

Bristol Grammar School

Model United Nations



New Delegate and Adviser Booklet

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Introduction to BGS Model United Nations

Model United Nations (MUN) is a role-play activity aiming to replicate what happens in the 'real' United Nations. There are hundreds of MUNs around the world, from Hong Kong to The Hague to Harvard, and each one will be slightly different in terms of how it is run, but the common aims include:

- to enhance students' understanding of the world around them
- to give students a chance to work together to suggest solutions to complex problems
- to improve skills in research, teamwork, persuasion and public speaking.

BGS MUN has been running for 10 years now. It was set up with the aim of offering a friendly and supportive forum for delegates new to MUN, as well as an opportunity for more experienced delegates to chair sessions and to help run their own event. This remains our aim today. Our MUN has grown in size but is still a one-day, city centre event designed to appeal to students in the South-West looking to spend an intensive day debating current affairs with their peers. Most students attending will be in the Sixth Form, but we always have some attending from Year 8 upwards, and committees make allowance for age by making awards to junior delegates.

MUN can seem forbidding at first. It has its own peculiar language and set of procedural 'rules', but these are soon grasped and are best learned by doing rather than reading. Invariably students quickly learn and then master these ways of proceeding, which are those of the United Nations itself, and in this respect MUN is no different to debating or similar activities.

MUN is inspiring. It is evidence that young people really do care about today's world and are willing, when given the chance, to come up with intelligent and viable steps which can help raise awareness of a huge range of issues and can then propose and debate steps to address them.

You may choose to undertake MUN to enhance a CV or to improve public speaking or for a hundred different reasons. Quite simply, it is hugely worthwhile on its own terms. Thank you for your interest.

How does BGS MUN work?

This is the timetable for a typical BGS MUN:

1. Registration
2. Opening Ceremony
3. Committees
4. Lunch
5. Committees
6. General Assembly
7. Awards

1. **Registration** is quick and easy. We ask staff (known as **Advisers**) to register students (known as **Delegates**). The leader of each delegation is known as an **Ambassador**, and he/she is asked to give out name badges and a Welcome Pack to each delegate.
2. **Opening Ceremony**. Some MUNs have welcome speeches from the Headmaster and often a Guest Speaker, perhaps from a charity or NGO, who will talk about their work and the difference it is making. In the interests of keeping our event fast-moving and informal, we offer a brief Opening Ceremony where you will be warmly welcomed and then introduced to the students who have organised the event (the **Secretary-General** and the **Deputy Secretaries-General**). They will in turn introduce you to your Committee Chairs, who will lead you to your Committee Rooms.
3. **Committees**. This is the heart of any MUN. Your Committee will normally have 2 Chairs and often a Secretary; they run the discussion and are very much in charge. You will spend a large part of your morning at BGS MUN in committee. Its aims are:
 - ✓ To encourage a high standard of debate
 - ✓ To ensure that everyone has fair chances to speak (contributions are logged so that no one is missed out or dominates)
 - ✓ To endeavour to pass resolutions, since this is what success in MUN is all about

After they have introduced themselves, the Chairs will invite **lobbying** on resolutions. This is where you as a delegate offer your **resolution** (see below) to your fellow-delegates and lobby for support. Lobbying is a key MUN skill: can you persuade other countries to, literally, sign your piece of paper? There is more on lobbying below.

The Chairs will then choose a resolution to be debated. They will pick one which is well-informed, offers some practical solutions to the issue at hand and which will encourage a healthy debate. It also needs to have the support of several countries – the Chair will tell you how many **signatories** are needed. They will invite the delegate who has submitted it to explain to the Committee why this is an excellent resolution. The Chairs will then invite **points of information** from **the floor** (all delegates) which is the first chance for any delegate to raise their country placard and make a point which supports or criticises the resolution as a whole or a particular clause within it. After a while the Chair will invite the delegate to **yield** (stop) and will invite other countries wishing to support the resolution to come forward. There is normally 10 minutes (**time for**) a resolution.

After time in favour of the resolution has elapsed, the Chairs will invite delegates wishing to oppose the resolution to raise their placards, and will select a country to oppose it. Again, points which support this opposition, or which favour the resolution, will be made and the debate continues in **time against**. After time has elapsed the chair will move to voting procedures. A simple majority will carry a resolution. You are allowed to **abstain** on a resolution – this means that you have no strong position for or against, or that you see the merits of both sides of the argument – or you cannot see any advantage for your country in supporting or opposing the resolution.

Because resolutions are working documents, it is common for the Chairs to invite **amendments** to them during time against. This will ensure that a resolution is more likely to pass – because the adoption of the amendment makes it more attractive to more countries. Again, the Chairs will invite whoever has made the amendment to come forward and propose it (typically 5 mins of time for the amendment) and will allow critics of it to make their case, too (typically 5 mins against). Voting on amendments will determine whether the original resolution is modified or left as it was. You cannot abstain from voting on an amendment: you must support or oppose.

This whole procedure will be repeated several times during Committee, according to time constraints. The Chairs will be trying to ensure that the 2 or 3 topics for debate are evenly covered in the time available.

4. **Lunch.** We do not provide lunch so you are encouraged to bring a packed lunch (you can eat it outside if fine or in the Great Hall if wet) or, with your teachers' permission, you can visit the nearby shops and cafes.
5. **Committees.** Afternoon committees are quite brief. There may be unfinished business from the morning to complete in order to ensure that all topics have been covered. There may be time for some more light-hearted fun and banter, with delegate awards always popular. Your Chairs will then introduce an **Emergency**

Scenario. This is designed to test your ability to think and react quickly. The Scenario will involve a number of countries directly but all countries will need to work together to tackle the crisis. Your Committee will have a particular brief to tackle a part of the crisis – for example the Human Rights Committee may have to come up with solutions to a refugee problem resulting from the crisis. The Emergency Scenario, by definition, has not yet happened, so you will only learn of it on the day.

6. **General Assembly.** You will be asked to assemble in your delegations in Great Hall. This gives you a chance to work together as a team with students from your own school or college. Again, the General Assembly (GA) will invite lobbying ahead of the submission of resolutions addressing the Emergency Scenario. The Chairs will decide which resolution to debate, and the GA will proceed in the same way as a normal committee. GA is busy and exciting, and often the highlight of the day because students have gained in confidence from their experiences in Committee.

7. **Awards.** Chairs will then be invited to make Awards to their delegates. There will be Awards in each committee for Best Junior Delegate, and for Commended, Highly Commended and Outstanding Delegate. Putting these Awards together, the Chairs will decide which countries deserve to be chosen as Commended, Highly Commended and Outstanding Delegations. There will be certificates for all winners, gavels for Outstanding Delegates and a Shield for the Highly Commended and Outstanding Delegations

BGS MUN Committees 2018

Delegates (students) from your school can decide which Committee they want to join. If your school is given a Security Council country, they must send a delegate to it. Other Committees are for you to decide as a school and as individuals. Only one delegate from each country can attend a committee.

If for example you have no students interested in Science and Technology but several are keen to explore the Human Rights issues outlined in the Briefing Papers, you need not send anyone to CSTD and can send one delegate to HR1 and one to HR2.

Security Council: this reflects the membership of the 'real' current SC (membership changes every two years). SC always comprises the **P5** (5 Permanent Members: China, France, Russia, UK, USA) plus 10 elected members chosen from regional elections. Your school can choose whether you wish to bid for an SC country or not. If you do so and are successful, make sure that your SC delegate has attended an MUN before or is suitable for the intensive, high-level debate which SC requires.

Historical Security Council: this is a fast-paced and exciting committee which will interest delegates with an interest in History and with the ability to think on their feet. You will represent your country in the usual way but with the twist that we have gone back in time to an earlier period of international tension. How will you react to changing events?

SC - Security Council	The Issue of Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines The Issue of Insurgency around the Malaysian-Thai Border
SCCUN - Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations	The Issue of Granting Powers to the United Nations The Issue of Reforming International Humanitarian Law
DISEC - Disarmament and International Security	The Issue of Political Assassination The Issue of Ethnic Cleansing in Myanmar
HR1 - Human Rights Committee 1	The Issue of Subjugation of Women Under Religious Institutions The Issue of the Persecution of Homosexuals

HR2 - Human Rights Committee 2	The Question of Amending the UN Declaration on Human Rights The Question of Protecting Human Rights Online
CSTD - Commission on Science and Technology for Development	The Issue of Technological Disparity The Issue of Maintaining Biodiversity
HSC - Historical Security Council	The Israeli Invasion of Lebanon (1978) The Manchurian Crisis (1931)

Notepaper and note-passing

We encourage all delegations to arrive at BGS MUN with some notepaper for their delegation. The Ambassador should take a lead here. What is needed is a simple piece of A5 paper identifying your country and leaving space for writing. This is to encourage the passing of diplomatic messages within committees. So, Brazil wants to build a closer alliance with Sweden regarding climate change? As well as face-to-face lobbying, this diplomacy can take place via notepaper while a debate is in progress; notes are transported by runners (messengers) who are members of younger year groups.

Note-passing can also be used to communicate to the Chairs.

A note of caution: misuse of notepaper can invite sanctions from the Chairs or even the suspension or expulsion of a delegation. This rarely happens, but delegates should be careful not to write down anything which might cause offence or be considered contrary to the spirit of the United Nations.

Spending

The working assumption of our MUN, in common with many others, is that there is no limit to the amount of money available to the UN to solve the problems under discussion. This assumption prevents arguments about what resources the UN has.

Lobbying

Any MUN will allow time for **lobbying**. This means informal discussion and negotiation. It is a time for you to get to recognise and speak to other delegates with the aim of gaining support for your point of view.

This point of view may be clear from your resolution, or from your support for another country's resolution.

You can add your name to another country's resolution as a **co-signatory** – which means that you will be entitled, if the Chair chooses this resolution, to come forward and speak on behalf of it. You may choose to create a **yield chain**. Let's say that you represent Brazil and you are a co-signatory to a resolution written by Sweden which is chosen for debate. Once the delegate from Sweden has made their speech and has been asked by the Chair to yield, Sweden may request: 'Is it in order to yield to Brazil?' If the Chair agrees to this yield chain, Brazil can then make supporting points which relate to, but are not the same as, the ones just made by Brazil. Yield chains are at the Chair's discretion but are a powerful way of gathering support for a resolution.

An art of lobbying is to say 'no'. Don't agree to something which is not your country's position – even if faced with a persuasive speaker. You could always suggest support conditional on a clause or clauses being amended.

Lobbying is important in the General Assembly (GA) because clauses will by necessity have been written in haste – and may need a lot of revision.

What is a Resolution?

Practicalities: it is good to come to BGS MUN with your resolution on memory stick AND to have paper copies. Try not to include other valuable files and folders on this memory stick, or at least copy them safely – memory sticks are easily lost and left behind.

A resolution is a formal statement of the views of a Committee or General Assembly. It offers proposed solutions to the problems outlined in the Briefing Papers.

It will comprise:

- An identification of the Committee which produced it
- An indication of the issue it proposes to address
- The submitting and any co-submitting countries – in other words the signatory and co-signatories

The body of the Resolution will comprise:

Preambulatory clauses: these are statements of context – they put the issue against its background and explain why action is necessary

Operative clauses: these are the ‘action’ parts of the Resolution: what is recommended, and why; what must happen and why.

Curiously, a resolution is strictly one long sentence, with clauses (sentences) separated by semi colons; only the final statement bears a full stop. In the interests of fast-moving debate, you will find that BGS MUN is not too formal about the presentation of resolutions, as long as they are accurate and clear.

There is a sample resolution at the back of this booklet.

In Committee

Permission to speak is gained by raising your country placard and being recognised by the Chair. The Chair will keep a tally to make sure that every country has a chance to speak and that the session is not being dominated by a few countries. If you feel overlooked, you can send a note to the Chair using a **runner** or messenger. This will be a younger student finding out how MUN works.

When you have the floor you should refer to yourself in the third person:

'Togo believes that this clause offers the most progressive solution to the issue of rising sea levels because...' not *'I'*

The same applies to references to other delegates:

'Togo does not agree with the honourable delegate from China that coal-fired power stations have not contributed greatly to global warming...' not *'you'*

All Points of Information must be phrased as a question, not a statement:

'Does the delegate from Togo not agree that ...'

'Surely China's proposed solution is unworkable...would you not agree?'

There is no dialogue on the floor. If you wish to reply to a point, you ask the Chair simply: **'Right of Reply?'** This may or may not be granted in the interests of free and fair debate, or time constraints.

Here is some more specialist language you will hear in committee:

Point of Personal Privilege: use this if you cannot hear what someone says or cannot read eg a resolution on a screen

Point of Information: use this for example if you want to challenge a country's remarks ie you doubt that the remark reflects a country's official diplomatic position. The Chair may ask a delegate to withdraw their remarks, or may allow it if it reflects a delegate's personal opinion rather than the official position of that country

Point of Clarification: use this if a term or wording in a resolution or amendment does not make sense to you or is ambiguous

Remember: Chairs at BGS MUN will be friendly and will guide you through MUN rules and procedures. What matters is your willingness to join in and try to represent your country as best you can.

How do I succeed at MUN?

We hope very much that all delegates enjoy themselves and want to attend more MUNs at local or national conferences, or at University – a number of universities have active MUN Societies.

A key point to realise is that it is not necessarily the ‘big countries’ which always succeed at MUN. The quality of the delegation determines success. MUNs are won by Togo, or Argentina, or Kazakhstan, because their delegates research, lobby and speak very well.

Keys to success:

Before the conference:

- ✓ Research your country’s position on your Committee’s issues thoroughly. That does not mean random Googling! Read the newspapers eg The Guardian’s free app, read The Economist, watch the news – be informed.
- ✓ Use the UN website - it is full of useful information. Familiarise yourself with the work of some of the key UN agencies. Your resolution will attract criticism if you propose creating a new agency or NGO and there is already one in existence: excessive bureaucracy is never popular. Modifying, adjusting, reshaping the focus or approach of an existing agency could, however, prove more fruitful. Read The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and be inspired. This will help you to understand the aims and values of the organisation.
- ✓ Read your Briefing Papers carefully for your Committee and email the Chair if you have any questions or concerns.
- ✓ Have a go at writing a resolution – at least the operative clauses, if not the preamble (see below). This will force you to clarify your thinking and your efforts could see your clauses used to merge with another resolution, or could form the basis of an amendment to a resolution.

During the conference:

- Have a go – Chairs will not force anyone to speak, but will gently encourage new delegates. Once you have had a go, you will soon get the hang of it.
- Prepare well: know your country's position on your issues. The more research you have done, the more knowledge you have, the more you will enjoy MUN. You cannot 'make it up as you go along'. Inevitably, there are some issues for some countries which it is hard to research and know about. However, you can always make some reasonable assumptions based on what you do know of your country's political, economic and religious positions.
- Call out other delegates! If you believe that a delegate from another country is not reflecting their country's real position, you can point this out to the Chair as a Point of Information.

After the conference:

- ✓ Give your Adviser feedback on what you did and didn't enjoy, offer some constructive ways for us to improve next year
- ✓ Be involved in sharing your experience with other students in your school so that they can learn how MUN works

Here are some examples of areas for you to research:

Geography and basic information	You will need to know where your country is, its size, population, flag and neighbours. What are your natural resources: water, minerals, oil, demographic?
Allies and enemies	Who are your country's natural friends and allies – with whom can you make agreements at MUN? Why are you allies – historic/cultural/religious/economic reasons? Likewise your rivals – but remember that the spirit of MUN is all about building bridges not continuing conflicts!
Economy	How does your country make money – what does it produce and export? Your MUN priority will be to protect your economic interests and to enhance them if possible. Are you in a trading alliance? With whom, and why?
Politics	Is your country a democracy or a dictatorship? Why? Which groups in your country hold political power – families? tribes? businessmen? Who are your political allies – and your allies in the UN? You can research your country's voting record and its history within the UN
Religious groups	What religions are practised in your country? What is the religious make-up of your country?
Human Rights	What does Amnesty International say about your country's human rights record?
Environmental issues	What does Greenpeace say about your country's track record in supporting action on climate change, for example?

The Human Rights Committee One

Submitted by: Australia

Co-submitted by:

The Human Rights Committee,

- (1) Defining the term "torture" as the severe pain or suffering, physical or mental which is intentionally inflicted
- (2) on a person for the purposes of obtaining information, confession, punishing someone for an act or
- (3) based on discrimination of any kind;

- (4) Alarmed by Amnesty stating "torture is not just alive and well — it is flourishing in many parts of the
- (5) world";

- (6) Further alarmed by the fact that governments seek to justify torture in the name of national security;

- (7) Noting with regret that 79 of 160 countries which have ratified the convention against torture and other
- (8) Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatments or Punishments continue to use torture ;

- (9) Affirming all articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights condemning torture like Article 5
- (10) "No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel inhuman, or degrading or inhumane treatment;

- (11) Emphasising the idea that the harm of torture is much greater than it seems and the benefits are
- (12) much smaller than one would expect;

- (13) Further emphasising the idea of the "slippery slope argument" that once torture has become
- (14) acclimatised in a legal system, it has the habit of spreading like an infectious disease;

- (15) 1. Calls upon all member states to prohibit, at any time or place, the use of torture, which should never be
- (16) justified;

- (17) 2. Notes that all acts of torture should be criminal offences under domestic criminal law in all member states;

- (18) 3. Recommends respect for the role of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and arbitrary detention and fair trial
- (19) standards in the prevention of torture in bringing perpetrators to justice;

- (20) 4. Ensures effective safeguards, for example any individual arrested should be brought promptly to a
- (21) judge;

- (22) 5. Requests that the permission of prompt and regular medical care to those arrested;

- (23) 6. Approves the establishment of proper legal aid programmes and assurance of access to lawyers;

- (24) 7. Proclaims that no statement that has been made as a result of torture is invoked as evidence in any
- (25) proceedings;

- (26) 8. Strongly condemns the expulsion, extradition or transfer of a person to another state where it is believed
- (27) that this person would be in danger of being subject to torture;

- (28) 9. Requests all allegations of tortuous acts, monitoring visits to place of detention and prevention of these
- (29) acts should be more effectively overseen by the United Nations Subcommittee Torture Prevention
- (30) Centre;

- (31) 10. Recommends anyone subject to torture has access to prompt reparations and effective treatment

- (32) 11. Further approves the financial assistance in national efforts to strengthen justice administrations;

- (33) 12. Trusts that education and information regarding the absolute prohibition of torture are fully included in the
- (34) education and training of all judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Appendix B

Perambulatory phrases

Affirming	Desiring	Having considered further	Noting with approval
Alarmed by	Emphasising	Having devoted attention	Observing
Approving	Expecting	Having examined	Realising
Aware of	Expressing its appreciation	Having studied	Reaffirming
Believing	Expressing its satisfaction	Having heard	Recalling
Bearing in mind	Fulfilling	Having received	Recognising
Confident	Fully aware	Keeping in mind	Referring
Contemplating	Fully alarmed	Noting with regret	Seeking
Convinced	Fully believing	Noting with satisfaction	Taking into account
Declaring	Further deploring	Noting with deep concern	Taking into consideration
Deeply concerned	Further recalling	Noting further	Taking note
Deeply conscious	Guided by		Viewing with appreciation
Deeply convinced	Having adopted		Welcoming
Deeply disturbed	Having considered		
Deeply regretting			

Operative clauses

Accepts	Declares accordingly	Further invites	Reminds
Affirms	Deplores	Further proclaims	Regrets
Approves	Draws the attention	Further reminds	Requests
Authorises	Designates	Further recommends	Solemnly affirms
Calls	Emphasises	Further resolves	Strongly condemns
Calls upon	Encourages	Further requests	Supports
Condemns	Endorses	Have resolved	Trusts
Congratulates	Expresses its appreciation	Notes	Takes note of
Confirms	Expresses its hope	Proclaims	Transmits
Considers		Reaffirms	Urges
		Recommends	