INTRODUCTION

FROM THE CONVENORS

On behalf of UN Youth Australia, we are delighted to invite you to apply to attend National Conference 2017. For over 50 years, National Conference has brought together the best and brightest minds in the Asia-Pacific for a week of stimulating Model UN debate, thought-provoking workshops, inspirational speaker sessions, and lively social occasions. It is a unique opportunity to develop your public speaking, leadership and advocacy skills while building a network of like-minded high-achieving peers from across the Asia-Pacific region.

This guide offers a comprehensive outline of the event. If after reading it you have any further questions, or would like more information on how to apply, please contact your local division of UN Youth Australia.

We look forward to receiving your application.

JORDI LOCKHART & ANISH BADGERI

CO-CONVENORS
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017
UN YOUTH AUSTRALIA

ABOUT UN YOUTH AUSTRALIA

UN Youth Australia is a national youth-led not-for-profit organisation, coordinated entirely by young volunteers aged 15-24. We are dedicated to educating young people about international relations, providing an avenue for the expression of youth opinion and empowering young people to engage with the betterment of their local and global communities.

UN Youth Australia is the youth affiliate of the United Nations Association of Australia, which is a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Nearly 3,500 students across Australia attend our programs each year.

We believe in the value of peer-to-peer education and have been inspiring young students for decades to become engaged with the world around them. For more information about UN Youth Australia, please visit our website at www.unyouth.org.au.
ABOUT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Conference is UN Youth Australia’s flagship event, and will be held in Perth from 5th-11th July 2017. The Conference will be attended by over 120 participants, competitively selected from every Australian state and territory and from across the Asia-Pacific. Over 30 volunteer facilitators coordinate the week’s events. The Conference is an exciting opportunity for young leaders of tomorrow to network, be inspired, develop their leadership & communication skills, and formulate their own policy proposals on issues of global significance. National Conference 2017 will examine the theme of ‘The Innovation Revolution’, which will encourage you to think about the ways in which new ideas and technological advancements have shaped the ways communities interact with the environment and each other.

ELIGIBILITY

Application for a domestic delegate position at National Conference 2017 is open to students at Australian high schools in Years 10-12.

You must be available to attend the entirety of the event (leaving your nearest capital city on Wednesday July 5th and returning on Tuesday July 11th) and you must be prepared to privately catch up on any schoolwork missed during this time. There will be no opportunity to do schoolwork at the Conference itself, and we are unable to request that your school exempt you from any tests or assignments.

If you have attended National Conference as a delegate in previous years, you are unfortunately ineligible to apply again.
THE INNOVATION REVOLUTION

CONFERENCE THEME

In the 18th Century, rapid advancements in technology and manufacturing irreversibly changed the way people lived and worked. The speed of this change was, at the time, remarkable, leading to the period being termed ‘The Industrial Revolution’.

300 years later, we’re in the middle of another revolution. New technologies and new ideas are changing our lives faster than ever before, in ways that would have been unimaginable only a few decades ago. The speed of this progress and advancement is so unprecedented that it makes the Industrial Revolution – arguably the most pioneering period in human history – look sluggish and inert.

At National Conference 2017 you will explore how this new Innovation Revolution is changing the way communities function and interact. Workshops will examine the impact of technological change on health, the environment and education, as well as on security and governance. You will learn how to harness innovative ideas to produce socially responsible outcomes, and expert speaker panels and networking events will enable you to learn directly from young Australians already making a difference at home and abroad. Furthermore, you will gain the skills and expertise necessary to identify people and communities being made increasingly vulnerable in an era of innovation, and to speak out on behalf of those left behind by the digital age. By the end of the week, you will have taken on the values of any good revolutionary – a passion for change, a thirst for new ideas, an entrepreneurial spirit, a global outlook, and a heightened awareness of your own responsibilities.

A UNIQUE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

“Attending National Conference in 2008 as a delegate was a highlight of my high school days. Connecting with over 100 engaged, intelligent and community-minded young people from across Australia and the Asia-Pacific was energising and inspiring. As a facilitator in later years, I had the opportunity to develop organisational and leadership skills which I have relied on in professional spheres. UN Youth offers wonderful opportunities to high school students and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of it as a delegate.”

ILONA QUAHE
2008 CONFERENCE DELEGATE
2015 RHODES SCHOLAR

Recent law graduate and 2015 Australia-at-Large Rhodes Scholar, Ilona Quahe, is a perfect example of how National Conference has the power to empower young people and connect future leaders.
CONFERENCE ITINERARY

The itinerary for National Conference 2017 balances educational impact with a vibrant social culture. We’re confident that you’ll find each new day even more empowering and uplifting than the last.

The schedule below gives you an indication of the activities you can expect to participate in at National Conference 2017. If you attended a State or Territory Conference this year, you’ll notice all your favourite events – workshops, panel discussions, IPS and Model UN debate. You’ll also see exciting some new ones unique to National Conference – a diplomats breakfast, a collaborative session with the Australian Youth Representative to the UN, networking lunches, and a much wider variety of social events.

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<th>Day 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 5 2017</td>
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<td>• Delegate Registration</td>
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<td>• Conference Briefing</td>
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<td>• Welcome Social</td>
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<td>• Interactive Problem Solving Activity</td>
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<th>Day 5</th>
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<td>July 6 2017</td>
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<td>• Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>• Keynote Address</td>
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<td>• Workshops</td>
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<td>• Session by Australian Youth Representative to the UN</td>
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<td>• Social (Games Night)</td>
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<td>• Diplomats Breakfast</td>
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<td>• Model UN General Assembly Debate</td>
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<td>• Closing Ceremony and Awards Presentation</td>
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<td>• Final Dinner and Dance</td>
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CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Workshops & Advocacy Sessions
Throughout the week you will take part in a number of engaging and eye-opening workshops that will involve group discussions, activities and simulations. These workshops will be conducted in groups of approximately 10 delegates. The workshops will focus on key issues related to the Conference theme, including:

- The ethics of modern technology
- Global environmental challenges
- Using innovation to promote human security
- Cyber security and online surveillance
- Using innovation to solve local community challenges

Speaker Sessions
Throughout the week you will have the opportunity to listen to and network with a number of high-profile guest speakers on international affairs and diplomacy. In previous years, we have welcomed guests including Foreign Ministers and former Prime Ministers.

Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations
One of the educational highlights of the week will be a workshop session facilitated by the 2017 Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations. This activity will give you the opportunity to hear from the experiences of the 2017 Australian Youth Representative to the UN and gain the skills to initiate change in your own local communities.

Interactive Problem Solving Activity
The Interactive Problem Solving Activity is an excellent opportunity for you to apply the knowledge and skills you have developed from the Conference in a crisis simulation exercise. Each delegate will step into the shoes of a person or stakeholder in a contemporary geopolitical flashpoint. You will find yourself working furiously against the clock to solve an emergency such as a nuclear standoff, a flare-up in the Middle East, or a sudden absence of critical resources.

Model UN Debates
You will participate in several Model UN Debates throughout the week, representing a country in Committees and the General Assembly. You will debate issues of global importance including climate change, human trafficking, and nuclear weapons.

National Conference 2017 will feature the following committees, in addition to the General Assembly:

- Economic & Social Council
- Disarmament & International Security
- World Health Organisation

Debates will be held in prestigious venues across Perth, including the Parliament House of Western Australia.
CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Formal Occasions

The conference will kick off with an Opening Ceremony function, and will also feature a diplomats breakfast and two networking lunches. During these events, you will have the opportunity to meet with a number of distinguished guests from a variety of professional backgrounds.

Recreation Activities

After the educational activities of each day you will have the chance to relax and meet other delegates in a more social setting, with a number of evening recreation activities being held throughout the week including a quiz night, a movie night and a games night.

Bloc Dinner Social

The Bloc Dinner will be an opportunity for you to get to know other delegates in a more intimate environment. You will be divided into geographical blocs (based on the country you represent in debate) and each bloc will enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Final Dinner

The social highlight of the week will be the Final Dinner, which will be held at one of Perth’s premier function venues. This will be an opportunity for you to celebrate your work over the week, reflect on everything you’ve taken away from the Conference, and enjoy a final dance with your new friends.

Western Australia Government House Ballroom
ACCOMMODATION AND WELFARE

ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodation partner for the event is Scotch College, one of Perth’s most prestigious boarding schools. Delegates will be accommodated in single rooms for the duration of the Conference, and most meals and some workshops will be held in the College’s Dining Hall and Conference Venues. During free time, you will also have access to social spaces in the multiple lounge rooms located throughout the residential facilities.

WELFARE & DUTY OF CARE

National Conference, like all UN Youth Australia events, is governed by our comprehensive Federal Welfare Policy. All facilitators are fully qualified to work with children, and UN Youth Australia has a duty of care over all underage delegates from their departure from their home airport until their arrival.

Four designated Welfare Officers will be available 24/7 throughout the Conference, and their sole job is to look after you and your wellbeing. They all have First Aid qualifications, and some are trained in Mental Health First Aid.

Although we take welfare very seriously, our Welfare Officers are not medical professionals. Therefore, in order to ensure that we can maximise your safety, enjoyment and participation in the event, you will be required to submit a Welfare Management Plan if you identify as having a serious health condition (including all chronic illnesses, mental health conditions for which you are taking medication, and any injury or disability that limits your full participation in Conference events). Your Welfare Management Plan must be written by a medical professional – typically your GP. If this applies to you, we will be in touch with more details after successful applicants have indicated their welfare information on the Conference registration form.
FEES AND APPLICATION

REGISTRATION FEE
The heavily subsidised registration fee for National Conference 2017 is AU$900 per person. This fee includes:
- Return flights to Perth from your nearest capital city
- Accommodation for 6 nights
- 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Daily morning and afternoon teas
- Airport transfers
- All transport between accommodation, conference, and social venues
- Educational and recreational activities

The registration fee does not include:
- Bloc Dinner expenses (approximately $20)
- Optional Conference T-shirt ($25)
- Optional commemorative photograph ($5)

In previous years, a large majority of delegates have been successful in reducing the cost of their attendance by obtaining sponsorship from community groups, Members of Parliament, or their schools. Successful applicants who choose to pursue sponsorship will be assisted in this process by their Divisional Facilitators.

HOW TO APPLY

UN Youth Australia is a federation of eight State and Territory Divisions, each of which sends a delegation to National Conference. Each Division has a different method of selecting delegates, with competitive applications being sought from students who live in Queensland, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, and the Northern Territory.

Most Divisions will release further information about how to apply, including application deadlines and a link to their application form, on the UN Youth Australia website: www.unyouth.org.au.

If you require further information about the application process, or have any questions about attending National Conference 2017, please contact your local UN Youth Divisional President:

ACT: Kate Turner at actpresident@unyouth.org.au
NT: Christopher Teng at ntpresident@unyouth.org.au
QLD: Murray Buchanan at qldpresident@unyouth.org.au
VIC: Sam Proietto at vicpresident@unyouth.org.au
PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

UN Youth Australia relies on an extensive network of partners and supporters in making our events as successful as possible. We are very grateful for the support of our academic and community partners for National Conference 2017.

Academic Partners

Curtin University

Murdoch University

Community Partners

Freemasons Western Australia

Perth Convention Bureau

Scotch College

Tourism Western Australia

Fogarty Foundation