

## **Model UN General Assembly:**

Each year, more than 650 high school students from 37 schools in WNY representing around 56 countries participate in our Model United Nations General Assembly competition at the University at Buffalo. Students address the most pressing issues in international relations by writing, debating, amending, and voting on resolutions in committees that simulate those of the UN General Assembly. Students learn about the national interests and foreign policies of countries around the world, and gain a better understanding of global security, economic, humanitarian, and environmental concerns that are critical to the future of our world. Each year, we partner with professors and students from D'Youville University, Canisius College, Buffalo State University, Niagara University, and the University at Buffalo to lead the committees of the simulated General Assembly.

Each school sends in 1 to 4 delegations based on the number of students signed up to participate. The students send in three country options for each delegation in order of preference, and out of the three options I assign them the country that is available. This is why submitting the choices early will increase their chances of getting the countries they want. Let's say they picked Japan: the students would then represent Japan in the 7 committees (2 per committee, or 3 in one committee if the total number is an odd number). If the total number of students is less than 14, then they can choose which committees they want to be in even if they cannot be in all 7 of them. Some students might be confident enough to represent a country by themselves in one committee, if you cannot staff it with two. If the number of students is big, they can send in a second delegation with three choices for the country they want to represent, or they might choose to represent two countries in 5 committees instead of the 7.

Students are encouraged to write resolutions on topics that relate to the country they are representing and the committee that the student who is submitting it is going to be in. If the students do not want to write resolutions, they can just take part in the debate on the day of the event.

For more questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – May Shogan [mshogan@iibuff.org](mailto:mshogan@iibuff.org) or (716) 883-1900 x321.

Why is Model UN important?

For Teachers:

Model United Nations primarily serves as a learning experience for students. No other high school course puts students in a room with countless others from various high schools and facilitates teamwork and understanding by opening their minds to global affairs. Students who attend Model UN General Assemblies take away with them the satisfaction of participating in an amazing experience, and even an idea of what they want to do with their futures. Here are 7 reasons why you should be a faculty advisor for IIB's Model UN, and organize a student delegation:

1. It is a fun way to motivate students to learn, by promoting creativity and imagination.
2. It reinforces what students learn in the classroom by having students learn together, through each other.
3. MUN teaches students about the world by getting them interested in the policies and affairs of the country they are representing.
4. It conditions students' critical thinking and problem solving skills through conflict resolution and debate.
5. It values learning about a topic, analyzing different approaches to addressing it, and recognizing perspectives regarding that topic that might not mirror their own.
6. MUN improves debate and public speaking skills, and develops self-confidence.
7. Active involvement allows students to understand the consequences of their actions and decisions
8. And, it strengthens interpersonal relations because it encourages students to work together toward resolutions.

For Students:

Interested in politics and debate? Fascinated by other countries and their perspectives on global affairs? Motivated to have complete control over an entire country for a day? *Fictionally*, that is. Well then, we want you! Tell your school you want to be a part of their student delegation for IIB's Model United Nations General Assembly! Need some more convincing? Well, here are some reasons why Model UN rules (literally):

1. You get to meet other students from area high schools.
2. You also get a day off from your everyday studies to talk about exciting topics from around the world.
3. You can (fictionally) control the wellbeing of a country all on your own for an entire day – you choose what your country does.
4. Getting to know the format of a United Nations General Assembly, Parliamentary Procedure, and how to formally speak at a UN GA is definitely a rare quality.
5. You can sharpen your public speaking, research, debate, and conflict resolution skills, which is always a plus.
6. And you can also put Model UN on your resume – if you're looking toward college, admissions officers *love* extracurriculars.
7. It will help reinforce what you learn in the classroom, and a little extra help never hurt anyone!
8. It could spark an interest in foreign affairs and debate, shaping your future career goals and perspectives.