



**United Nations
Association of Australia
Victorian Division**

MODEL UNITED NATIONS IN SCHOOLS

Program Brochure

"Your goal may be to resolve a conflict, to cope with a natural disaster or to bring nations together on an issue like climate change. You may be playing a role, but you are also preparing for life. You are acting as global citizens."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

REFUGEES



CLIMATE CHANGE



WOMEN



UNAAV Model UN Conference Program

A Model UN Conference (MUNC) is a simulation of a session of the UN General Assembly through a creative forum of role play and debate. Students step into the shoes of country ambassadors and draw on negotiation and diplomacy skills to ensure their views are heard. Throughout the conference they have the opportunity to interact with other delegates during the caucus sessions, present their country's position to the General Assembly and move amendments to a Draft UN Resolution and its specific recommendations.

The objective of a MUNC is to find the best possible solution to the problem at hand through multilateral diplomacy. Delegates aim to reach a compromise based upon their own country's national interests, international responsibilities and humanitarian obligations. The outcome is formalised in the adoption of a brand new UN Resolution.

By taking part in a MUNC, students not only learn about UN bodies and member states, but also about the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, negotiation, and building consensus. These skills are fundamental to the development of global citizens and future leaders.

UNAAV Model UN Conference Program

Key Learning Outcomes for students:

- Use problem solving skills to think critically about world issues and global citizenship.
- Learn to see an issue from multiple sides by stepping into the shoes of a foreign country's ambassador.
- Learn the art of diplomacy through negotiation and thinking outside of the box to reach multilateral agreements.
- Improve public speaking, writing and communication skills, increase self-confidence and develop a capacity for leadership.
- Offers a sense of humility and fosters multi-cultural exchanges as students gain a new perspective of being part of something larger that challenges their ideas about their place in the world.
- Team work to solve global challenges opens students' eyes to the power of the international community to make change when working in cooperation.

Victorian Curriculum Links:

MUNC's are targeted at middle to senior secondary school students (Years 9-12) and may be run across multiple classes and/or year levels.

They provide learning outcomes that align with Middle Years Humanities subjects such as Geography, History and Civics and can become key practical exercises in VCE units such as Global Politics, Environmental Science, Economics and Geography.

A MUNC accommodates a minimum of 60 students and a maximum of 120 students.

UNAAV Model UN Topics

The United Nations General Assembly's current focus is around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (or SDG's) adopted in 2015 as part of the new 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals. The 17 goals have 169 targets which the world will aim to meet over the next 15 years by focusing on the core areas of sustainable development, economics, humanitarian, social and environmental issues.

Our **12 new topics** offer a greater link to the 17 SDG's while also retaining issues that are relevant to students and to the current global discourse both within the UN and on the National level.



Topics to choose from:

- Confronting Climate Change: Committing to Global Action
- Achieving Gender Equality: Empowering Woman and Girls
- Wild for Life: Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade
- A Right to Freedom: Stopping Human Trafficking
- Refugees: A Global Humanitarian Crisis
- Rewrite the Future: Quality Education for All
- Hear My Voice: Recognising the Rights of Indigenous peoples
- Zero Hunger: Addressing Global Poverty and Food Security
- The Age of Terror: War, Conflict and Global Security
- Planet Ocean: Protecting Life Below Water
- The Responsibility to Protect: Preventing Mass Atrocity Crimes
- Global Health: Ensuring Well-Being for Human Prosperity



“The most beneficial aspect of the conference was being able to assess the diplomatic workings of an organisation so crucial to the global community – especially weighing up the national interests of states.”

Student, Yarra Valley Grammar School

Conference Management

The UNAA Victoria will:

- Identify the conference topic in consultation with the school.
- Write a Draft Resolution – the central UN document which the students debate and amend on the day.
- Produce all conference materials, including a Delegate Information Pack for students, a Teacher Guide for teachers, and a list of countries relevant to the topic.
- Provide teachers with the conference materials and countries for students to represent, at least one month prior to the Conference.
- Assist teachers with any questions they may have about the Conference.
- Either arrange one Guest Speaker on the conference topic and an acting Secretary-General (conference moderator) or arrange for an expert Secretary-General to provide an overview of the conference topic and also moderate the proceedings of the day.
- Coordinate and manage all aspects of the conference including management on the day.
- Post-conference: provide the school with a student feedback report based on surveys collected at the end of the conference.

Support required from the school:

- Provide a suitable venue: The venue must be large enough to seat participants comfortably, as well as provide breakout areas for informal caucuses. The venue also needs to have sufficient audio-visual facilities including: projector, lectern and microphones (multiple roving microphones preferred for question time).
- Conference preparation: Assign countries and distribute conference materials to students, as well as assist students in preparing for the day.
- If the conference is to be held as part of any class requirements/curriculum, the school is also responsible for assessment of their students.

Additional benefits

- School membership of the United Nations Association of Australia (Victorian Division) until the end of the current financial year. For details about membership see: unaavictoria.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member

Conference Fee

- The conference management fee for a one-day UN Model Conference is \$5,000 plus GST. (*Concessions available*)

Sample Conference Schedule

8:45am – 9:00am	Registration: Delegates arrive and take their seats according to country groups.
9:00am – 9:10am	Conference Commences: UNAA Victoria, School Opening Addresses
9:10am – 9:30am	Guest Speaker
9:30am – 9:50am	Opening Address by <i>Secretary-General</i> , to explain the conference Protocol such as raising your country placards to speak.
9:50am – 11:00am	<u>Session 1: Position Statements</u> Delegates to speak in alphabetical order per country for 1-2 minutes.
11:00am – 11:20am	MORNING TEA
11:20am – 12:30pm	<u>Session 2: Caucus</u> During this time, delegates debate the Resolution and its clauses, expressing their country's views and seeking the views of other countries before moving to draft, edit and perfect their proposed amendments to the Resolution on the Amendment Slips. Amendments must have at least one seconder and be submitted at the end of the session before lunch. The Caucus Session can take two forms: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Moderated Caucus: The session begins in a Moderated Caucus, meaning a formal debate. Delegates can add themselves to a speakers list by raising their placard. Speakers have up to 2 minutes speaking time.2. Unmoderated Caucus: Delegates may raise their country placard to motion for an Unmoderated Caucus of 5 or 10 minutes, meaning delegates are free to move around the room to discuss their amendments with their allies and potential supporters. The Secretary General will call for a seconder and put the motion to a vote, requiring a simple majority.
12:30pm – 1:30pm	LUNCH
1:30pm – 2:30pm	<u>Session 3: Amendments</u> Amendments submitted before Lunch will be debated and voted upon, requiring a simple majority. As many amendments will be dealt with as time permits.
2:30pm – 2:45pm	<u>Session 4: Voting on the Final Resolution</u>
2:45pm – 2:50pm	Closing Address: <i>Secretary-General</i>
2:50pm – 2:55pm	Conference Concludes: UNAA, School Closing Addresses
2:55pm – 3:00pm	Feedback forms and Certificates of Participation

Conference Structure

The Sample Schedule above is an example of the specific stages of a MUNC. The schedule may be altered according your school's timetabling or other considerations, in consultation with the UNA AV Education Program Coordinator during the conference planning process.

Further information

For further information please contact:

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About the United Nations Association of Australia (Victorian Division)

The UNAA Victoria is a non-profit, non-government, membership-based community organisation working to promote the aims and ideals of the United Nations and seeking support for the UN, its programs and agencies.

A primary purpose of the UNAA is to raise awareness about the UN and to engage the Australian community on key issues on the UN agenda. We play a critical role in connecting Australians with the United Nations and educating the community on key international and local issues covering environmental, human rights and social justice topics.

The UNAA Victoria launched the Model UN Conference program in universities in 2003. The program was extended to Victorian secondary schools in 2006. Since then the program has grown considerably with conferences held in Victoria's major universities as well as throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria in many government, independent and catholic schools. Many conferences are held in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training. In 2014 the first Model UN Conference was held in French for VCE students studying that language, followed by successful conferences in both French and German in 2015 and Italian in 2016.