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

Global Youth Leadership Development Council · Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center



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



◎ 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.

◎ 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.

◎ COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Diplomatic Communication**
- ✓ **AI Policy Literacy**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion in Geneva*	*Capstone Innovation Challenge*
≈ 2–2.5 hrs / week · 4 weeks (8–10 hrs)	**10–12 days on-site · Geneva**	**Day 10 · capstone & closing**
▸ 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 GSLDC 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

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 GSLDC.

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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 GSLDC faculty.
Day 10	**Capstone & Closing**	Capstone innovation challenge presentations; expert panel adjudication; award ceremony; formal closing dinner and certification.

◎WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Formal Certification

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

Letters of Recommendation

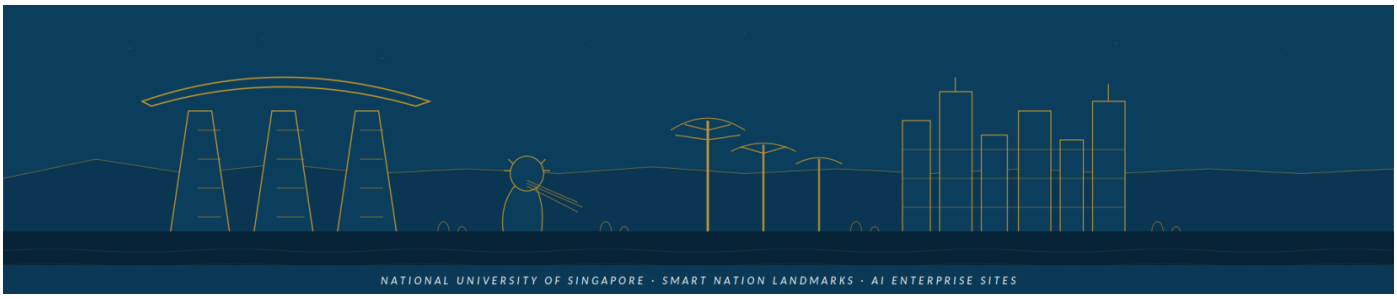
Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from named UN principals — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

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.



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



◎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 I -organised by 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.

◎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.

◎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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

✓ **Creativity**	✓ **Decision-making**	✓ **Pitching & Communication**
✓ **Design Thinking**	✓ **Collaboration**	✓ **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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion in Singapore*	*Innovation Challenge Final*
≈ 2–3 hrs / week · 3 weeks (6–8 hrs)	**7 days on-site · Singapore**	**Day 7 · challenge final**
▸ 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

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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

Formal Certification

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

Letters of Recommendation

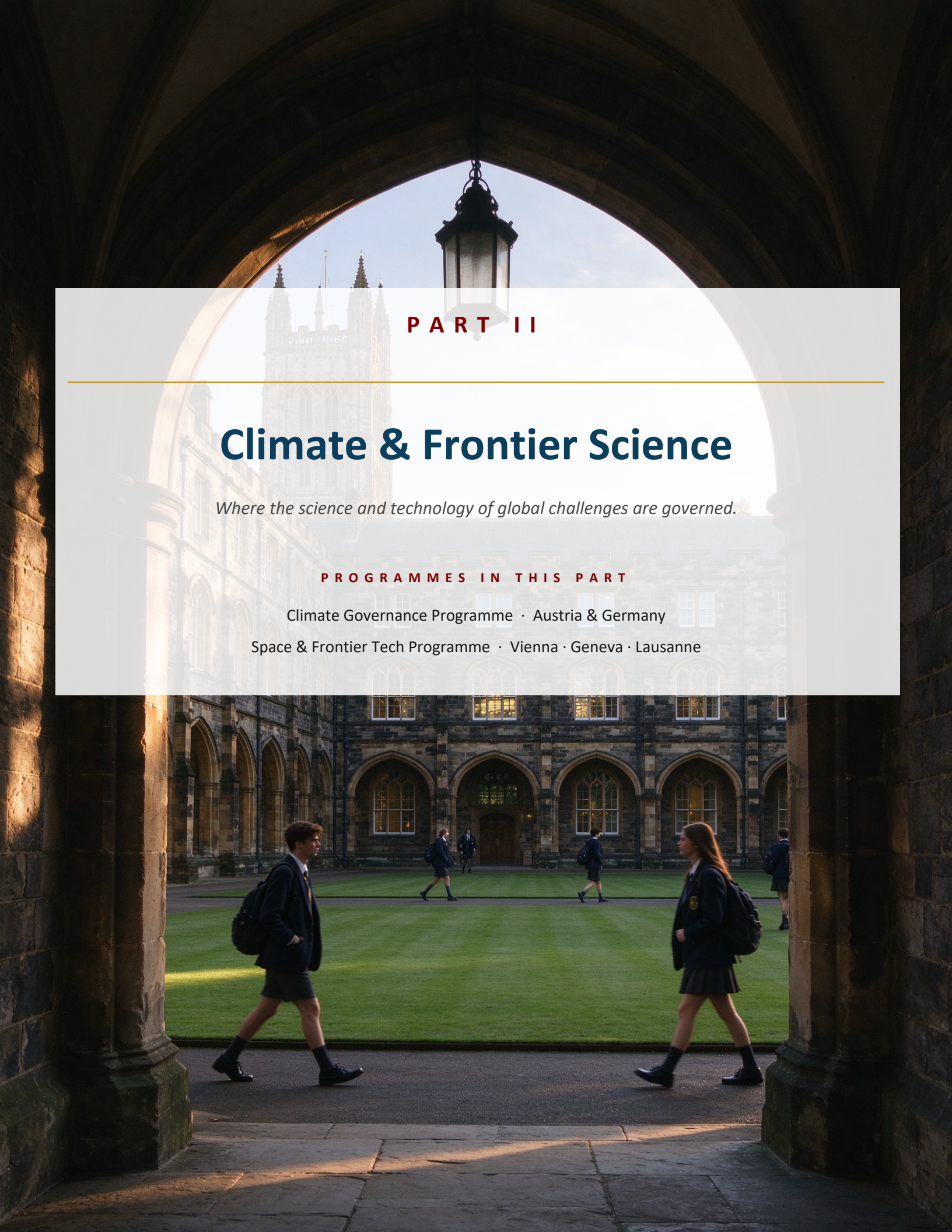
Winning-team members and outstanding individual delegates receive personal letters of recommendation from UNDP specialists or named faculty.

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.



PART II

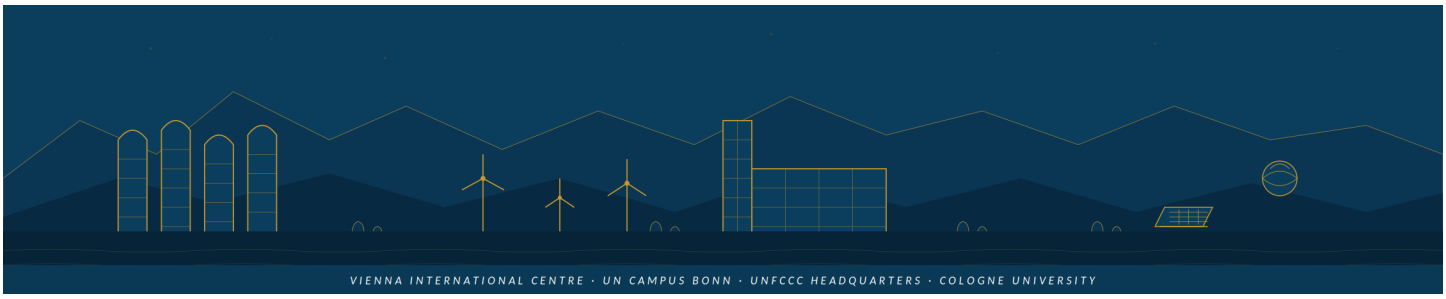
Climate & Frontier Science

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



◎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.

◎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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Systems Thinking**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Communication**
- ✓ **Climate Policy Literacy**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Negotiation**

◎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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion — Austria & Germany*	*COP Side Event Capstone*
2 intensive online days · month before departure	**10 days on-site · Austria & Germany**	**Day 9 · presentation in Bonn**
▸ 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

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 10	**Frankfurt & Departure**	Transfer to Frankfurt; GIZ session on European climate finance in partner countries; farewell dinner; departure preparations.

◎WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Formal Certification

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

Letters of Recommendation

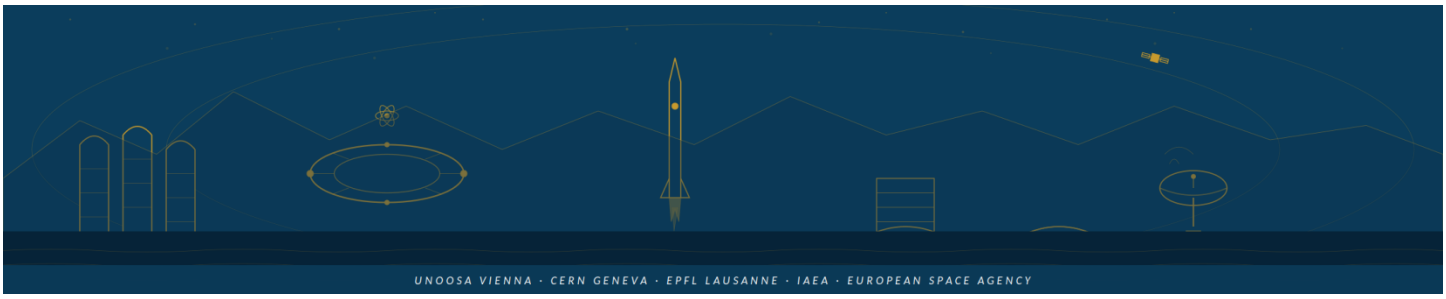
Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from senior UN officials — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

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.



Space & Frontier Tech Programme • Vienna • Geneva • Lausanne

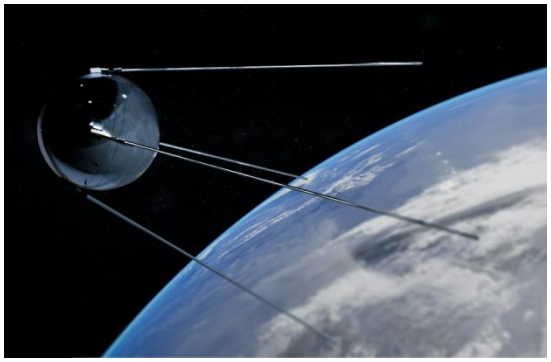
Where humanity's frontier technologies are governed — an undergraduate immersion at the intersection of space, science and the SDGs

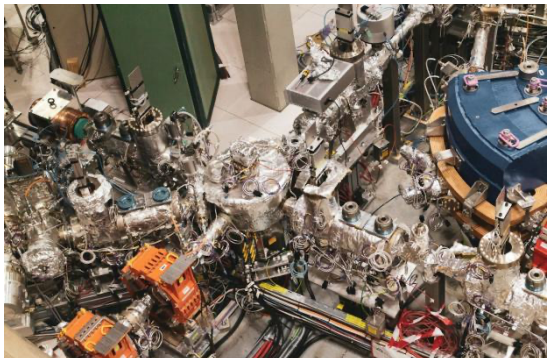
The technologies that will define the second half of the twenty-first century — orbital infrastructure, satellite Earth observation, particle physics, next-generation nuclear energy — are being simultaneously invented, governed and standardised within a single 500-kilometre corridor: Vienna to Geneva 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





◎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 GSLDC'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.

◎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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

✓ **Creativity** ✓ **Decision-making** ✓ **Communication**
✓ **Scientific Reasoning** ✓ **Collaboration** ✓ **Interdisciplinary Thinking**

◎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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion — Three Cities*	*Capstone Project*
≈ 3 hrs / week · 3 weeks (8–10 hrs)	**10–12 days on-site · 3 cities**	**Day 10 · capstone defence**
▸ 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

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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

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.



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

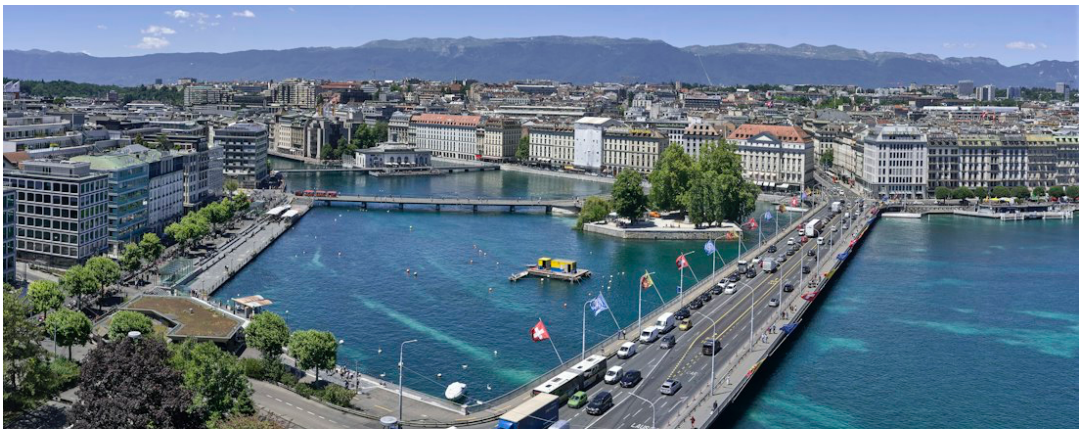
The foundational Geneva immersion — where undergraduate delegates encounter the full breadth of the multilateral system

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



◎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.

◎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, understand their different working cultures, and work productively.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Research & Analysis**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Communication**
- ✓ **Leadership**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Cross-institutional Fluency**

◎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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion in Geneva*	*Research Paper Capstone*
≈ 2–2.5 hrs / week · 4 weeks (8–10 hrs)	**10 days on-site · Geneva**	**Day 10 · presentation at Palais**
▸ 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

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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

Formal Certification

Letters of Recommendation

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

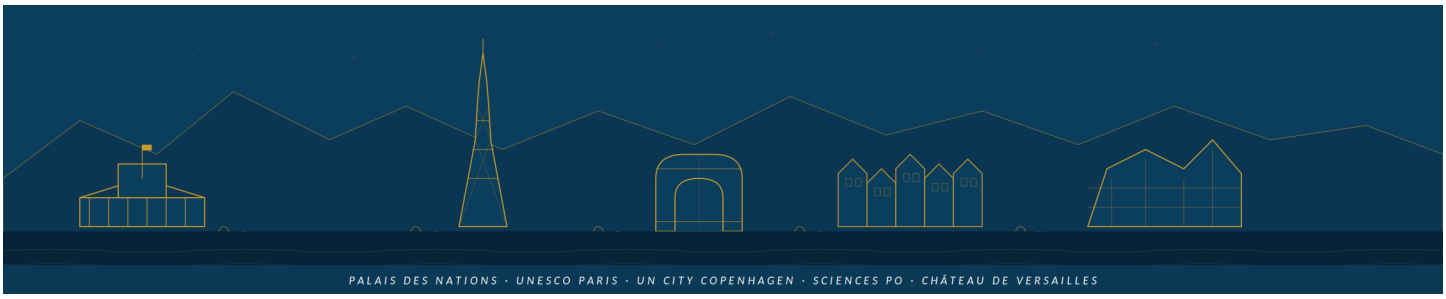
Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from named UN principals — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

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.



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

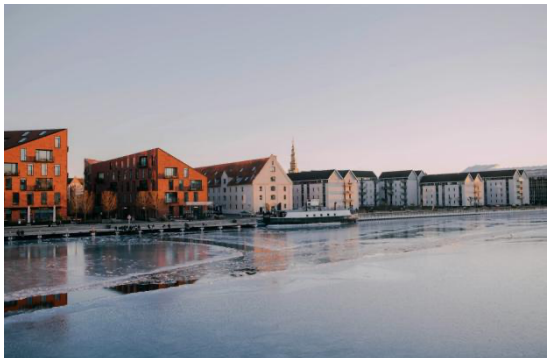
For secondary-school students who will graduate into a world shaped by multilateral cooperation, the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme · Switzerland · France · Denmark is the earliest and most substantive introduction available. Over ten days across three of Europe's foundational cities for international 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





◎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.

◎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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Diplomacy & Negotiation**
- ✓ **Leadership**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Public Speaking**
- ✓ **Cultural Awareness**

◎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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion — Three Cities*	*Model UN & Policy Brief Capstone*
≈ 2–3 hrs / week · 3 weeks (6–8 hrs)	**10 days on-site · 3 countries**	**Day 10 · capstone presentation**
▸ 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

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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.

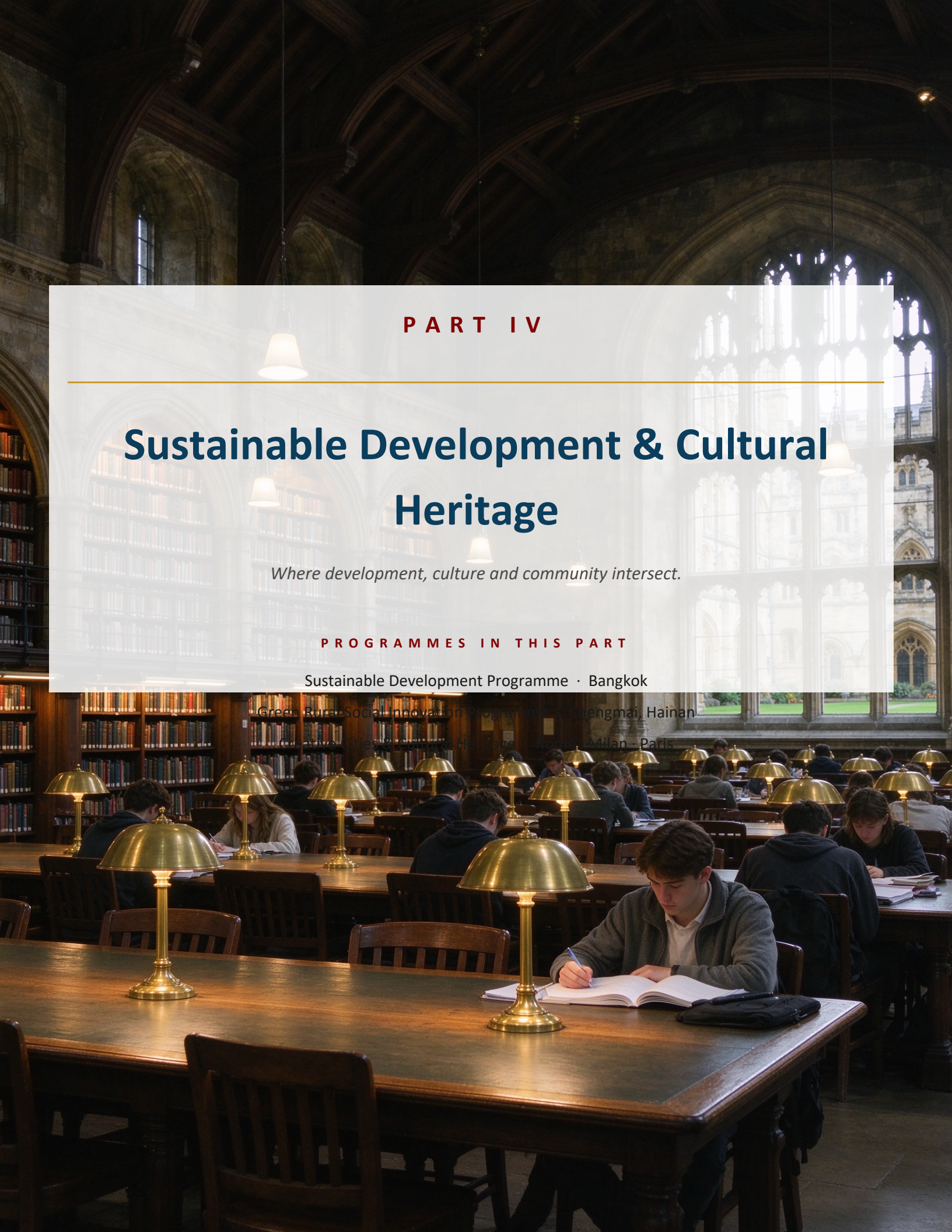
◎WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

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.



PART IV

Sustainable Development & Cultural Heritage

Where development, culture and community intersect.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

Sustainable Development Programme · Bangkok

Green Rural Social Innovation Programme · Chiengmai, Hainan

Creative Cities & Cultural Heritage · Kyoto · Milan · Paris



Sustainable Development Programme • Bangkok

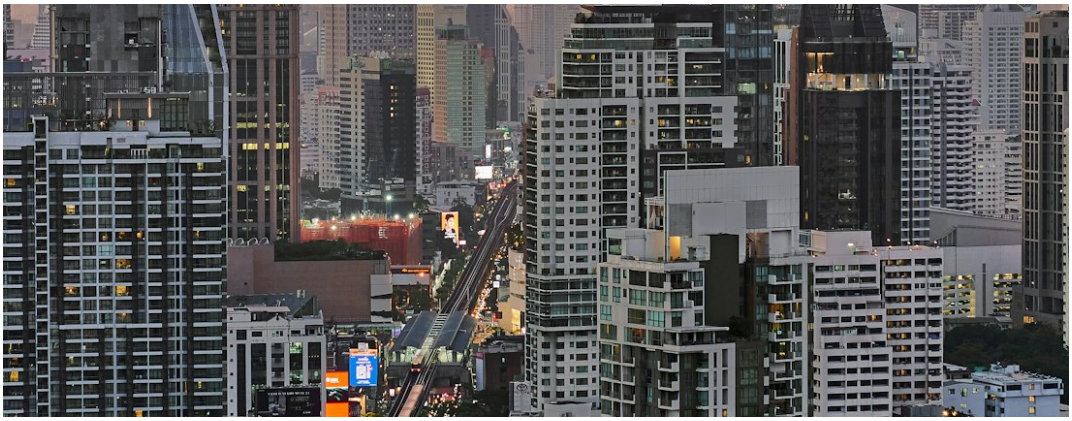
The Asia-Pacific gateway to the Sustainable Development Goals — where regional development meets multilateral practice

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



◎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.

◎LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals as they are 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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Communication**
- ✓ **Sustainability Literacy**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Cross-cultural Competence**

◎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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion in Bangkok*	*Capstone Proposal*
≈ 2–3 hrs / week · 3 weeks (6–8 hrs)	**10 days on-site · Bangkok**	**Day 10 · capstone presentation**
▸ 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

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	**Arrival — Bangkok**	Arrival in Bangkok; check-in; welcome briefing on the Asia-Pacific SDG context
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

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.



Green Rural Social Innovation Programme • Chengmai, Hainan, China

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	7 days 6 nights
NEXT ITERATION	July 2027
LOCATION	Chengmai, Hainan, China
LANGUAGE	Chinese + English
COHORT SIZE	20-30
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC

◎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 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 (Grades 7-12) whose intellectual curiosity extends toward 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.

◎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-transfers directly to 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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

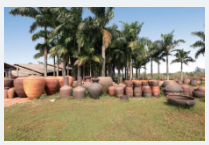
- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Communication**
- ✓ **Field Research**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Social Innovation**

◎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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion in Chengmai*	*Deliverable Production & Review*
6 hrs total · 3 × 2-hour online sessions	**7 days 6 nights on-site · Chengmai**	**Day 7 · review & departure**
▸ 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 ▸ 6 hours, 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



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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	**Arrival in Hainan** **Launch & Team Formation**	Arrival at Hainan, China. Programme opening; introduction to background, objectives and workflow; team formation into Cultural Creativity, Communications, Industry teams; team leaders and objectives set.
Day 2	**Arrival in Chengmai & 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 3	**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 4	**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 5	**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 6	**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 7	**Review & Departure**	Formal deliverable presentations at the GYLDC Chengmai field station; expert panel adjudication and feedback; certification ceremony; departure preparations.

◎WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

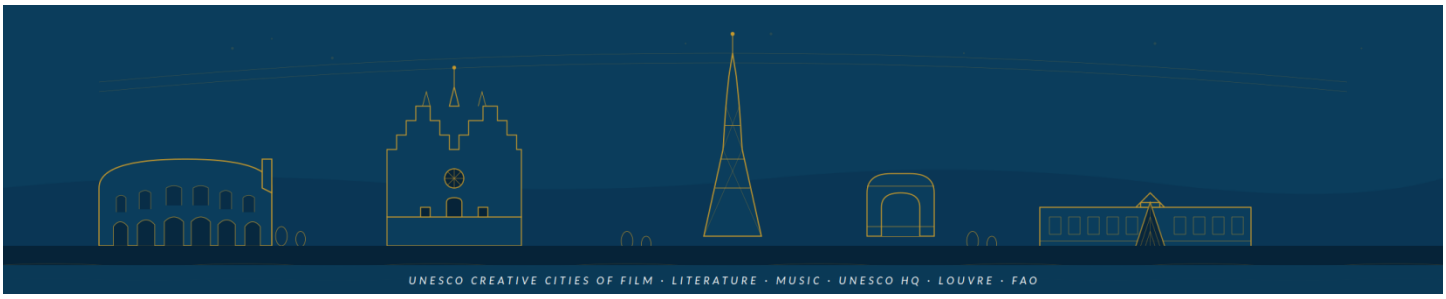
Formal Certification

Tangible Deliverable

Every delegate contributes to a concrete team output — a sustainable tourism route or a cultural and creative product

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

concept — that GYLDC submits to a UN platform or major cultural institution for consideration.



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

◎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, UNESCO Secretariat and World Heritage Centre, UN Environment Programme, International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication, and the International Dance Council, and produce a multimedia capstone documenting their research and synthesis.

◎WHY THIS PROGRAMME

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 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.

◎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.

◎COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Cultural Analysis**
- ✓ **Communication**
- ✓ **Digital Storytelling**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Execution**

◎CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

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

1 · Pre-Programme (Online)	2 · On-Site Immersion (9 Days)	3 · Capstone Deliverable
≈ 4 hrs / week · 4 weeks (~15 hrs)	**9 days on-site · Rome · Milan · Paris**	**Post-immersion deliverables**
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	**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	**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

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.

◎WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

- 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

PART V

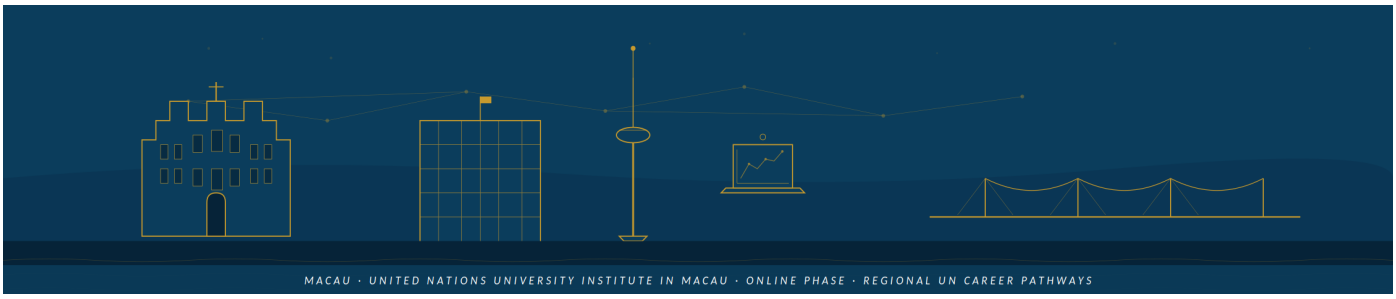
UN Career Preparation Track

A dedicated pathway into the United Nations system.

PROGRAMMES IN THIS PART

UN Career Preparation Programme · 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



◎ 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.

◎ 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.

◎ COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

✓ **Leadership**	✓ **Decision-making**	✓ **Communication**
✓ **Self-presentation**	✓ **Collaboration**	✓ **Career Planning**

◎ 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
Online Foundations (Week 1)	*Online Application Portfolio (Week 2)*	*On-Site Career Immersion (Macau, Week 3)*
Week 1 · online	**Week 2 · online**	**Week 3 · 7 days on-site · Macau**
▸ 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

UNU Macau

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.

◎ SAMPLE SCHEDULE

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
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

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.

◎APPLICATION

NEED-TO-KNOW INFORMATION

Please read the following information before applying for any programme in the GYLDC Global Youth Immersion Series. Programme-specific details — dates, duration, location, primary tier and cohort size — are shown in each programme's 'Programme at a Glance' panel.

Eligibility

Our programmes are curated for students from middle schools to universities with age ranging from 14 to 30 years old. Selected programmes (AI Governance Immersion and UN Career Preparation) also welcome postgraduate, early-career and executive delegates. Working English is required.

How to Apply

Register your interest by email. Our team will share programme dates, fees and the application form for your chosen programme. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Early application is strongly advised.

Cohort

Cohorts are curated for diversity of background, geography and sector. Cohort sizes vary by programme.

Programme Fee

Contact us for fee structure and information. Fee covers programme delivery, programme materials, facilitators and certificates. For on-site immersion, ground transport, meals during the programme and accommodation are included.

Not Included

All international and transit flights, medical and travel insurance, visa fees and personal incidentals are not included.

Travel Documents

Participants are responsible for holding a valid passport and any visa required for their programme destination.

Participants Under 18

Participants under 18 years old require parental or guardian consent.

Partners, Faculty & Itineraries

Named partners and itineraries are indicative and curated on a case-by-case basis; the actual programme may vary depending on prevailing circumstances. A fully detailed handbook is provided upon confirmation of enrolment.

CONTACT US

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Website: www.ungyldc.org