lakefront to the humanitarian institutions clustered around Ariana Park to the trade and standards bodies of the Nations quarter. No other city on Earth offers this density of multilateral institutional experience.

The Global Governance & International Organizations • Geneva is the foundational offering within the GYLDC Multilateral Diplomacy pillar. Over ten intensive days, undergraduate delegates engage directly with the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the Graduate Institute Geneva.

This programme has been delivered since 2023 and remains GYLDC's most established undergraduate offering. It is the portfolio's principal programme for delegates preparing for graduate study or professional careers in international organisations.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE	
PILLAR	Global Governance & Diplomacy
PRIMARY TIER	Undergraduate
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10 days
NEXT ITERATION	July/August 2027
LOCATION	Geneva, Switzerland
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	30–40
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

The multilateral system is under sustained pressure. Great-power competition, fragmentation of global economic architecture, and the strain of successive crises — pandemic, displacement, climate — are testing the institutions built after 1945. The next generation of multilateral professionals will inherit a system that must be simultaneously defended, reformed and renewed. This is the moment when substantive engagement with the working machinery of these institutions matters most.

©What Participants Experience

The programme is structured around depth of engagement rather than breadth of visits. Delegates spend substantial time inside each partner institution — not a lobby tour but a working session with officials on live policy files. At WHO, they engage with the pandemic preparedness agenda. At WTO, with the digital trade negotiations. At UNHCR, with contemporary displacement crises. At the ICRC, with international humanitarian law in modern conflict. At IHEID, they receive academic sessions from tenured faculty on the political economy of multilateral governance.

©Why GYLDC

This programme is the historical foundation of the GYLDC study tour portfolio. Since its 2023 inception, successive cohorts have progressed into graduate programmes at leading global universities and internships across the UN system. The alumni network from this programme is now the largest of any GYLDC offering, and provides current delegates with an unmatched informal support system.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for undergraduate students whose academic and career trajectory intersects with international relations, diplomacy, humanitarian action, global health, trade or the broader multilateral system. It is the flagship generalist offering within the GYLDC portfolio — suitable for delegates who want to encounter the full breadth of the multilateral system rather than any single specialist track.

Suitable participants typically include: undergraduates in international relations, diplomacy, political science, economics, law, public health, or global studies programmes; students in language and translation programmes with an international-organisation career orientation; participants preparing for graduate study at Sciences Po, LSE, SAIS, Fletcher, IHEID or comparable institutions; and student leaders active in model UN, international affairs, or human rights societies on their home campuses. English working proficiency is required. Prior participation in model UN or similar simulations is welcomed but not necessary.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the operational structure of the multilateral system — how the UN specialised agencies function, how they interact, how they finance their work, and how they engage member states.
- Established direct professional relationships with officials at WTO, WHO, UNHCR, ICRC, WMO, WIPO and IHEID, and with peer delegates across cohorts.
- Produced a research paper on a topic of the delegate's choice, evaluated by GYLDC faculty and, where warranted, submitted for external publication.
- Acquired the cross-institutional fluency that distinguishes effective young professionals inside the multilateral system — the ability to navigate between agencies, to understand their different working cultures, and to work across them productively.
- Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC's largest and most active alumni network — the informal ecosystem that supports delegates for years after the programme itself.



© COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases. Pre-programme online modules establish the foundational understanding of the UN system and the Sustainable Development Goals. The on-site immersion translates that foundation into direct working engagement across Geneva's institutional cluster. The capstone crystallises the learning into a substantive research paper that many delegates continue to develop into their undergraduate thesis or graduate application portfolio.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion in Geneva</i>	<i>Research Paper Capstone</i>
▶ The UN system: history, structure, financing ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals — theory and implementation ▶ Global governance under multipolarity ▶ Careers in international organisations — pathways and preparation ▶ Delivered by former UN Under-Secretaries-General and senior specialists ▶ 8–10 hours across four weeks, culminating in a pre-arrival briefing pack	▶ Palais des Nations — UN Office at Geneva ▶ World Trade Organization — trade governance and policy ▶ World Health Organization — global health architecture ▶ UNHCR — contemporary displacement crises ▶ ICRC — international humanitarian law in modern conflict ▶ WMO · WIPO — meteorology and intellectual property ▶ IHEID — academic sessions with tenured faculty	▶ Individual research paper on a topic of the delegate's choice ▶ Coaching by GYLDC faculty and Geneva-based specialists ▶ Peer critique and expert review ▶ Formal presentation at the Palais des Nations ▶ Winning papers submitted to IJYS for publication consideration

©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct working engagement with the institutional cluster that makes Geneva the operational capital of the multilateral system. Every partner below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, a working meeting on live policy files, or a structured tour of programmatic work.



UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

The Palais des Nations — the operational heart of UN work in Geneva; delegates receive formal reception at UNOG and orientation on the full institutional geography of Geneva multilateralism.



World Trade Organization (WTO)

Briefing on contemporary trade governance — the digital trade agenda, developing-country participation, and the interaction of trade rules with sustainable development.



World Health Organization (WHO)

Working session on global health architecture — pandemic preparedness, health equity, and the WHO reform agenda following the COVID-19 response.



UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Session on contemporary displacement crises — the largest refugee flows in history, the operational architecture of humanitarian response, and the international refugee regime.



International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The historical foundation of modern international humanitarian law; delegates engage on the ICRC's mandate and on IHL in the era of cyber-conflict and autonomous weapons.



World Meteorological Organization · WIPO · IHEID

Successive briefings on climate and weather governance (WMO), intellectual property in the AI era (WIPO), and academic sessions with tenured faculty (IHEID) on the political economy of multilateralism.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

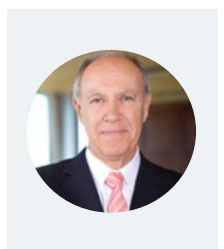
The programme's faculty combine former UN senior leadership, current agency officials, and tenured academic faculty from the Graduate Institute Geneva and adjacent institutions. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.



Fabrizio Hochschild

Former UN Under-Secretary-General; Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

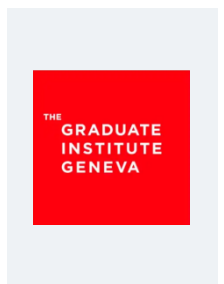
Mr. Hochschild delivers the programme's opening framing on the state of multilateralism. His pre-programme lecture on UN history and current pressures on the system provides delegates with the essential contextual grounding for their Geneva engagements. He has been a founding faculty member of this programme since 2023.



Prof. Francis Gurry

Former Director-General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); Co-Chair, GSLDC Advisory Committee

Prof. Gurry provides the programme's dedicated session on intellectual property in the AI era — a domain where Geneva sets global norms. His participation gives delegates direct access to one of the world's most senior figures in international standard-setting.



Faculty, Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID)

The Graduate Institute Geneva — Europe's leading school for international affairs

Tenured IHEID faculty deliver the programme's academic sessions on the political economy of multilateralism and on career pathways into international organisations. IHEID is a rare source of both formal graduate education and applied policy engagement — the institutional bridge between academic study and the working multilateral system.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival — Geneva	Arrival in Geneva; check-in; welcome briefing on the multilateral system in Geneva; opening dinner.
Day 2	Palais des Nations	Full-day at the UN Office at Geneva; formal reception; institutional orientation; opening ceremony; introduction to UN Geneva cluster.
Day 3	WTO Immersion	Full session at the World Trade Organization; briefings on digital trade, developing-country participation, and the sustainable development agenda; capstone research topic ideation.
Day 4	WHO & Global Health	Full session at WHO on global health architecture; pandemic preparedness working meeting; cross-cultural evening programme.
Day 5	UNHCR & Humanitarian	UNHCR briefing on contemporary displacement; site visits to affiliated humanitarian institutions; capstone research paper framing.
Day 6	ICRC & Museum	Working session at the ICRC on IHL in modern conflict; ICRC Museum immersion; peer research exchange.
Day 7	Weekend Immersion	Cultural programme and independent research time; optional visits to CERN and the Palais des Nations gardens; capstone drafting.
Day 8	WMO, WIPO & Academic	Successive sessions: WMO on climate and weather governance; WIPO on intellectual property in the AI era; IHEID academic session on multilateralism.
Day 9	Capstone Development	Capstone research paper coaching; peer critique sessions; expert review by Geneva-based specialists; presentation rehearsal.
Day 10	Presentation & Closing	Formal research paper presentations at the Palais des Nations; expert panel feedback; awards ceremony; certification; farewell dinner.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value beyond the programme itself.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.

Letters of Recommendation

Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from named UN principals — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

Research Paper Portfolio

Every delegate leaves with a substantive research paper — many extend it into their undergraduate thesis or graduate application portfolio.

Alumni Network Membership

Entry into the GYLDC alumni network — the largest and most active of any GYLDC offering, spanning cohorts from 2023 onward.

UN Internship Pathway

Introduction to GSLDC's UN agency contacts for structured internship placement, subject to individual performance and match.

Follow-on Convenings

Priority nomination for the UN General Assembly Science Summit and adjacent international youth convenings.



©APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Early application is strongly advised, as Schengen visa processing requires a minimum of six weeks and this programme is typically the first in the GYLDC portfolio to reach capacity each year.

Eligibility

Undergraduate students (Years 1–4). Working English required.

Cohort

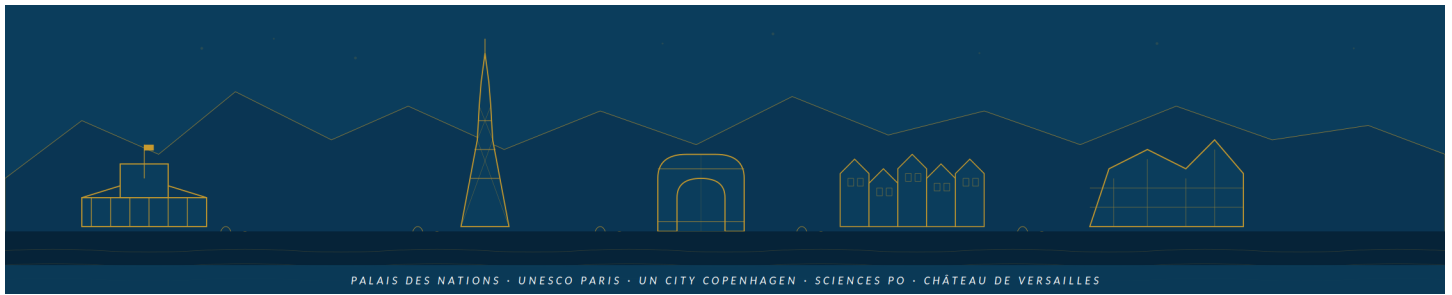
30–40 delegates, curated for balance of discipline, home university and regional origin.

Fee

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, ground programme, materials and certification. International travel and accommodation are separate.

Contact

admissions@ungyldc.org · www.ungyldc.org



Multilateral Diplomacy Programme • Switzerland • France • Denmark

The secondary-school gateway to the multilateral system — where future diplomats first encounter the institutions they may one day lead

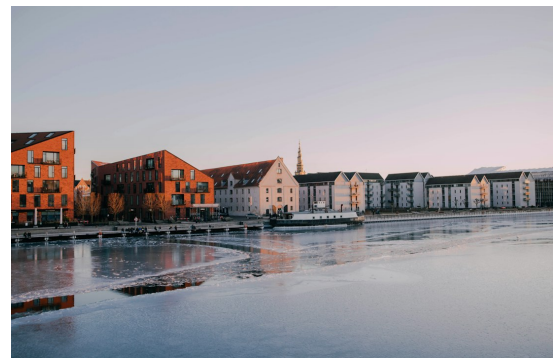
For secondary-school students who will graduate into a world shaped by multilateral cooperation, the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme • Switzerland • France • Denmark is the earliest and most substantive introduction available. Over ten days across three of Europe's foundational cities for international cooperation, delegates encounter the working machinery of the United Nations and UNESCO firsthand — not through simulation, but through direct engagement with the institutions themselves.

The programme places secondary-school delegates inside Geneva's Palais des Nations, UNESCO's Paris headquarters, and Copenhagen's UN City — the northern Europe hub for humanitarian coordination. Each city adds a distinct dimension to a coherent whole: Geneva for the operational multilateral system, Paris for cultural and educational governance, Copenhagen for humanitarian action and youth voice.

This programme is the secondary-tier companion to the undergraduate Global Governance & International Organizations • Geneva within the GYLDC Multilateral Diplomacy pillar. It is designed as the first serious step for students preparing for university admission into international relations, diplomacy, law or global affairs programmes.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

PILLAR	Global Governance & Diplomacy
PRIMARY TIER	Secondary (Grades 9–12)
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10 days
NEXT ITERATION	July 2027
LOCATION	Geneva • Paris • Copenhagen
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	20–30
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

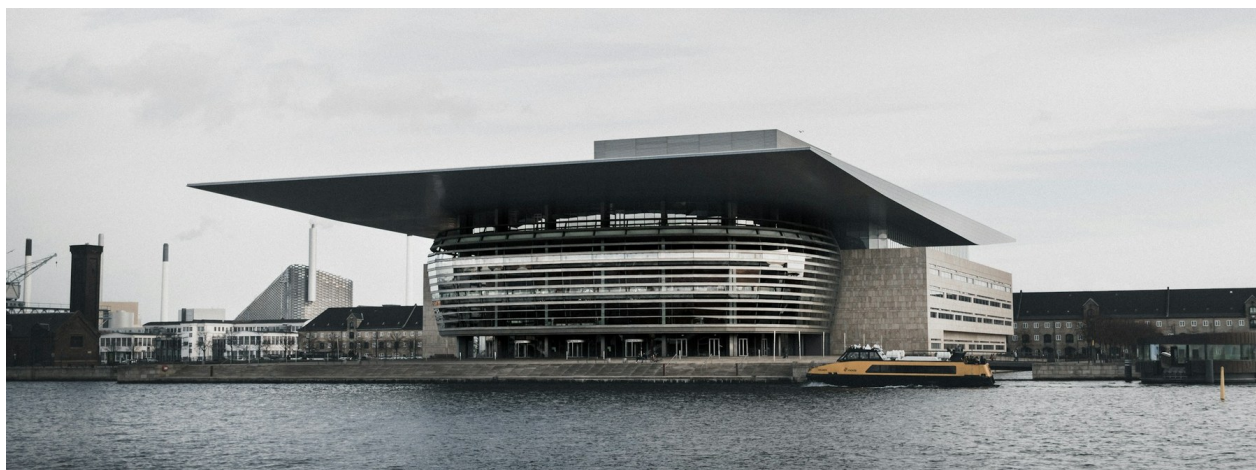
The generation of students now in secondary school will be professionally active during the most consequential decades of the multilateral system in a century. They will graduate into a world in which climate action, artificial intelligence governance, humanitarian response and cross-border cooperation define the trajectory of nations. Early substantive exposure to the institutions where these decisions are actually made shapes not only university applications but professional aspirations.

©What Participants Experience

The programme opens in Geneva with structured engagement at the Palais des Nations, the World Trade Organization and adjacent UN agencies — a compressed introduction to the operational multilateral system. Delegates then travel to Paris for immersion at UNESCO headquarters and cultural engagement at the Château de Versailles and Sciences Po, before concluding in Copenhagen with a two-day programme at UN City on humanitarian coordination and youth participation. Every institutional visit is a working engagement, not a lobby tour.

©Why GYLDC

This programme's foundational iteration ran in 2023 and remains one of GYLDC's most established secondary-tier offerings. Alumni have progressed into leading international relations and public-policy undergraduate programmes across Asia, Europe and North America. Delegates enter Geneva, Paris and Copenhagen with GYLDC's institutional credentials — meeting officials and gaining access that outside secondary-school groups rarely reach.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for secondary-school students in Grades 9 through 12 whose intellectual curiosity and future ambition extend toward international affairs, global governance, humanitarian action or the multilateral system. It suits both students already committed to this trajectory and those exploring it seriously for the first time.

Suitable participants typically include: high-school students actively engaged in model UN, global affairs, debate or debate club activities; students preparing university applications for international relations, political science, law, economics or global studies; students in bilingual or international secondary programmes; and students whose secondary school has a partnership relationship with GYLDC or its affiliated schools. English working proficiency is required. All delegates travel under GYLDC supervision with dedicated chaperone-to-delegate ratios appropriate to the tier.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working understanding of the United Nations system, UNESCO, and the operational machinery of the multilateral order — how these institutions function, how they interact, and what careers within them entail.
- Established direct professional relationships with UN officials, UNESCO staff and international humanitarian workers at UN City Copenhagen.
- Produced and presented, as a team, a Model UN resolution or policy brief on a topic of the cohort's choice, evaluated by GYLDC faculty and reviewed at the Palais des Nations.
- Acquired the cross-cultural fluency and international poise that admissions officers at competitive universities recognise — the qualities that distinguish an application essay written from experience rather than aspiration.
- Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC and clear pathways into the undergraduate Geneva programme and other adjacent university-tier offerings.

©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

©CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases. Pre-programme online modules establish substantive grounding in the UN system, the Sustainable Development Goals and the specific institutions the cohort will visit. The on-site immersion translates that grounding into direct experience across three countries. The capstone crystallises the learning into a Model UN resolution or policy brief presented before GYLDC faculty at the Palais des Nations.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion — Three Cities</i>	<i>Model UN & Policy Brief Capstone</i>
▶ Introduction to the UN system for secondary students ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals — what they are, why they matter ▶ UNESCO and cultural governance in the twenty-first century ▶ Careers in international organisations — pathways for young people ▶ Delivered by GYLDC faculty and former UN specialists ▶ 6–8 hours across three weeks, culminating in cohort preparation	▶ Geneva: Palais des Nations, WTO, adjacent UN agencies ▶ Paris: UNESCO headquarters — cultural and educational governance ▶ Paris: Sciences Po academic session; Château de Versailles ▶ Copenhagen: UN City — humanitarian coordination hub ▶ Copenhagen: Youth voice and Nordic model dialogues ▶ Cultural programming and cross-city travel	▶ Team-based Model UN resolution or policy brief ▶ Coaching by GYLDC faculty and Geneva-based specialists ▶ Peer critique and expert review ▶ Formal presentation at the Palais des Nations ▶ Winning teams recognised at the closing ceremony



©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions that shape multilateral cooperation across Europe. Every partner below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, an educational engagement, or a working meeting on policy — rather than a lobby visit.



UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

The Palais des Nations — the operational heart of UN work in Geneva; delegates receive formal reception and an institutional orientation calibrated for secondary-school audiences, with dedicated youth engagement sessions.



World Trade Organization (WTO)

Introductory briefing on global trade governance — how nations negotiate trade rules, why free trade matters for development, and how the WTO fits into the wider multilateral system.



UNESCO Headquarters (Paris)

Full-day engagement at UNESCO's Paris headquarters; delegates encounter cultural heritage protection, education for sustainable development, and the UNESCO youth agenda — with dedicated sessions for secondary students.



Sciences Po (Paris)

Academic session at one of France's most prestigious universities for international affairs; delegates receive guidance on university applications for international relations and public policy programmes.



UN City Copenhagen

The northern Europe hub for eight UN agencies including UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UN Women and WHO Europe; delegates receive a two-day programme on humanitarian coordination and Nordic approaches to multilateralism.



Château de Versailles

Cultural engagement at one of the most significant sites in European diplomatic history — the setting of the Treaty of Versailles and the birthplace of much of the modern international order.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

The programme's faculty are calibrated for secondary-school delegates — combining substantive expertise with the pedagogical skill to make complex material accessible without dilution. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Former UN Senior Official (Programme Convenor)

GYLDC Faculty; former UN Under-Secretary-General

A former UN senior official serves as the programme's academic convenor, delivering the opening framing on multilateralism for secondary students and providing continuity across the three-city itinerary. Programme convenors have included figures at the level of former Under-Secretary-General.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Senior UNESCO Educator

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

A senior UNESCO educator delivers the programme's dedicated session at UNESCO Paris on cultural heritage, education for sustainable development, and the specific ways young people are engaged in UNESCO's global mission. Sessions are calibrated for secondary-school delegates.

[PHOTO PENDING]

UN City Copenhagen Programme Specialist

UN City Copenhagen

A senior UN City Copenhagen specialist coordinates the Copenhagen phase — including engagement with UNICEF, UNDP and adjacent agencies. The programme places particular emphasis on the Nordic model of humanitarian coordination and on youth voice in multilateral processes.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival — Geneva	Arrival in Geneva; check-in with GYLDC chaperones; welcome briefing on the ten-day journey; opening dinner.
Day 2	Palais des Nations	Full-day at the UN Office at Geneva; formal reception; institutional orientation calibrated for secondary students; opening ceremony.
Day 3	WTO & Multilateral System	Introductory session at the World Trade Organization; guided visit to the multilateral geography of Geneva; capstone topic introduction.
Day 4	Geneva to Paris	High-speed rail transfer to Paris; en-route working session on France's role in the multilateral system; arrival and orientation in Paris.
Day 5	UNESCO Immersion	Full-day at UNESCO headquarters; sessions on cultural heritage, education for sustainable development, and the UNESCO youth agenda; peer dialogue.
Day 6	Sciences Po & Versailles	Morning academic session at Sciences Po on international relations and university preparation; afternoon cultural engagement at the Château de Versailles.
Day 7	Paris to Copenhagen	Transfer to Copenhagen; arrival and orientation; introduction to the Nordic model and UN City; evening cultural programme.
Day 8	UN City Copenhagen	Full-day at UN City with UNICEF, UNDP and adjacent agencies; humanitarian coordination briefings; youth voice dialogue.
Day 9	Capstone Development	Model UN or policy brief teamwork; coaching by GYLDC faculty; peer critique; rehearsals; expert review.
Day 10	Presentation & Closing	Capstone presentations; expert panel feedback; awards ceremony; certification; farewell dinner; departure preparations.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value for secondary students preparing for university and beyond.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC — a credential of demonstrable value in competitive university admissions.

Letters of Recommendation

Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from GYLDC faculty and, where warranted, from named UN officials — powerful additions to university application portfolios.

University Application Support

GYLDC alumni support network provides guidance and mentorship for participants preparing university applications, particularly for international relations and public policy programmes.

Progression to Undergraduate Programme

Alumni receive priority consideration for the GYLDC undergraduate Geneva Global Governance Programme when they matriculate to university.

Publication Opportunities

Winning capstone submissions may be published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org) with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.

Alumni Network Membership

Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — with tier-appropriate mentorship opportunities from undergraduate and postgraduate alumni.



©APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Because this is a secondary-tier programme with GYLDC chaperone supervision throughout, cohort size is deliberately limited. Schengen visa processing requires a minimum of six weeks; early application is strongly advised.

Eligibility

Secondary-school students in Grades 9–12. Working English required. Parental consent and standard secondary-tier documentation required.

Cohort

20–30 delegates, with GYLDC chaperone supervision throughout the ten-day programme.

Fee

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, ground programme, inter-city rail, materials and certification. International travel is separate.

Contact

admissions@ungylde.org · www.ungylde.org

PART IV

Sustainable Development & Cultural Heritage

Where development, culture and community intersect.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

Sustainable Development Programme – Bangkok
Entrepreneurial Social Innovation Programme – Chengdu, Hunan
Cities & Cultural Heritage – Valencia & Cultural Heritage – Rome, Milan, Paris



Sustainable Development Programme • Bangkok

The Asia-Pacific gateway to the Sustainable Development Goals — where regional development meets multilateral practice

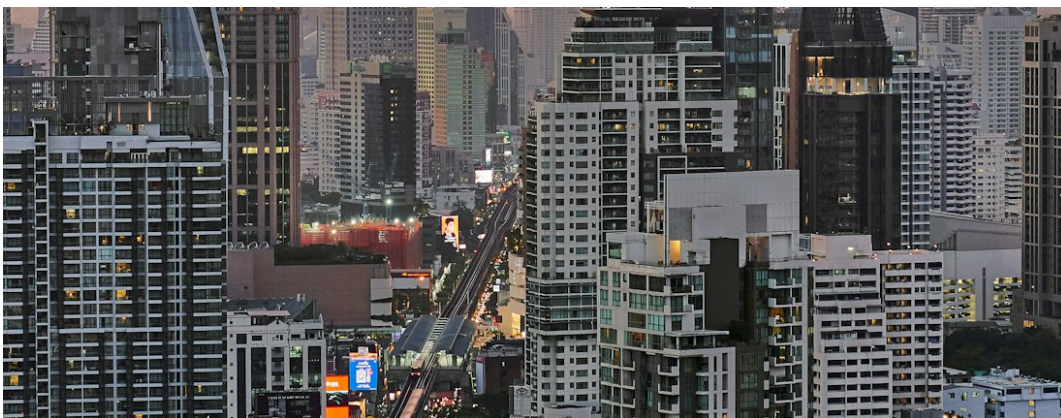
Bangkok is the regional capital of Asia-Pacific multilateralism. It hosts the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) — the largest UN regional commission and the primary institutional home of SDG implementation across a region containing over four billion people. It also hosts the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), a UN-recognised international postgraduate institution and a designated CIFAL centre for training and knowledge transfer.

The Sustainable Development Programme • Bangkok places undergraduate delegates inside this regional apparatus for ten days. Over the course of the programme, delegates engage directly with ESCAP officials, academic faculty at AIT, and Thai institutions actively delivering the SDGs at national scale. The programme is deliberately calibrated for the Asian context — SDG implementation as it looks from within the region, not as it is described from Geneva or New York.

This is the flagship offering within the GYLDC Culture, Heritage & Human Development pillar, and it is a geographically necessary complement to the European programmes elsewhere in the portfolio. Delegates who intend to work in Asia-Pacific development, ASEAN institutions, or Chinese international engagement across the region should treat this as a foundational credential.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

PILLAR	Sustainable Development & Cultural Heritage
PRIMARY TIER	Undergraduate
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10 days
NEXT ITERATION	July 2027
LOCATION	Bangkok, Thailand
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	25–35
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Regional Moment

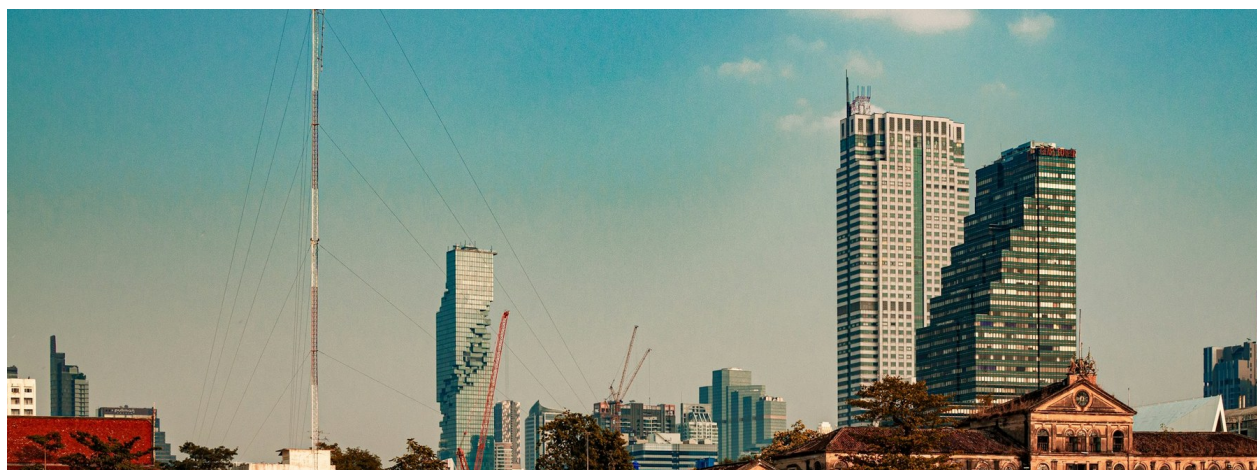
Asia-Pacific hosts more than half the world's population and accounts for the majority of global growth this decade. The Sustainable Development Goals will be substantially achieved or substantially missed in this region — nowhere else. Yet the SDG conversation is disproportionately Geneva- and New York-centred. Bangkok is where that conversation is grounded in operational reality: ESCAP is the working machinery through which the region's SDG progress is measured, coordinated and financed.

©What Participants Experience

The programme opens at ESCAP's UN Conference Centre in Bangkok with structured engagement across the SDG portfolio — poverty reduction, gender equality, climate adaptation, sustainable urbanisation. Delegates then move to the AIT campus for a substantial academic phase covering integrated development, technology for sustainability, and Asia-Pacific case studies. The programme also engages Thai institutions actively delivering the SDGs — from social enterprises in Bangkok's informal settlements to cultural heritage sites illustrating the human-development dimensions of Thai national policy.

©Why GYLDC

This programme is anchored in GYLDC's institutional relationships with ESCAP and AIT — Asia-Pacific's most substantive academic partner for UN-affiliated training. AIT holds designation as a CIFAL centre, giving delegates access to a UN-recognised knowledge transfer institution that few undergraduate programmes elsewhere in Asia can offer. Delegates leave with credentials that carry weight in graduate applications and career paths across the Asia-Pacific region.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for undergraduate students whose academic and career trajectory intersects with Asia-Pacific development, sustainable development policy, cultural heritage, or Chinese engagement with the region. The programme is deliberately calibrated for participants who intend to build careers across the Asia-Pacific region rather than only in Chinese domestic settings or exclusively European institutions.

Suitable participants typically include: undergraduates in international relations, development studies, economics, public policy, urban studies, environmental studies, cultural heritage or area studies programmes; students preparing for graduate study in international development, sustainability or Asia-Pacific affairs; participants intending careers with ASEAN institutions, the Asian Development Bank, or Chinese firms and organisations operating regionally; and student leaders active in sustainability or Asia-focused activities on their home campuses. English working proficiency is required.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals as they are actually implemented across the Asia-Pacific region — not as they are described in general theory but as ESCAP measures, coordinates and finances them.
 - Established direct professional relationships with ESCAP officials, AIT faculty and Thai institutional partners — a network of durable value for careers across the region.
 - Produced and defended, as a team, a sustainable-development capstone proposal on a region-specific challenge, evaluated by ESCAP specialists and AIT academic faculty.
 - Acquired the applied cross-cultural competence to work effectively in Asia-Pacific institutional environments — a competency directly transferable to graduate study, internship and career settings across the region.
 - Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC and clear pathways into ADB Youth Assembly, ASEAN youth convenings, and adjacent regional programmes.
-

© COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases. Pre-programme online modules establish grounding in the SDGs and in the Asia-Pacific development context. The on-site immersion translates that grounding into direct engagement across ESCAP, AIT and Thai national institutions. The capstone crystallises the learning into a defensible proposal responsive to Asia-Pacific development realities.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion in Bangkok</i>	<i>Capstone Proposal</i>
▶ The Sustainable Development Goals — theory and implementation ▶ Asia-Pacific development context — historical and contemporary ▶ ESCAP and the UN regional commission system ▶ Cultural heritage and human development in the SDG framework ▶ Delivered by GYLDC faculty and ESCAP-affiliated specialists ▶ 6–8 hours across three weeks, culminating in a pre-arrival briefing pack	▶ ESCAP UN Conference Centre — full institutional programme ▶ AIT campus — sustained academic engagement ▶ Thai social enterprise and community development visits ▶ Cultural heritage engagement — Bangkok temples and museums ▶ SDG in practice — visits to Thai national implementation ▶ Regional dialogue with ASEAN peer delegates	▶ Team-based capstone on an Asia-Pacific SDG challenge ▶ Coaching by ESCAP specialists and AIT faculty ▶ 10-minute defence before a mixed UN-academic panel ▶ Winning proposals nominated for ADB Youth Assembly ▶ Selected proposals published in IJYS with editorial support

©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions that operationalise sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region. Every partner below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, a working meeting on live policy files, or a structured tour of programmatic work.



UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

The UN regional commission for Asia and the Pacific; hosts the programme's core institutional immersion at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, with dedicated sessions on SDG implementation across the region.



Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

A UN-recognised international postgraduate institution and CIFAL centre; hosts the programme's academic phase with faculty-led sessions on integrated development, technology for sustainability, and Asia-Pacific case studies.



CIFAL Bangkok

The UNITAR CIFAL centre hosted at AIT — the training and knowledge transfer institution through which the programme's certification is anchored. Delegates gain direct access to the CIFAL Global Network alumni system.

[LOGO]

Thai National SDG Implementation Partners

Structured visits to Thai institutions actively delivering the SDGs — from social enterprises in informal settlements to national ministries. Specific hosts vary by cohort based on relevance to the capstone theme.

[LOGO]

ASEAN Youth Networks

Programmed dialogue with peer delegates from ASEAN member states — a rare opportunity to build cross-regional relationships with the next generation of ASEAN institutional leadership.

[LOGO]

Bangkok Cultural Heritage Institutions

Engagement with Bangkok's temples, museums and heritage districts — situating the human-development dimensions of the SDGs within a specific cultural and historical context.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

The programme's faculty combine ESCAP officials, tenured AIT academic faculty, and regional specialists in sustainable development and cultural heritage. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Senior ESCAP Official

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

A senior ESCAP official delivers the programme's opening framing on the state of SDG implementation across Asia-Pacific. ESCAP specialists also serve on the capstone adjudication panel, connecting delegate proposals directly to ESCAP's live regional programming.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Tenured Professor, Asian Institute of Technology

AIT Faculty — Sustainable Development

A tenured AIT faculty member delivers the programme's academic sessions on integrated development, technology for sustainability, and Asia-Pacific case studies. Sessions are calibrated for undergraduate delegates from technical and non-technical backgrounds alike.

[PHOTO PENDING]

CIFAL Bangkok Programme Director

CIFAL Bangkok · UNITAR Training Network

The CIFAL Bangkok programme director provides continuity across the ten days and anchors the programme's UNITAR certification. CIFAL Bangkok is one of the most active CIFAL centres in the Asia-Pacific region and delegates gain direct entry to the broader CIFAL alumni network.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival — Bangkok	Arrival in Bangkok; check-in; welcome briefing on the Asia-Pacific SDG context; opening dinner.
Day 2	ESCAP Opening	Full-day at the ESCAP UN Conference Centre; opening ceremony; senior ESCAP official framing on SDG implementation; institutional orientation.
Day 3	ESCAP Working Sessions	Successive ESCAP working sessions on regional SDG portfolios — poverty reduction, gender equality, climate adaptation, sustainable urbanisation.
Day 4	AIT Academic Phase I	Transfer to AIT campus; academic sessions on integrated development and Asia-Pacific case studies; capstone team formation.
Day 5	AIT Academic Phase II	AIT sessions on technology for sustainability; workshop on capstone development methodologies; cross-cultural evening programme.
Day 6	SDGs in Practice	Structured visits to Thai institutions delivering the SDGs — social enterprises, community development sites, national implementation partners; capstone research.
Day 7	Cultural Heritage	Engagement with Bangkok's temples and heritage districts; sessions on cultural heritage and human development within the SDG framework; capstone drafting.
Day 8	Regional Dialogue	Programmed dialogue with ASEAN peer delegates; regional perspectives on youth participation in SDG delivery; expert critique of draft capstones.
Day 9	Capstone Development	Capstone teamwork day; ESCAP and AIT faculty coaching; rehearsals; expert critique; final refinement of proposals.
Day 10	Presentation & Closing	Capstone presentations; expert panel adjudication; awards ceremony; certification; farewell dinner; departure preparations.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value for careers across Asia-Pacific.

Formal Certification Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.	Letters of Recommendation Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from ESCAP officials, AIT faculty or CIFAL Bangkok — carrying particular weight for careers across the Asia-Pacific region.
CIFAL Global Network Automatic entry into the CIFAL Global Network — the UNITAR-affiliated worldwide alumni system of CIFAL centre trainees, spanning over twenty centres globally.	ADB Youth Assembly Pathway Winning capstone teams receive nomination for the Asian Development Bank Youth Assembly and related regional youth convenings.
Publication Opportunities Winning capstone proposals published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org), with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.	Alumni Network Membership Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — several hundred fellow participants across cohorts and geographies.

©APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Thailand visa processing is straightforward for most applicants — a fifteen-day visa exemption applies to many nationalities, and longer stays require a standard tourist visa obtainable within two weeks. Early application is nevertheless recommended to secure cohort placement.

Eligibility

Undergraduate students (Years 1–4). Working English required.

Cohort

25–35 delegates, curated for balance of discipline, home university and regional origin.

Fee

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, ground programme, AIT campus accommodation, meals, materials and certification. International travel is separate.

Contact

admissions@ungyldc.org · www.ungyldc.org



Green Rural Social Innovation Programme · Chengmai, Hainan

Where China's rural revitalization meets global sustainable tourism — a secondary-school immersion in real-world social innovation

China's rural revitalization is one of the most consequential development stories of this generation. It is also one of the least understood outside China. The Green Rural Social Innovation Programme · Chengmai, Hainan places secondary-school delegates directly inside this story — in the villages, farms and cultural sites of Chengmai County on Hainan Island, where sustainable rural development, ecological conservation and cultural heritage are being simultaneously advanced through applied social innovation.

Over six intensive days, delegates work in three thematic teams — Cultural Creativity, Communications & Marketing, and Industry Development — investigating local resources, engaging with village residents and enterprises, and producing tangible deliverables designed for use beyond the programme itself. This is not observational tourism. Delegates leave with concrete outputs that GYLDC submits to UN training platforms and cultural institutions.

This is the flagship offering within the GYLDC Rural Revitalization & Domestic Innovation pillar. It positions delegates to speak with authority about China's rural development story on the international stage — a capability of durable value for future international relations, development or public-policy careers.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

PILLAR	Sustainable Development & Cultural Heritage
PRIMARY TIER	Secondary (Grades 7–12)
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	6 days · 5 nights
NEXT ITERATION	December 2027
LOCATION	Chengmai, Hainan
LANGUAGE	Chinese + English
COHORT SIZE	15–20
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Domestic Moment

China's rural revitalization strategy is the largest coordinated rural development undertaking of the twenty-first century — spanning agricultural innovation, ecological protection, cultural heritage preservation, and integrated urban-rural growth. For secondary-school students preparing for university and international engagement, direct experience of how these strategies are implemented at the village level provides both intellectual grounding and a distinctive perspective that no textbook or news article can substitute for.

©What Participants Experience

The programme is anchored at Chengmai County — a nationally recognised "Home of Longevity" and a designated site of applied rural social innovation. Delegates divide into three project teams and, over the course of six days, investigate the county's natural resources (volcanic geology, biodiversity), cultural resources (Feng lineage heritage, ancient villages, Buddhist sites), historical assets, and industry specialties (selenium-rich sweet potatoes, Fushan coffee, local livestock traditions). Each team produces a defined deliverable: a sustainable tourism route proposal for a UN training platform, and a green low-carbon cultural creative product concept for a major cultural institution.

©Why GYLDC

This programme is deliberately structured to produce outputs beyond the programme itself. GYLDC will submit the sustainable tourism route to the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) activity platform for global visibility, and the cultural creative product concept to a major national cultural institution for consideration. Delegates leave with the concrete experience of having produced something that circulates in international and national institutional settings — a distinctive credential for secondary-school participants.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for secondary-school students in Grades 7 through 12 whose intellectual curiosity extends toward Chinese rural development, environmental sustainability, cultural heritage or applied social innovation. It suits students already committed to careers with an international dimension who want distinctive substantive experience in Chinese rural realities.

Suitable participants typically include: secondary-school students preparing for university applications with a focus on international relations, development studies, environmental studies or Asian studies; students in bilingual or international secondary programmes; participants with interest in social innovation, entrepreneurship or design thinking; and students whose secondary school has a partnership relationship with GYLDC. Chinese language proficiency is beneficial though not strictly required — programme delivery is bilingual, and all deliverables have both Chinese and English components. All delegates travel under GYLDC supervision with dedicated chaperone-to-delegate ratios appropriate to the tier.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a first-hand understanding of how China's rural revitalization strategy is being implemented at the village level — the specific mechanisms, actors and outcomes rather than the general policy narrative.
- Produced, as a team, a tangible deliverable in one of three domains — Cultural Creativity, Communications & Marketing, or Industry Development — designed for submission to a UN training platform and to a major national cultural institution.
- Acquired applied competency in the social innovation workflow — problem framing, field research, stakeholder engagement, deliverable production, expert review — that transfers directly to university project work and future career settings.
- Formed cross-cultural exchange skills through direct interaction with village residents, entrepreneurs and cultural heritage bearers — the capabilities that admissions officers and future employers most consistently value.
- Formed a lasting connection to GYLDC and clear pathways into the wider portfolio of undergraduate and international programmes.

©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY

LEADERSHIP

DECISION-MAKING

COLLABORATION

COMMUNICATION

EXECUTION

© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases. The pre-programme online module orients delegates to Hainan, to the rural revitalization framework and to the team-project methodology. The on-site immersion translates that orientation into direct field investigation across six days. The capstone consolidates the team's work into deliverables that GYLDC submits to institutional platforms — meaning the work of secondary-school delegates receives real-world review beyond the classroom.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion in Chengmai</i>	<i>Deliverable Production & Review</i>
▶ Introduction to China's rural revitalization strategy ▶ Hainan Island — geography, culture, economy ▶ Sustainable tourism and social innovation methodology ▶ Fieldwork techniques for secondary students ▶ Delivered by GYLDC faculty and rural development specialists ▶ 4–6 hours across two weeks, culminating in team formation	▶ Team formation: Cultural Creativity, Communications, Industry ▶ Village visits: Luoyi ancient village, Meilang Twin Pagodas ▶ Historical & cultural: Shishijue village, Yongqing Temple ▶ Natural experience: Nayacun village, Bohou farmstead ▶ Industry field research: selenium sweet potato, Fushan coffee ▶ Cross-team exchange and mentor consultations	▶ Team-based deliverable design and refinement ▶ Route creativity framework and product concept design ▶ Mock presentations and peer critique ▶ Expert panel review at the GYLDC Chengmai field station ▶ Submission of route to UNITAR platform, product to cultural institution



©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions and communities that make Hainan's rural revitalization real. Every partner below hosts substantive engagement — field investigation, working consultation or expert review — rather than observational visits.



Chengmai County Rural Innovation Sites

The programme's field base for six days; delegates work directly in Chengmai's villages, farms and cultural heritage sites, engaging with local residents, entrepreneurs and cultural bearers.



UNITAR Activity Platform

The programme's institutional destination for the sustainable tourism route deliverable; GYLDC submits winning team outputs for consideration on the UNITAR global activity platform, providing international visibility for delegate work.



Selenium-Rich Sweet Potato Industry — Qiaotou Township

Site of the programme's Industry Development team investigation; delegates engage with the applied agricultural science of Hainan's "volcanic soil + selenium" growing conditions and the branding strategies of a nationally recognised local product.



Fushan Coffee Plantation & Processing

Site of the programme's coffee value-chain investigation; delegates trace the full lifecycle from cultivation through processing to trade and retail — hands-on engagement with a globally traded commodity produced at the village level.



Feng Lineage & Xian Furen Cultural Heritage Sites

Historical and cultural anchors of the Cultural Creativity team's work; delegates engage with two of Hainan's most significant cultural traditions in the context of ancient village architecture.



Yongqing Temple & Bohou Farmstead

Buddhist heritage engagement and shared-farm sustainable agriculture practices — providing the human-development and ecological dimensions that ground the programme's SDG framing.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

The programme's faculty combine GYLDC academic leadership, rural development specialists, and Chengmai-based cultural and industry experts. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort. Academic and medical support is provided throughout by UN-affiliated specialists and local medical staff.

Rural Revitalization Specialist

GYLDC Faculty — China Rural Development

A senior GYLDC-affiliated rural revitalization specialist serves as the programme's academic convenor — providing the substantive framing on China's rural strategy at the opening and adjudicating deliverables at the closing review. The convenor also provides continuity across the six days of field investigation.

Chengmai Cultural & Industry Expert Panel

Local Cultural Bearers · Industry Practitioners

A panel of Chengmai-based cultural heritage bearers and industry practitioners provides direct expertise across the three team domains. This includes historians of Feng lineage and Xian Furen traditions, selenium sweet potato industry leaders and Fushan coffee producers — the people whose knowledge is the actual substance of the programme.

GYLDC International Perspective Faculty

GYLDC Faculty — Global Sustainable Tourism

A GYLDC faculty member with international sustainable tourism expertise provides the framing that connects Chengmai's local realities to global sustainable-tourism practice — enabling the sustainable tourism route deliverable to meet the standards of the UNITAR activity platform.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released three months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 0	Launch & Team Formation	Programme opening; introduction to background, objectives and workflow; team formation into Cultural Creativity, Communications, Industry teams; team leaders and objectives set.
Day 1	Arrival & First Discovery	Arrival in Chengmai; check-in; safety and itinerary briefing at field station; afternoon visit to Luoyi ancient volcanic village and Meilang Twin Pagodas; evening welcome banquet featuring local specialties.
Day 2	Historical & Cultural	Morning at Shishijue village exploring Feng lineage and Xian Furen cultural traditions; afternoon at Yongqing Temple for Buddhist heritage and meditation experience; evening cultural exchange session.
Day 3	Natural Experience	Morning field visit to Nayacun village — natural environment and traditional cultural integration; afternoon at Bohou shared farmstead for sustainable agriculture experience and orchard picking; evening team reflection.
Day 4	Industry Investigation	Morning at Qiaotou selenium sweet potato industry — investigating the "volcanic soil + selenium" growing conditions and brand story; afternoon at Fushan coffee plantation tracing the full production chain; evening cross-team exchange and route framework drafting.
Day 5	Design & Deliverables	Team brainstorming and synthesis of field research; initial route design and product concept development; mock presentations and internal team drills; expert consultation.
Day 6	Review & Departure	Formal deliverable presentations at the GYLDC Chengmai field station; expert panel adjudication and feedback; certification ceremony; departure preparations.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, tangible deliverables and pathways into further engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value for secondary students preparing for university and international careers.

Formal Certification Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC — a credential of demonstrable value in competitive university admissions.	Tangible Deliverable Every delegate contributes to a concrete team output — a sustainable tourism route or a cultural and creative product concept — that GYLDC submits to a UN platform or major cultural institution for consideration.
Field Research Portfolio Individual portfolio of field research, photos, interview notes and design work — material of durable value for university application essays and personal statements.	University Application Support GYLDC alumni network provides guidance and mentorship for participants preparing university applications, particularly for programmes with international or development orientation.
Progression to International Programmes Alumni receive priority consideration for the GYLDC secondary Switzerland–France–Denmark programme and other international offerings.	Alumni Network Membership Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — with tier-appropriate mentorship opportunities from undergraduate and postgraduate alumni.

APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Because this is a secondary-tier programme with GYLDC chaperone supervision and daily medical support throughout, cohort size is deliberately limited to 15–20 delegates. The programme fee includes on-site accommodation, meals, local transport, entrance fees, expert honoraria, insurance and certification.

Eligibility

Secondary-school students in Grades 7–12. Parental consent and standard secondary-tier documentation required.

Cohort

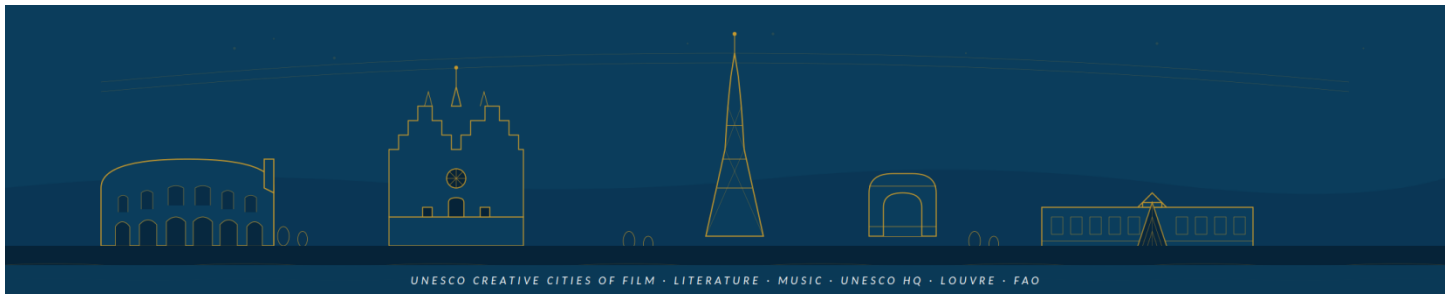
15–20 delegates, divided into three teams of five; GYLDC chaperone supervision throughout.

Fee

On application. Fee inclusive of programme accommodation, meals, ground transport, entrance fees, expert honoraria, insurance and certification. National travel to and from Hainan is separate.

Contact

admissions@ungylde.org · www.ungylde.org



Creative Cities & Cultural Heritage • Rome • Milan • Paris

Where UNESCO's Creative Cities and World Heritage meet the sustainable development agenda — a nine-day undergraduate immersion in the European creative economy.

Cultural and creative industries generate approximately three percent of global GDP and employ tens of millions of people worldwide, and they are increasingly recognised — through instruments like the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions — as engines of sustainable development in their own right.

Cities are where this transformation becomes visible. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network, launched in 2004 and now spanning more than 350 cities across over 100 countries, treats creativity as a strategic factor in urban policy, economic renewal, and cultural continuity. Rome, Milan and Paris sit at the heart of this network — three of the most influential creative economies in Europe, each anchored to distinct UNESCO instruments.

The Creative Cities & Cultural Heritage • Rome • Milan • Paris programme places undergraduate delegates inside this creative apparatus for nine days. Diplomatic classroom sessions with UNESCO, FAO, UNEP and international cultural bodies frame the field research; visits to heritage sites, museums and immersive-media studios ground it. This is the only programme in the GYLDC series anchored on the UNESCO 2005 Convention and the Creative Cities Network as its institutional spine.

AT A GLANCE	
PILLAR	Sustainable Development & Cultural Heritage
PRIMARY TIER	Undergraduate
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	9 days on-site + online module
LOCATIONS	Creative Cities & Cultural Heritage • Rome • Milan • Paris
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	[XX participants]
COHORT	[Nth cohort]
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

© Culture as multilateral policy

© The European Creative Moment

From the Mediterranean Diet designation that shapes Italian gastronomic policy to Milan's Creative Cities of Literature status to Paris's dense concentration of World Heritage sites and UNESCO's own headquarters, Europe is where the multilateral cultural instruments were negotiated and where their operational reality is easiest to observe. The programme uses this concentration deliberately: participants encounter each UNESCO instrument at the site where it is actually implemented.

© What participants experience

Over nine on-site days, participants move through three UNESCO-anchored cities — Rome (City of Film and heart of the Mediterranean Diet intangible heritage), Milan (City of Literature and global fashion capital), and Paris (host city to the UNESCO Secretariat and a dense concentration of World Heritage). At each stop, the programme combines diplomatic classroom sessions with UNESCO and international-organisation experts, guided field research at heritage sites, museums and creative studios, and hands-on audiovisual documentation.

Participants engage directly with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UNESCO Secretariat and World Heritage Centre, the UN Environment Programme, the International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication, and the International Dance Council, and produce a multimedia capstone documenting their research and synthesis.

© How this fits the GYLDC series

This is the only programme in the GYLDC series anchored on the UNESCO 2005 Convention and the Creative Cities Network as its institutional spine, and the only one that treats film, gastronomy, literature, fashion, visual arts and media arts as parallel entry points into the sustainable-development conversation. It complements the Bangkok Sustainable Development programme by examining the European cultural-industries pathway alongside the Global South's community-development one.

© Who this programme is for

This programme is designed for undergraduate students in cultural studies, arts and humanities, communications and media, design, fashion, cultural management, tourism, international relations and sustainable development studies. Students in adjacent fields — business, public policy, journalism, urban studies — are welcome where there is genuine interest in cultural and creative industries as a professional or research trajectory.

Ideal participants are curious about the mechanics behind cultural industries — how a designation like City of Film or City of Literature is earned and used, how a museum or heritage site fits into a national economic strategy, how UNESCO conventions shape what is protected and what is not. They are willing to engage international organisations at a substantive level, to work in multicultural teams under time pressure, and to communicate their research in both written and audiovisual forms.

© Learning objectives

On successful completion, participants will be able to:

1. Analyse how the UNESCO 2005 Convention and the Creative Cities Network operationalise culture as a driver of sustainable development.
2. Evaluate the economic, social and environmental impact of creative industries across film, gastronomy, literature, fashion, visual arts and media arts.
3. Investigate the role of cultural heritage protection in shaping contemporary creative economies at the city scale.
4. Apply audiovisual and digital storytelling techniques to communicate original cultural research.
5. Collaborate across disciplines and cultures to produce a multimedia capstone deliverable.
6. Articulate a defensible personal perspective on culture's contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

© Competency framework

Mapped against the six-dimension UNYLDP global competency framework used across the GYLDC series.

DIMENSION	EMPHASIS	HOW IT IS DEVELOPED
Creativity	Primary	Cross-medium creative analysis; audiovisual capstone production.
Communication	Primary	Written research paper plus audiovisual documentary; multi-language field settings.
Collaboration	Strong	Multicultural teams across three cities under time pressure.
Execution	Strong	End-to-end delivery of capstone against a fixed programme timeline.

DIMENSION	EMPHASIS	HOW IT IS DEVELOPED
Decision-making	Developed	Research-brief scoping and site-selection judgement.
Leadership	Developed	Rotating team roles across the three programme phases.



CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

©The full learning journey

A structured pre-programme module, a nine-day on-site immersion in three phases, and a documented capstone deliverable.

1 • Pre-Programme (Online)

Delivered online in the four weeks before departure. ~15 hours.

Foundations

- UNESCO 2005 Convention: origins, provisions, current implementation
- UNESCO Creative Cities Network: designations and obligations
- Cultural industries in the 2030 SDG agenda

City primers

- Rome as City of Film; Mediterranean Diet as intangible heritage
- Milan as City of Literature and fashion economy
- Paris as UNESCO host city and its World Heritage

Skills modules

- Audiovisual documentation for field research
- Cross-cultural interviewing and observation
- Digital storytelling essentials

2 • On-Site Immersion (9 Days)

Phase 1 • Rome (3 days)

Themes: Film & Gastronomy.

- FAO institutional visit and welcome
- Diplomatic classroom: film & gastronomy as creative industries
- Italian Film Museum; Rome cinema heritage locations
- Garum / Pasta Museum; Mediterranean Diet dining

Phase 2 • Milan (2 days)

Themes: Literature & Fashion.

- City of Literature heritage libraries and landmarks
- Research synthesis; applied culinary workshop

Phase 3 • Paris (4 days)

Themes: Visual Arts, Media Arts & Multilateral.

- Louvre field research; Paris heritage circuit
- Institutional day: UNESCO, UNEP, CICT-ICFT, CID
- Diplomatic classroom: heritage & digital arts
- Audiovisual workshop; immersive-media study visit

3 • Capstone Deliverable

Audiovisual research report

- 5–8 minute documentary short
- Synthesises findings from an assigned city and creative theme
- Structured around the 2005 Convention and Creative Cities framework

Written analytical report

- 3,000-word research paper
- Links on-site observations to programme learning objectives

Final presentation

- Delivered to GYLDC faculty and invited experts
- Peer review and structured feedback

Optional showcase

- Eligible works submitted to UNESCO World Audiovisual Heritage Day
- Best-in-cohort work featured in GYLDC alumni communications

SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

© Where the programme goes and who it engages

Named institutions confirmed for delivery; specific site visits within each city are refined per cohort based on institutional availability and cohort research briefs.

UN system agencies

UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome	The anchor visit for Phase 1. Participants engage with FAO on food security, sustainable food systems and the Mediterranean Diet as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, connecting gastronomy to the wider sustainable-development agenda.
UNESCO Secretariat & World Heritage Centre, Paris	The institutional centrepiece of Phase 3. Engagement with UNESCO's Culture Sector on 2005 Convention implementation, the Creative Cities Network, and World Heritage governance.
UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	The culture-environment interface: ecological footprint of creative industries, heritage in climate contexts, and sustainable creative economies.

International cultural bodies

International Council for Film, Television & Audiovisual Communication (CICT-ICFT)	Engagement on audiovisual heritage, media literacy and the World Audiovisual Heritage Day programme, into which eligible participant works may be submitted.
International Dance Council (CID)	Dialogue on performing arts as cultural expression and intangible heritage safeguarding — extending coverage of UNESCO's cultural instruments beyond material heritage.

Heritage and creative field sites

Italian Film Museum · Rome cinema heritage locations	Rome's designation as UNESCO City of Film, its film-industry ecosystem and its role in cinema history.
Garum Food Culture Museum · Italian Pasta Museum	Gastronomic heritage anchored in the Mediterranean Diet designation.
Milan literary heritage sites	Milan's City of Literature designation and its role as a European literary crossroads.
The Louvre · Paris immersive-media venues	Museums as cultural infrastructure and the frontier of audiovisual heritage expression.

© What participants leave with

Featured faculty

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

Named faculty for each cohort are confirmed approximately 60 days before departure. Standing roles include:

[PHOTO PENDING]

[Faculty placeholder]

International Organisation Cultural Lead

A senior expert from UNESCO or an affiliated cultural body, leading the diplomatic classroom sessions on the 2005 Convention and the Creative Cities Network.

[PHOTO PENDING]

[Faculty placeholder]

Creative Industries Faculty

A scholar or practitioner working at the intersection of cultural policy and creative-economy development.

[PHOTO PENDING]

[Faculty placeholder]

Audiovisual & Digital Heritage Specialist

Leads the audiovisual workshop and provides capstone documentation guidance.

Deliverables & certification

GYLDC Certificate of Completion — Creative Cities & Cultural Heritage · Rome · Milan · Paris Creative Cities & Cultural Heritage

Written and audiovisual research portfolio for academic and professional applications

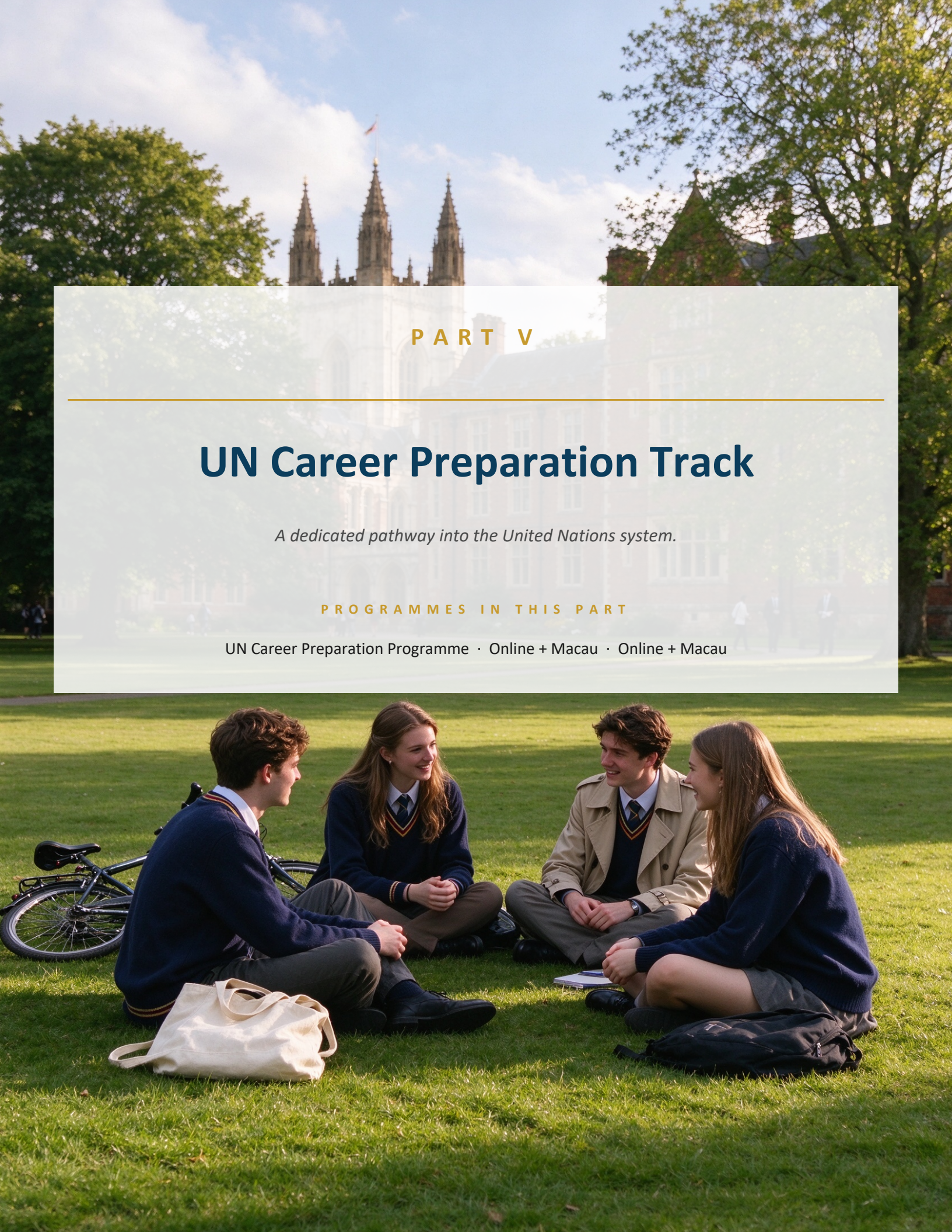
Letter of recommendation from GYLDC faculty, on merit

Entry into the GYLDC alumni network and Culture & Heritage community of practice

Eligibility to submit capstone work to the UNESCO World Audiovisual Heritage Day programme

Alumni pathways

Priority pathways for alumni include invitations to UNESCO General Conference side events and World Heritage Committee open sessions, introductions to careers and internships in international cultural organisations and creative industries, and access to the wider GYLDC alumni network of [XX] youth across [XX] countries.



PART V

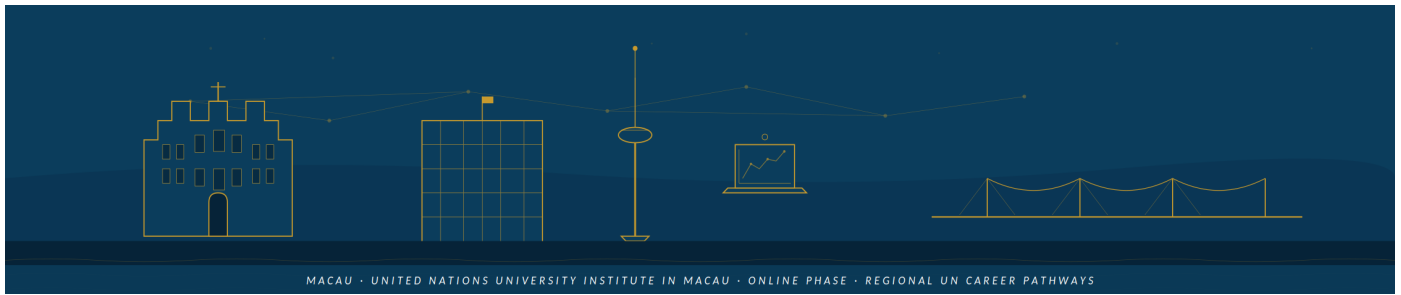
UN Career Preparation Track

A dedicated pathway into the United Nations system.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

UN Career Preparation Programme · Online + Macau · Online + Macau





UN Career Preparation Programme • Online + Macau

The dedicated pathway into a United Nations career — a postgraduate immersion for candidates preparing serious applications to the UN system

Entering the United Nations system is not like entering any other career. The application processes are distinctive, the competency frameworks are specific, the timelines are long, and the field is competitive at a scale that few candidates fully understand until they attempt it. Many capable applicants fail not because they lack the substance but because they lack strategic preparation.

The UN Career Preparation Programme • Online + Macau is designed for postgraduate candidates who are serious about pursuing a UN career and want structured, expert-led preparation before they begin applying. Delivered over three weeks — with an online preparation phase and a concentrated on-site immersion in Macau — the programme provides delegates with substantive engagement at the United Nations University Institute in Macau, direct instruction on UN recruitment mechanics, and structured practice on the writing, interview and competency-based assessment formats the UN actually uses.

This is a dedicated career-preparation track within the GYLDC portfolio — distinct from thematic immersion programmes. It focuses on outcomes: successful UN internships, Junior Professional Officer applications, Young Professionals Programme candidacies, and graduate-level positions across the UN specialised agencies.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

TRACK	UN Career Preparation Track
PRIMARY TIER	Postgraduate & Early Career
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	3 weeks (online + on-site)
NEXT ITERATION	August 2027
LOCATION	Online + Macau
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	20–30
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Career Moment

The United Nations system employs approximately forty thousand international civil servants across dozens of agencies, funds and programmes. Every year the system recruits at all levels — from internships through Junior Professional Officer postings, the Young Professionals Programme, and direct entry to Professional posts. Yet the majority of qualified candidates never successfully navigate the application process, not because they are unqualified but because the process itself is opaque to first-time applicants. Structured preparation before applying is the strongest predictor of successful entry.

©What Participants Experience

The programme runs over three weeks. Weeks one and two are online and cover: the architecture of the UN system, the specific mechanics of UN recruitment across agencies, the competency framework the UN actually assesses, and the written and interview formats used at each stage. Week three is on-site in Macau at the United Nations University Institute — providing delegates with direct engagement with a UN entity, structured mock interviews and assessment sessions, career-strategy consultations with UN specialists, and a defended career development plan reviewed by expert panellists.

©Why GYLDC

Most UN career preparation is generic — a lecture series on "working at the UN" that provides orientation but not preparation. GYLDC's programme is structured for actual outcomes: at the conclusion, every delegate has a completed portfolio (CV, motivation letter, competency-based responses), practical experience of the interview format, a defended career plan, and an introduction to the GYLDC pipeline of internship and placement opportunities across UN agencies.



©WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for postgraduate candidates and early-career professionals who are seriously preparing to apply for UN system positions within the next twelve to twenty-four months. It is not an exploratory programme — delegates should already know that a UN career is what they want, and want structured expert preparation to significantly improve their odds of success.

Suitable participants typically include: master's and doctoral students in international relations, development studies, public policy, law, economics, public health, environmental studies, humanitarian affairs or adjacent fields; early-career professionals currently working in government, international NGOs, consultancies or academia who want to transition into the UN system; participants preparing for specific UN recruitment tracks — internships, Junior Professional Officer postings, the Young Professionals Programme, or direct entry Professional positions; and candidates who have applied to UN positions unsuccessfully and want to substantially strengthen their approach. English working proficiency is required; a second UN language is welcomed.

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the architecture of the UN system — how agencies differ in mandate, culture and recruitment practice, and how to match personal strengths to specific agency portfolios.
- Completed the full application portfolio required for UN recruitment — CV in UN format (P11 or Inspira profile), motivation letter, and competency-based written responses reviewed by expert panellists.
- Practiced the UN interview format under expert observation — including the competency-based interview structure that the UN uses across all recruitment — and received structured feedback on performance.
- Produced and defended a personal Career Development Plan that identifies specific target agencies, target roles, application timeline and preparation milestones over the next twelve to twenty-four months.
- Established direct professional relationships with United Nations University Institute specialists in Macau, and entered the GYLDC pipeline for structured internship and placement opportunities.

©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme, with particular emphasis on the UN's own core and managerial competencies used in recruitment:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases across three weeks. The first two weeks are online, building substantive foundations and completing the initial application portfolio. The third week is on-site in Macau, converting preparation into practical assessment and career strategy. Every element of the programme feeds directly into the delegate's actual UN applications.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Online Foundations (Week 1)</i>	<i>Online Application Portfolio (Week 2)</i>	<i>On-Site Career Immersion (Macau, Week 3)</i>
▶ The UN system architecture — agencies, funds, programmes ▶ How UN recruitment actually works — process and timelines ▶ The UN competency framework — core and managerial ▶ Language requirements and the UN language framework ▶ CV, motivation letter and portfolio construction ▶ Delivered by former UN recruitment specialists and current staff	▶ P11 form and Inspira profile construction ▶ Competency-based written response practice ▶ Draft motivation letter — one-on-one expert review ▶ Career pathway identification — matching to target agencies ▶ Peer feedback and portfolio refinement ▶ Preparation for on-site immersion	▶ Engagement at the United Nations University Institute in Macau ▶ Structured mock interviews with expert observation ▶ Competency-based assessment practice ▶ Career-strategy consultations — individual and group ▶ Career Development Plan defence ▶ Introduction to GYLDC internship and placement pipeline



©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The programme is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions that shape UN system recruitment and career development. Every partner below hosts substantive engagement — instruction, assessment or career consultation — designed to produce measurable improvement in delegate readiness for actual UN application.



United Nations University Institute in Macau

The programme's on-site institutional anchor; a UN entity dedicated to research and training. Delegates receive direct engagement with United Nations University specialists, providing both substantive expertise and legitimate UN entity contact time.

[LOGO]

UN Recruitment Specialists (Guest Faculty)

Former UN recruitment staff, current serving Human Resources specialists and Junior Professional Officer alumni deliver the programme's instruction on recruitment mechanics — sharing insights that are unavailable in any published UN guidance.

[LOGO]

UN Junior Professional Officer Alumni Network

Sitting UN Junior Professional Officers and recently-hired Professional staff provide direct testimony and career-strategy insight — the practical intelligence on what actually worked in successful applications.



UNITAR Global Training Network

GYLDC's institutional academic partner; delegates gain access to UNITAR's global training network — including CICAL centres worldwide — as a delivery resource.



GYLDC Internship & Placement Pipeline

GYLDC's structured relationships with UN agencies, funds and programmes provide graduates of the career preparation programme with introductions to specific internship and placement opportunities.

[LOGO]

UN Agency Career Development Officers

Career development officers from selected UN agencies participate in the on-site week, providing agency-specific career strategy input beyond generic system-wide guidance.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

The programme's faculty combine former UN senior leadership, current UN Human Resources specialists, and sitting Junior Professional Officers and Professional staff whose recent successful applications are the most relevant possible reference material. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.

[PHOTO PENDING]

Former UN Senior Human Resources Officer

GYLDC Faculty — UN Recruitment Systems

A former UN senior Human Resources officer delivers the programme's core instruction on UN recruitment mechanics — the actual internal processes, competency assessments and decision criteria that shape hiring decisions. This is material unavailable in any published UN guidance and provides delegates with a decisive edge in application preparation.

[PHOTO PENDING]

United Nations University Institute Specialist

United Nations University Institute in Macau

A senior United Nations University Institute specialist provides the on-site institutional anchor for the Macau immersion — delivering sessions on United Nations University's research and training mandate, and serving as an expert panellist for the Career Development Plan defence.

[PHOTO PENDING]

UN Junior Professional Officer Panel

Sitting UN Junior Professional Officers

A rotating panel of sitting UN Junior Professional Officers — whose applications succeeded within the past three years — provides the most practical possible career strategy input. Panellists include JPOs across regional and functional portfolios, giving delegates direct engagement with the recruitment pathway they are actively pursuing.

©SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Note — Schedule shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative. The exact 2027 programme will be released three months prior to commencement. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Week 1	Online Foundations	UN system architecture and recruitment overview; competency framework introduction; CV and portfolio construction; introductory expert lectures; peer cohort formation.
Week 2	Application Portfolio	P11 form and Inspira profile completion; motivation letter drafting and expert review; competency-based written response practice; peer feedback sessions; target agency identification.
Day 1	Arrival — Macau	Arrival in Macau; check-in; welcome briefing and orientation; introduction to the United Nations University Institute; opening dinner.
Day 2	United Nations University Institute	Full-day engagement at the United Nations University Institute in Macau; introduction to the Institute's mandate and research portfolio; institutional context for UN career pathways.
Day 3	Recruitment Mechanics	Deep-dive sessions on UN recruitment across agencies; JPO panel with sitting Junior Professional Officers; individual portfolio review consultations.
Day 4	Mock Interviews I	Competency-based mock interview practice with expert observation; individual feedback sessions; peer observation and reflection; interview technique refinement.
Day 5	Assessment & Strategy	Written assessment simulation; group exercises replicating UN assessment centre formats; individual career strategy consultations.
Day 6	Mock Interviews II	Second round of mock interviews — final observation; complete review of interview performance; feedback integration; Career Development Plan drafting.
Day 7	Defence & Closing	Career Development Plan defence before expert panel; certification ceremony; GYLDC pipeline briefing on internship and placement opportunities; closing dinner.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, application-ready materials and pathways into structured UN career development. These are structured for measurable improvement in application outcomes.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition — particularly relevant for UN application portfolios.

Complete UN Application Portfolio

Every delegate leaves with a completed P11 form or Inspira profile, motivation letter, and competency-based written response bank — reviewed and refined by expert faculty.

Career Development Plan

Every delegate leaves with a personal Career Development Plan — target agencies, target roles, application timeline and preparation milestones over 12–24 months.

Mock Interview Experience

Direct experience of the UN competency-based interview format under expert observation, with structured feedback that informs actual future application performance.

GYLDC Placement Pipeline

Introduction to structured internship and placement opportunities across UN agencies through GYLDC's institutional relationships, subject to individual performance and match.

Alumni Network Membership

Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — with particular emphasis on the UN career track alumni cohort actively pursuing and securing UN positions.



© APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Selection prioritises candidates with genuine near-term intent to apply for UN positions rather than exploratory interest. Cohort places typically fill three months prior to commencement of the online phase.

Eligibility

Master's or doctoral students, or early-career professionals within five years of postgraduate qualification. Working English required; a second UN language welcomed.

Cohort

20–30 delegates, curated for genuine intent and diversity of target agency and functional area.

Fee

On application. Fee covers online phase delivery, on-site programme in Macau, expert consultations, materials and certification. International travel to Macau and accommodation are separate.

Contact

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