



Global Governance & International Organizations • Geneva

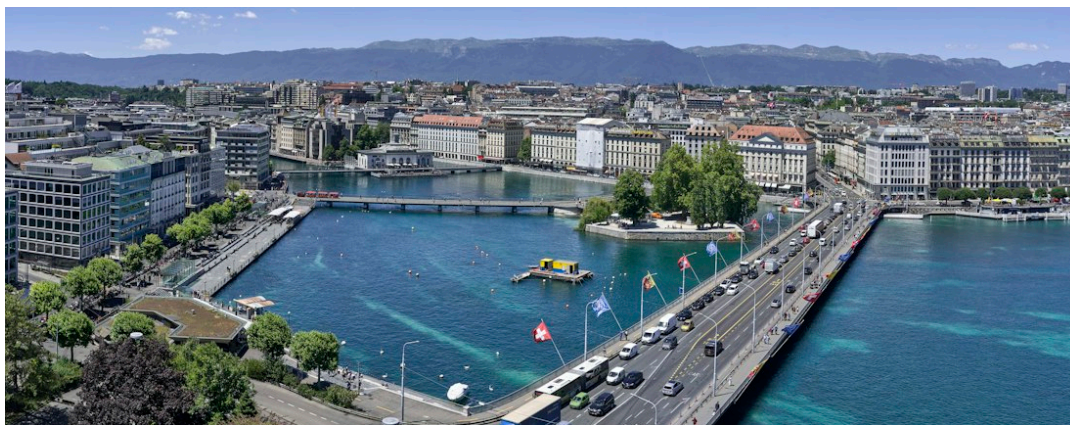
The foundational Geneva immersion — where undergraduate delegates encounter the full breadth of the multilateral system

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

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

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

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



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

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

©What Participants Experience

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

©Why GYLDC

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



©WHO THIS IS FOR

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

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

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

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



© COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

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

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

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

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

©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

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

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



UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

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



World Trade Organization (WTO)

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



World Health Organization (WHO)

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



UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

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



International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

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



World Meteorological Organization · WIPO · IHEID

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

©FEATURED FACULTY

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

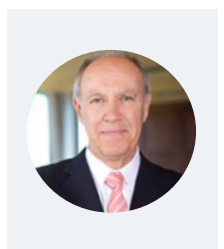
The programme's faculty combine former UN senior leadership, current agency officials, and tenured academic faculty from the Graduate Institute Geneva and adjacent institutions. Named faculty may vary between iterations; the profiles below are representative of the calibre confirmed for each cohort.



Fabrizio Hochschild

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

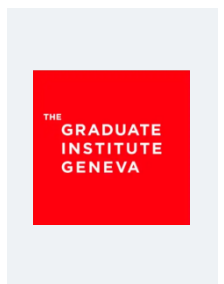
Mr. Hochschild delivers the programme's opening framing on the state of multilateralism. His pre-programme lecture on UN history and current pressures on the system provides delegates with the essential contextual grounding for their Geneva engagements. He has been a founding faculty member of this programme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



Prof. Francis Gurry

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

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



Faculty, Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID)

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

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

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

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

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

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

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

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

Formal Certification

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

Letters of Recommendation

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

Research Paper Portfolio

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

Alumni Network Membership

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

UN Internship Pathway

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

Follow-on Convenings

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



©APPLICATION

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

Eligibility

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

Cohort

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

Fee

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

Contact

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