



Felsted
Model United
Nations

25th to 26th February 2018

**BRIEFING PACK FOR ADVISORS
AND DELEGATES**

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DEADLINES:

31st December 2017:

Confirmation of Delegates and accompanying staff via online registration <http://www.felsted.org/MUN2018>

29th January 2018:

Fasttrack Resolutions submitted via <http://www.felsted.org/MUN2018>

We advise regular checking of the Felsted MUN website for updates and publication of document such as the committee topics and fasttrack resolutions. Information and useful links will also be provided via our Twitter account: @FelstedMUN

A: WHAT IS MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)?

The earliest known Model United Nations conference took place at the UN in Geneva in 1953, shortly after the Second World War. Its mission was to ensure that the youth of the day did not make the same political mistakes as their ancestors! Today, as we grapple with serious problems such as Wars, Climate Change, Human Rights abuses, Global Pandemics and rising debt, MUN is more relevant than ever . . .

The basic concept is simple: students are allocated a country (normally *not* their own country). You research the country in advance and then 'represent' what you believe are that country's views in a series of grand debates on important international issues.

This is a particularly good activity for students in their last two years of secondary education, and universities value MUN extremely highly when considering applications. However, you are also very welcome to join the project if you are younger than that – many students get the 'MUN bug' and students can participate in up to ten different MUN conferences by the time they leave school!

What are the benefits of joining Felsted Model United Nations?

There are huge benefits to participating in MUN and universities value MUN extremely highly when considering applications. Here are just some of the benefits:

- Citizenship – interactive learning about global issues and democratic systems
- Experience – the opportunity to specialise in either Economic, Environmental, Human Rights, Health or International Security issues
- Public Speaking – honing your confidence and debating skills
- Tolerance and Compromise – learning to see things from others' perspectives
- Personal Skills – informal lobbying as well as formal speaking
- Leadership Skills – experienced students can take a leading role
- Online skills – a four week interactive phase prior to the conference

When do I start?

At the start of the project, you will be allocated a country and a committee. For **Felsted MUN**, there is a choice of four or five committees. You should obviously try to choose the area that most interests you. The committees are:

- *Ecology and Environment Committee*
- *Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*
- *Human Rights Council*
- *Health Committee*

. . . and also *Security Council* if the country you are allocated is currently a member.

ONE student from each country must serve on each of the four (or five) committees.

Do I need experience? I'm quite busy . . . how much research do I have to do?

No experience is necessary – you will receive training along the way! Busy people often sign up for MUN, because they are precisely the sort of people who get things done. The more research you do, the more you will get out of the conference itself – it's that simple . . . if you start early, it will be easy to do what is needed to do well.

B: ALLOCATING COUNTRIES, COMMITTEES & AMBASSADORS

Are some countries better than others?

Students often perceive that the five permanent members of the Security Council (USA, Russia, China, UK and France) are the 'best' countries to represent at MUN. If you have been allocated one of these countries, please try to allocate them to your more experienced or more confident delegates.

Other than that, it really makes no real difference – a basic principle of MUN is that the smallest island nation can have the same voice as a mighty world superpower! So whatever country you are allocated, you will still be able to participate very fully in the conference.

How many students represent each Country? What are the Committees?

For Felsted MUN, there are FOUR students representing each country, unless your country is a current member of the Security Council, in which case you will need a fifth student. Within each delegation (team representing the country), there must be one student on each Committee. This means that within each delegation, the four or five students will each be carrying out a different specialist role.

How do I choose my Committee?

You should obviously try to choose the Committee that interests you the most, but you may have to compromise a little as there can only be one member of each delegation on each Committee. It doesn't matter if you don't get your first choice, as MUN is all about finding out something new!

If your country is on the Security Council, then this should normally be allocated to the most experienced or confident member of that delegation. Other than that, the four committees all have equal status, so it is a matter of personal choice.

What is the role of the Ambassador?

Each delegation must choose one of its members to be the Ambassador. The Ambassador is effectively the team leader, so again this ought to be the most experienced or confident member of the delegation. The Ambassador's role is:

- To assist their delegates with preparing for the conference, monitor the team's preparation schedule and make sure the Advisor is aware of any problems.
- To ensure members of the delegation meet all deadlines.
- To produce headed notepaper for the conference itself.
- To act as the 'team leader' at the conference itself.

A good Ambassador can make a very big difference to the success of the delegation.

C: HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR COUNTRY

Once you have been allocated your Country, it is time to begin some general research.

You should try to find out as much as possible about your country's internal and external situation – in other words, not just what happens *inside* your country but also your country's relations with other countries. In particular, you should be on the lookout for any **problems affecting your country that are of international significance**. These could be suitable topics for a draft resolution later on.

In order to research, you should consider all of the following sources:

- 1) **Friends and Family.** Talk to them about what you are doing. You will almost certainly find that some of them are able to help you.
- 2) **The Media.** Read the newspapers and watch out for useful television programmes. There will almost certainly be something of significance reported in your country in the next few weeks.
- 3) **The Library / Bookshops.** Search for books that may give you insight concerning your country.
- 4) **Embassies.** If your country has an embassy you may wish to contact them and explain what you are doing. They may well be able to send you useful information.
- 5) **The Internet.** This is an obvious source of information, but be selective. There is a lot of good information available – but also a lot that is incorrect or misleading. Try to double-check your information, especially if a website is claiming something controversial or surprising. Please pass your supervisor the addresses of any particularly useful websites which you find.

Questions to which you need to know the answers:

1. Where is your country on the map and which are its neighbours? Which countries are powerful in its region? Are there influential leaders in the region?
2. Which international groupings is it part of (eg EU etc)? Who are its competitors and who are its allies? Who are its enemies?
3. What kind of government does it have, who is its leader, what economic systems does it have? What religious and social factors are at work?
4. Does it have substantial minority (racial, linguistic, religious) or indigenous populations, and what are their relationships with the majority populations? Do the minorities have links with similar populations in other countries?
5. Are there civil conflicts going on, why, and what is the government doing about it?
6. What is the country's history? Was it a colony? Has it had any revolutions?
7. What is its developmental state? Does it struggle to feed its population? Are there any environmental problems?
8. What is the position of women – in government, economic and social life?
9. How does your country defend itself? What are its military alliances?
10. What views do other countries hold about your country?

Remember that your job is to *support* your country, rather than attack it! As you research, set your own views aside and try to see things from your country's perspective, rather than your own. You may have to support policies you actually disagree with – but that's part of MUN, and real life too!

D: RESEARCHING THE AGENDA TOPICS

By the end of November the Agenda Topics for your Committee will be published on the Felsted MUN website. Hopefully by now, you will already know a lot about your Country, and will know which Committee you are representing. You should therefore be in a strong position to start thinking about the Agenda Topics. The last topic on the agenda list for each Committee will always be 'A topic of the delegate's choice', allowing delegates the opportunity to attempt to bring to the conference issues that have not made the formal agenda.

What do I do now?

Remember that your basic role is to 'represent' what you think the official government of your country would say about the agenda topics. Your next step is therefore to carry out further research to find out which of these topics are of the most significance for your country. Remember to look *outside* your country as well as *inside* – it may be that your country is very concerned about something that is happening in another country, even if it doesn't concern them directly – or your country may belong to a *group* of countries (eg the EU) who have *all* agreed to be concerned about a specific problem. Conversely, if the problem is actually something that is occurring within your allocated country, it may well be that your government would not actually wish to admit that . . .

Selecting the most important topic for your country

You will probably want to start by researching all of the topics for your Committee, but at some stage you will probably get a sense that one or more of the topics is of particular significance for your country.

At that stage, focus all your attention on this topic, as this will be the subject of your draft resolution.

I'm stuck . . . none of the topics seem to be significant!

Occasionally students struggle to select a topic that is of special importance for their country – perhaps because the country is relatively small or because their research has proved unexpectedly difficult (or perhaps, simply, because your delegation is a little behind schedule with their research). If this happens, it becomes critical to know who your country's main allies are – if you can work out what **THEY** would say about a topic, you will not be far off.

It will also help to widen your mindset to consider the geographical region as a whole ('What would an *African* country think about this?') . . . or to consider things from a general economic perspective ('What would a *very poor* country think about this?')

. . . or to consider things from a general cultural or religious perspective ('What would an *Islamic* country think about this?') . . . or by placing your country in some other general category.

Usually, by thinking around the problem in this sort of way, you will be able to guess your allocated country's views reasonably accurately.

OK . . . I know what my main topic is, and what my country thinks . . . what now?

You are now ready to begin writing your draft resolution!

E: DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS

Producing a draft resolution in the correct UN format is probably the most difficult and confusing things that an MUN beginner will have to do – so stick with it if you are a little confused as to what to do at first, and keep asking advice from more experienced members of your team or from your Advisor.

I'm a complete beginner – how do resolutions work?

Resolutions are ALWAYS in five parts.

i) At the top, you state the **Delegation(s)** submitting the resolution, for example:

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ii) Below that, you state the **Topic** of the resolution, for example:

Concerning: The Israeli-Palestinian Crisis

iii) Next, you state which **Committee** is considering the resolution, for example:

The Security Council,

iv) Next, you express an **opinion on the facts or problems** that are connected to this topic. For example:

Regretful that negotiation between Israel and Palestine has so far yielded limited results,

You state the facts or problems on the right hand side of the page, and on the left you 'qualify' these facts in some way in the light of your country's perspective.

When qualifying the facts, it may help you when doing so to think whether your country would view the specific fact . . .

- Negatively (so you might use 'Regretful')
- Positively (so you might use 'Applauding')
- Neutrally (so you might use 'Stating').

The statements in this part of the resolution are known as the **Preambular Clauses**.

v) The final and most important part of the resolution is where you **outline the solutions** that your country would like to see applied to this problem. For example:

5. Demands that given the supreme importance of this issue, Security Council Veto Power be suspended for this matter.

On the left hand side you again 'qualify' these proposed solutions in some way, according to how crucial you feel it is that the solution is agreed. You might think:

- It's totally essential (so you might use 'Demands')
- You want countries to agree but know there may be problems (eg 'Urges')
- You think it's a good idea but there may be better ones (eg 'Recommends')

These statements are known as the **Operative Clauses**, and should be numbered, as these are the parts of the resolution that will ultimately be debated the most.

*****For Felsted MUN, resolutions should be a maximum of one side of A4 in length.*****

E: DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS (continued)

What makes a good resolution?

A basic mistake that beginners often make is to write a resolution that is solely about your own country, often even attacking your own country's policies! Whilst very occasionally resolutions do focus on one particular country, such a resolution is unlikely to make for good debate at MUN, so will rarely be selected. The best resolutions take an **international** perspective on the problem.

A good resolution should therefore move between the general and the specific. Even if you have a specific local problem in mind that you want solved, try to express the problem in international terms. So, for example, if you are concerned about acid rain in your own country as a result of the industrial programmes of your neighbours, your resolution might begin:

Conscious of The ongoing problem of industrial pollution across international borders

During the preambular stages of your resolution, it helps to give a number of examples from around the world to illustrate the problems you are trying to address. You will of course cite the problems in your own country, but it is important to ensure that you also cite examples from other countries: your arguments will be much more powerful if you can show that they are of universal relevance.

What is the timescale for writing Draft Resolutions?

During November and December, you should be researching your country and committee topics, and aiming to write at least one Draft Resolution. You should leave your school for the Christmas Holidays with at least one Draft Resolution in progress.

Once written your draft resolution can be uploaded to our website <http://www.felsted.org/MUN2018>

The MUN Chairs will select one resolution for each Committee that they feel is likely to get the conference off to a good start. This will be called the 'Fast Track Resolution'.

What happens if I miss the deadline?

You still have chance to submit your resolution - the upload facility on our website will be available to use until the start of the conference and resolutions may be selected for debate in committees. You can also bring a resolution with you on the day; we recommend you print out a hard copy and bring a copy on a memory stick.

How are resolutions chosen for debate at the conference?

There are two ways to get your resolution chosen for debate:

- By getting your resolution selected as a **Fast Track Resolution**.
- By bringing copies of your resolution to the conference itself and persuading other delegations during Informal Lobbying sessions that your resolution should be supported.

F: SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Concerning: The Israeli-Palestinian Crisis

The Security Council,

Recalling the 1947 UN formation of the state of Israel following the end of World War Two,

Concerned by the on-going violence between the state of Israel and the occupants of the Palestinian Territories,

Noting that no action has been taken on this issue by the Security Council since resolutions 242 and 338 of 1967,

Regretful that negotiation between Israel and Palestine has so far yielded limited results,

Recalling the 2006 G8 committee's call for disarmament of Hezbollah in accordance to UN-Security Council resolutions 1559 and 1680,

Noting that the total death toll of this conflict has so far being at least 5848 people,

Emphasizing the need to resolve this conflict, especially bearing in mind the current world economic crisis,

Further Noting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's calls for a two-state solution and the overwhelming positive results of a 2007 poll of adults in the West Banks and Gaza Strip suggesting such a solution,

Condemning any state that attempts to prohibit or interfere with the humanitarian mission of the UN Security Council,

1. *Calls for* the immediate cessation of hostilities in the Israel-Palestine area to allow time for the orchestration of a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.
2. *Proposes* the creation of a Palestinian state alongside the current state of Israel;
 - i. Current Arab occupants of the area and Palestinian refugees are to be given full citizenship.
 - ii. Citizens of present day Israel are to be offered the choice of remaining in Israel or gaining citizenship of the new Palestinian state.
3. *Expresses* its wish that the UN sanctioned state of Israel retain its legal borders and territories.
4. *Decides* that a provisional deadline of the 1st January 2011 be set for the final completion of this process.
5. *Demands* that given the supreme importance of this issue, Security Council Veto Power be suspended for this matter.

G: RESOLUTION SELECTION CRITERIA

For Fast Track Resolutions:

When selecting Fast Track Resolutions, the MUN Chairs . . .

- 1) . . . will look at *all* resolutions for infringements of the rules. An incorrectly formatted resolution will be disallowed at this stage, as well as a resolution which is too long.
- 2) . . . will look for resolutions which:
 - Show sound understanding of the topic
 - Show an accurate portrayal of their country's position on the topic
 - Are in keeping with the brief of the Committee in question
 - Sufficiently controversial to generate interesting debate
- 3) . . . will look for resolutions which are:
 - Sufficiently accessible for beginners to understand

Similar criteria will also be used on the day when selecting for debate resolutions that appear to have the necessary support as a result of the Informal Lobbying process.

Given the number of delegations participating in the conference, it follows that any resolution with more than five co-sponsors has a good chance of being selected for debate and, numerically, a resolution with more than ten co-sponsors (five for Security Council) is almost certain to be selected so long as the rules have been followed. Delegations should bear these target figures in mind during the lobbying process.

In early February copies of the Fast Track resolutions that have been selected for debate in their Committee will be posted on our webpage. Delegates will then have an opportunity to research these resolutions in more detail in advance of the conference.

H: PREPARING FOR FAST TRACK RESOLUTIONS

If you are fortunate enough to find that your own resolution has been selected as the Fast Track Resolution, you will be sent further instructions on what to do at this stage. The rest of you will be 'speaking from the floor' on this resolution.

This means that you will be expressing *your allocated country's* opinions on the subject matter and especially on the Operative Clauses of this resolution. To do so effectively, it is now important to research your country's position on this topic in a little more detail.

Should I prepare to speak in favour of, or against the resolution?

Sometimes, you will find that a resolution is so close to what your country does (or doesn't) want that it is a straightforward matter to decide whether or not to support it. In that situation, you should consider preparing a **short flexible speech** either in favour of or against the resolution.

More often than not, however, you will find that your country is able to support *aspects* of a resolution but not all of it. In that situation, you should prepare to **propose an amendment**. An amendment is effectively a bargaining chip: you are saying to the country or countries proposing the resolution that you will only support them if they are willing to make the changes you are recommending. In that situation, you should again prepare a short flexible speech, explaining *the extent* to which you are able to support the resolution and outlining why your amendment is necessary. Speeches in this category often make for the best debate at MUN, rather than just blanket agreement or disagreement, because this sort of speech involves really looking closely at the *detail* of the resolution, rather than just saying it's a good (or bad) idea.

How long should my speech be?

With the exception of Opening Speeches by the first proposer of any resolution, all speeches at Felsted MUN are limited to two minutes maximum. Please bear in mind this is the absolute *maximum* – there is no obligation to use the full time allowance and many of the best speeches will be short and punchy. Stick to the point.

Remember that your position on the speaker's list is unknown until the debate starts, so any speech written in advance should be flexible and adaptable on the day. To deal with this situation, most delegates will choose to write bullet points on small cards rather than word for word speeches on large pieces of paper, meaning you can leave out a card that has become irrelevant and insert an extra one in the light of an argument that has changed your delegation's line of thought.

Finally, remember to practise speaking slowly and clearly. Most speakers are initially nervous, and tend to speak too fast to try and get it over with. You will make much more of an impact if you take your time and pay attention to your intonation and delivery.

I: WAYS OF SPEAKING ON THE DAY

On the day, it would be chaos if everyone tried to speak at once, so there are a number of basic rules in place to ensure that the debate is as constructive as possible. The main one is that you are only allowed to speak if the Chair invites you to do so. The Chair's decision is absolutely final in this respect and you can ultimately be permanently evicted from the conference if you don't respect the Chair's authority, so please take this seriously.

How do you request the right to speak?

Each delegation will have a cardboard placard with their country's name on. The normal way to request the right to speak is to raise your placard, either at the start of debate to request a main speech from the floor, or mid-way through the debate in response to another speaker. Exceptionally, you may also send a written message to the Chair to request the right to speak, but you should only do this if you have been raising your placard repeatedly without success and feel you have an extremely relevant and valid point to make. If the Chair decides to agree to your request, he or she may ask you to explain first why you should be allowed to make your point.

What are the different types of speech you can make?

There are lots of different types of speech that are allowed, and you will get to speak more often if you try to speak in the right way at the right time!

- Opening Speech – Proposing your resolution if selected for debate – and trying to persuade everyone to vote for your resolution at the end.
- Speech from the Floor – May be wholly for or against the resolution, or may propose an amendment. This is normally booked at the start of a debate.
- Right of Reply – If your country, region or alliance is directly mentioned in a speech, you may raise your placard to request the right to reply. You do not normally have the right of reply to a right of reply, though the Chair may sometimes allow this!
- Point of Information – To request or provide factual information relevant to what the last main speaker has just said.
- Closing Speech – Summing up your resolution at the end and urging delegates to vote for your resolution.

Additionally, there are three phrases you may call out without being invited first:

- "Point of Order" if you feel the rules have been broken in some way. You may *only* call this out *between* speeches, not while someone is speaking. The Chair will then invite you to justify this request.
- "Point of Personal Privilege" if you cannot hear the person speaking at the time or if something is seriously affecting your ability to participate in the debate. This is the *only* thing you are allowed to call out *during* a speech.
- "Motion to Divide the House" during the final vote only, if you feel that the result is too close to call purely by visually assessing the number of placards raised.

The full rules of procedure appear at the back of the briefing pack. You should make sure you have read these in advance of the conference. The Chair will use these to help resolve any Points of Order, but in the end the Chair's decision is final, even if it seems to contravene the rules.

J: THE WRITTEN DEBATE

Obviously we hope everyone will speak regularly at the conference. However, inevitably only one person can speak at once, so you will spend much of the time listening rather than speaking. This is where the Written Debate comes in!

What is the Written Debate?

All the time that the spoken debate is taking place, there is also another debate taking place in writing. This is in fact the main way in which you will form alliances and persuade other delegations that your views are the correct ones. During the course of a single debate, you may get to speak perhaps up to three or four times, but could send thirty to forty messages to other delegations! This could be crucial to winning the support you need to ensure that the final vote goes in the direction you want, and this could be particularly the case if you are trying to get an amendment accepted – the more delegations whom you can prove support your amendment, the more likely it is that the proposing delegation(s) will accept your amendment. Delegations should therefore treat the written debate as being every bit as important as the spoken debate.

Are there any rules to do with the content of messages?

Yes. Please bear in mind that the message service is ONLY for messages relating to the actual debates. It is not for use for personal matters and messages will be monitored by the Chairs to check that they are relevant to the debate. Delegates abusing the messenger service will be asked to leave.

All messages must:

- Include the name of your delegation
- Be clearly directed to one specific delegation
- Be relevant to the debate
- Be worded in language that would be equally appropriate to the spoken debate

Further instructions regarding the sending of messages will be given at the conference.

K: RESOLUTIONS SELECTED FOR DEBATE

If your resolution is selected as a Fast Track Resolution, firstly, congratulations – you have already stood out from the crowd! Secondly, this means that your resolution will be the first one debated in your committee, so much of the responsibility for your committee getting off to a good start will rest with you! You will be contacted at this stage with further advice about how to prepare to lead debate on your resolution, but bear in mind that your responsibility will include making an **Opening Speech of up to five minutes** in support of your resolution.

If your resolution or a resolution you have co-sponsored is selected as a Resolution, then you will be quietly notified of this in advance where possible – so again it is important to be properly prepared for proposing your resolution at the conference. Where two or more delegations have co-sponsored a resolution that is accepted for debate, up to **three** delegations may combine to deliver the opening speech, which must last for no more than **seven minutes in total**. Delegations should be invited to join the group making the opening speech in the order in which they appear on the resolution.

Additionally, if there are more than three co-sponsors, it is important that the other co-sponsors are given an opportunity to participate in the debate. Indeed, every delegate who has agreed to co-sponsor a resolution should expect to make a speech during the course of the debate, and the Chair may insist that co-sponsoring delegates do so if debate has dried up.

L: FINAL PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE

If your resolution has not been selected through the Fast Track process, do not give up! There is still an opportunity to have your resolution debated at the conference by bringing it to your Committee and trying to persuade fellow delegates to support your resolution during one of the Informal Lobbying periods.

In the meantime, you should think about the following in the final build up to the conference.

- If your resolution has been selected for debate, make sure you are ready to speak in support of your resolution – especially if you are the first name on the resolution. Co-sponsors may wish to consider circulating their main arguments to one another by email in advance of the Conference. Through this process, they can check that they are not repeating themselves or contradicting one another. However, it is perfectly acceptable for two co-sponsors to state that they are both supporting the resolution despite disagreeing with one another in certain respects. It is also perfectly acceptable to wait until the conference itself before comparing notes if you prefer.
- If the resolution for which you are a co-sponsor is *not* selected for debate, you will still be able to participate in the debate, but need to think about what perspective you are going to take on each of the resolutions selected for debate so far. Be on the lookout for aspects of each resolution which you feel are questionable – especially if you feel the facts are either wrong or incomplete. Be ready to pick holes and oppose any resolution that you feel is missing the point, inaccurate, or impractical.

M: HOW DO YOU 'WIN' AT MUN?

There are a number of ways in which you can be successful at MUN . . .

- Carrying out your research thoroughly, so that you can gain the respect of your fellow delegates for the depth of your knowledge.
- Having your own resolution selected for debate, by one of the three routes.
- Persuading your fellow delegates to *support* your own resolution in the final vote.
- Persuading a significant number of delegates to *oppose* a resolution that your country strongly objects to.
- Contributing in a very full and constructive way to the ongoing written debate.
- Being nominated by the Chair as a Highly Commended Delegate in your Committee.
- Enjoying the social experience and making lots of new friends and contacts.

In the end, though, MUN is not about winning or losing – it is about taking part and doing your best. Not everyone can be a star delegate – but everyone can enjoy the experience and gain a lot from it. Give it everything you have got, and you won't regret it!

Best of luck; we look forward to seeing you in February!

Ms R Purdy
Director of Co-curricular