

Global Governance & International Organizations • Geneva

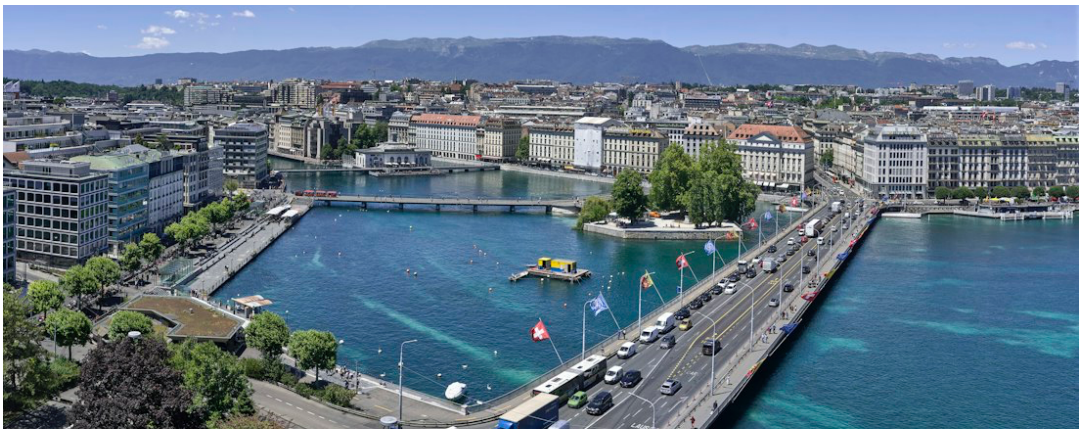
The foundational Geneva immersion — where undergraduate delegates encounter the full breadth of the multilateral system

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.