

Multilateral Diplomacy Programme • Switzerland • France • Denmark

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

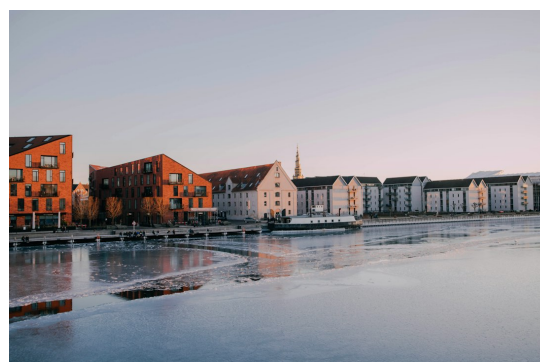
For secondary-school students who will graduate into a world shaped by multilateral cooperation, the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme • Switzerland • France • Denmark is the earliest and most substantive introduction available. Over ten days across three of Europe's foundational cities for international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

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

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

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

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



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

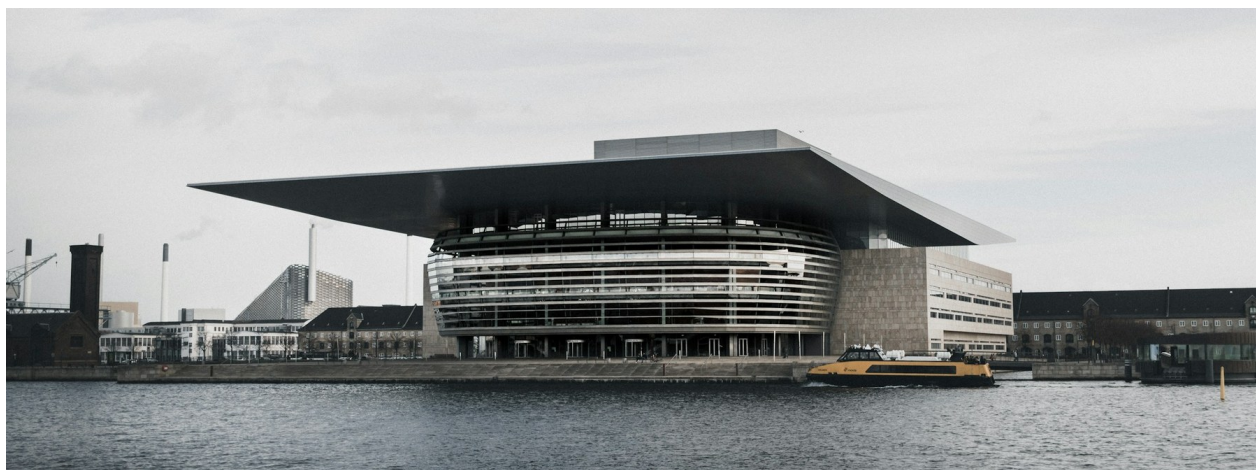
The generation of students now in secondary school will be professionally active during the most consequential decades of the multilateral system in a century. They will graduate into a world in which climate action, artificial intelligence governance, humanitarian response and cross-border cooperation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

©What Participants Experience

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

©Why GYLDC

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



©WHO THIS IS FOR

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

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

©LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

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

©COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

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

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION

©CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

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

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



©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

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

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



UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

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



World Trade Organization (WTO)

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



UNESCO Headquarters (Paris)

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



Sciences Po (Paris)

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



UN City Copenhagen

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



Château de Versailles

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

©FEATURED FACULTY

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

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

[PHOTO PENDING]

Former UN Senior Official (Programme Convenor)

GYLDC Faculty; former UN Under-Secretary-General

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

[PHOTO PENDING]

Senior UNESCO Educator

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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

[PHOTO PENDING]

UN City Copenhagen Programme Specialist

UN City Copenhagen

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

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

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

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

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

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

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

Formal Certification

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

Letters of Recommendation

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

University Application Support

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

Progression to Undergraduate Programme

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

Publication Opportunities

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

Alumni Network Membership

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



©APPLICATION

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

Eligibility

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

Cohort

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

Fee

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

Contact

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