LEMUN 2026

Friday 11th of December - Sunday 13th of December 2026

~ United in a World of Diversity~

To Whom It May Concern,

We are proud to present our 24th edition of the Leiden Model United Nations (LEMUN) conference highlighting the theme "United in a World of Diversity", which emphasizes the importance of understanding our differences and coming together as one global community to address shared challenges. This year, the conference will take place at the Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden in the Netherlands from **December 11th until December 13th 2026.**

We would like to thank all the schools that have participated in previous editions of LEMUN and warmly welcome those joining us for the first time. We understand the time and effort required to prepare delegates for a MUN conference, and truly appreciate your commitment. We hope that both returning and new schools will join us for this year's conference. Please note that if we receive a high number of applications, it may be necessary to set a maximum number of students per participating school.

Following the success of previous conferences, we are excited to create another engaging and memorable experience for all participants. We aim to bring students from different backgrounds together, encouraging them to grow, collaborate, and develop valuable skills in a supportive and inspiring environment. As there is always strong interest in our conference we encourage you to complete the registration as soon as possible. Schools that register before the **25th of May** will be given priority, and we cannot guarantee participation after this date. Additionally, we kindly request your consent to our Data Protection Policy.

The second mailing is expected in early June and will include delegation assignments. Further information, including the programme of events, will also be shared at that time and published on our website. Please note that the website is currently under maintenance and may not show the latest updates.

If there are any remaining questions, please feel free to contact us at info@lemun.org. We are always happy to help. We greatly appreciate the thoughtful and constructive feedback shared during and after our previous conference, and we will continue to build on it in our preparations for this year. As we look ahead to the twenty-fourth edition of LEMUN, we are excited to once again bring students together from a wide range of backgrounds, encouraging open dialogue, collaboration, and mutual respect. We hope to welcome you to Leiden this December for another inspiring and engaging LEMUN conference.

Yours faithfully,

Lara Bakker

Head of External Affairs

LEMUN 2026

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About us

The Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden is, with its well over 700 years of documented history, one of the oldest schools in the Netherlands. It is situated along Fruinlaan 15, just outside the ancient city centre of Leiden, the city known for the Spanish siege, the cloth industry, and the well known painter Rembrandt van Rijn. Leiden is only half an hour away from Amsterdam and other historical cities such as Haarlem, The Hague, and Delft. Travelling to and from LEMUN is quick, safe, and straightforward, owing to the numerous daily flights which are offered by Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and our convenient and reliable public transport system.

LEMUN is recognised internationally and affiliated with The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN). With no more than 450 delegates, our primary goal is to guarantee each delegate's full involvement and active participation. LEMUN is all about bringing different kinds of young people from all over the world together, so they can cultivate debating, public speaking, diplomatic and rhetorical skills. We hope to give them the opportunity to learn and discover the exciting world of MUNs and to experience the opportunity to develop themselves and share their knowledge.

Conference Structure

The entire conference will in general be structured similarly to and based on the actual United Nations; the leading language will be English and the debates will be held formally and constructively. Delegates in all committees are expected to arrive at the conference thoroughly prepared. This preparation includes extensive research into the assigned country, making Policy Statements on every issue and writing at least one resolution. In case of an ad-hoc debate, several clauses should be drafted on each issue, to be able to fully participate in the debates. These preparations will generate the most successful and enjoyable experience for all the partaking delegates.

Committees

The conference will be divided into several fora, such as three General Assembly Committees, a Security Council, a Crisis Committee, an Environmental Assembly, two European Councils, a BRICS+ committee, and a unique Historical Committee. The General Assembly Committees will meet on Sunday to hold a Plenary Session. All the Committees and Issues can be found on our site: *www.lemun.org*.

Note that the debates in **the Security Council, the Historical Committee, and the Crisis Committee** are challenging. It is mandatory for delegates in these committees to be experienced in MUN conferences.

The Historical Committee focuses on the period leading up to and after the outbreak of the First World War. Delegates, working in a pair of the same school, will represent one of the seven major powers in Europe and try to achieve military success or reach political and diplomatic goals. The committee's focus lies on lobbying and negotiating. Delegates will be provided with a summary of the Rules of Procedure, adapted from the serious board game "Diplomacy", and a reader with articles as a primer of the research.

Over the past few years, the historical committee has seen a shift in its focus, with diplomatic engagement diminishing as a central aspect of its activities. This has been a cause for concern among some of the board's members, as diplomacy plays a critical role in fostering constructive dialogue and problem-solving in international relations. Two dedicated board members are working to revive this diplomatic element by reintroducing more structured diplomatic negotiations and interactive sessions into the committee's proceedings. Their efforts are aimed at re-establishing the committee as a platform where negotiation skills, historical knowledge, and diplomatic tact are not only encouraged but required for effective participation. By re-emphasizing the importance of these skills, they aim to ensure that future debates are more aligned with the true spirit of diplomacy, enhancing the educational value of the committee for all involved.

In addition to the revitalization efforts, the historical committee has introduced an additional separate sign-up form for students wishing to participate. More information on how to apply can be found at the bottom of this letter, and on our website; *www.lemun.org*, **before the 25th of May**.

The Crisis Committee has been one of LEMUN's greatest successes for well over a decade. In this committee, students take on the role of diplomats solving an ongoing fictional crisis developing before them, which can range from riots to earthquakes and from war to epidemics. Delegates have to be well-prepared and familiar with all the details of their delegation to respond adequately to the crisis at hand. The Crisis Committee Headquarters (CCHQ), a team of LEMUN veterans, will provide input for the committee, making the Crisis Committee a unique interactive experience for the delegates. Seeing as this does require higher levelled participants, any delegates wishing to take part in the Crisis Committee will need to register additionally individually, more information on how to apply can be found at the bottom of this letter, and on our website; *www.lemun.org*, **before the 25th of May**.

Student Officers

The participation of **Student Officers** from a variety of countries is something that LEMUN loves to see each year. We would, therefore, like to ask you to select your most qualified MUN students and support them in applying for a Student Officer position. These students should have a good understanding of MUN procedures, have prior MUN experience and be capable of presiding over a debate in which up to forty delegates will participate. The Student Officers will be briefed each morning /before the conference as well as receive an instruction booklet including all official rules of procedure and other necessary information. Before the conference, they will also have to write research reports regarding the issues which will be discussed in their committees.

Students interested in the position of Student Officer will have to **apply additionally individually before the 25th of May**. More information on how to apply can be found at the bottom of this letter, and on our website; *www.lemun.org*.

Press Officers

Furthermore, we would like to inform you of the possibility for students to participate as **Press Officers**. Press Officers are part of LEMUN's delightful press team, which publishes daily newspapers (LIMEs) regarding the events in and around LEMUN. Being a Press Officer is a suitable position for any enthusiastic student with a passion for writing, journalism or photography. It is possible to participate with or without experience in MUNs and creates a fascinating way to experience our conference from a different perspective.

Students interested in the position of Press Officer will have to **apply additionally individually before the 25th of May**. More information on how to apply can be found at the bottom of this letter, and on our website; *www.lemun.org*.

Participation fee

The Participation fee is €60 for delegates, Student Officers, and Press Officers. This includes entrance to the conference, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and access to the party on Saturday night. For any questions regarding the participation fee, feel free to contact our Financial Manager at financial@lemun.org.

We would also like to point out the ***Annika Fawcett-Greup fund***, this fund has been set in place to assist any motivated students wishing to partake in MUN, no matter their financial situation. Of the total €60 participation fee, €5 will be assigned to this fund. MUN is all about giving people a place to speak their truth, and nothing should stand in the way of that goal. If you have any questions about this fund you can contact us at foundation@lemun.org.

Housing Program

LEMUN offers a **housing program** for foreign schools from Thursday evening until Sunday afternoon. A foreign student will reside with a Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden student for this period of time. Unfortunately, we have a finite capacity and are therefore forced to **limit our housing program to exclusively accommodate schools that have received housing in previous editions.** If your school is eligible and wishes to partake in our housing program again, please declare this in the **registration form and additional housing form**, about which more information can be found at the bottom of this letter, and on our website; *www.lemun.org*. We would like to point out that in the case of too many housing applications, we will be obligated to limit the amount of housed students per school.

Theme: “United in a World of Diversity”

The world we live in today is characterized by globalization, migration, and cultural exchange. Diversity is no longer an exception, but the norm. LEMUN provides a unique environment in which students from different countries, backgrounds, and perspectives come together to discuss global issues. This aligns closely with the theme of LEMUN 2026, “United in a World of Diversity”: the ability to work together towards a common goal despite differences in culture, religion, political beliefs, and economic interests.

The theme of LEMUN 2026 emphasizes the importance of cooperation and inclusivity. In a world where differences in culture, background, and beliefs are increasingly visible, it is essential to build bridges rather than barriers. It encourages delegates to actively listen to one another, respect different perspectives, and work together to find solutions that reflect this diversity.

This theme becomes especially relevant when applied to current global challenges. Issues such as climate change, ongoing conflicts, and migration crises require international cooperation despite deep differences between nations. Climate change, for example, demands collective action, even though countries have unequal resources and responsibilities. Similarly, conflicts around the world highlight how political and cultural divisions can lead to instability, making diplomacy and mutual understanding more important than ever. Migration is another key topic, as people cross borders due to war, economic hardship, or environmental factors, bringing both opportunities and challenges to societies.

Although diversity can sometimes lead to misunderstandings or conflicts, LEMUN views it as an opportunity. Through debating, negotiating, and compromising, delegates learn that differences are not obstacles, but sources of innovation and creativity. A variety of perspectives leads to richer discussions and more effective solutions.

In addition, LEMUN highlights the importance of inclusivity. Every voice matters, regardless of experience or background. This reflects the reality of the international community, where cooperation can only succeed if all parties feel heard and represented. The theme encourages delegates to work together in developing solutions by sharing their experiences and cultures, allowing them to better understand one another’s perspectives and create inclusive solutions that do justice to the diversity of the global community.

In a time when polarization and division are becoming more common, the idea of “United in a World of Diversity” is more relevant than ever. LEMUN shows that young people can play an important role in promoting, understanding and cooperation. By participating in initiatives like LEMUN, they not only develop knowledge of international politics, but also an open mindset and a strong sense of global citizenship and humanity.

In conclusion, this year's theme emphasizes that diversity is not a weakness, but a strength. If we teach young people to collaborate despite their differences, we will shape a generation that is better prepared for the challenges of an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

So, to everyone participating: Work together, even in the face of diversity!

Registration

This year we will be changing our registration system. You will now need an account on our website to add delegates. The mail to create an account will be sent within a week after receiving this letter. We want to urge everyone that, if you want to participate, **the General Registration is mandatory.** Please note that a school is **only eligible to receive housing if they have received housing in the past.** The deadline is on the **25th of May.**