

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

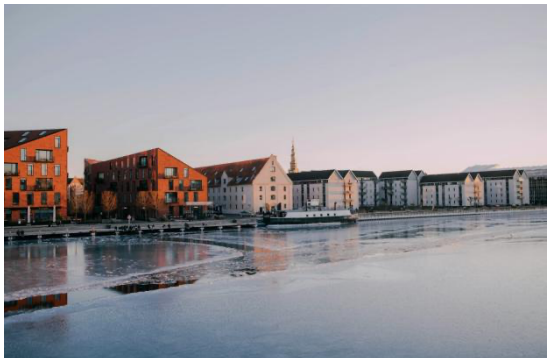
For secondary-school students who will graduate into a world shaped by multilateral cooperation, the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme · Switzerland · France · Denmark is the earliest and most substantive introduction available. Over ten days across three of Europe's foundational cities for international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