



West Coast Model EU
University of Washington, Seattle

Description and FAQ's

The West Coast Model European Union is a competitive simulation of European Union policy negotiations hosted by the University of Washington's Jean Monet Center and attended by undergraduates and team advisors from colleges and universities from across the United States and Canada.

What are we simulating?

A summit meeting of the **Heads of Government** in the European Council and of **Sector Ministers** (foreign, interior, environment, etc. depending on the year) in the Council of the European Union. Students will represent their assigned EU countries in either the Heads of Government room, or the Sector Minister's room. Each room will work exclusively on the proposals assigned to their role and have two students facilitating in the role of the Presidency to keep the negotiation on track.

What are we trying to accomplish?

Each negotiation room is conceptually working to modify or replace the initial proposals into a version that all countries present can unanimously vote 'Yes' on. However, many countries may have strong priorities that differ from the thrust of the proposal and are free to work to modify the proposals to suit their preferences. Failure to reach consensus is not uncommon and is often an excellent simulation of the real-world process involved. West Coast Model European Union is also a student competition, with awards for Outstanding Heads of Government and Sector Ministers, Outstanding Position Papers, and Honorable Mentions as appropriate across all three categories.

Who can participate?

This event is for current undergraduates enrolled at universities and colleges who have had a designated team advisor register on behalf of the school and team(s) involved.

Who are team advisors?

Team advisors are faculty, staff or graduate students who represent their institution for this event, managing undergraduate recruitment and preparation, interfacing with the organizers, handling administrative/financial matters, and arranging travel/transportation for the team. Team advisors will request their preferred number of two-student teams for country assignments early in the process and commit to recruit the number of students to fill their assigned country teams. Team advisors also serve as judges to determine awards for Outstanding and Honorable Mention delegates. The organizers do require an advisor who is an employee of the institution. Regrettably, we cannot accommodate purely student-led teams.

What should students be prepared to do?

Once countries have been assigned according to requests from team advisors, advisors assign the countries to two-person country teams, one Head of Government and one Sector Minister. Teams will work together under the supervision of the team advisor to research and understand their assigned country's background and priorities relevant to the topics for their respective negotiation rooms. Each student will write one short position paper (two pages) outlining their country's position on the proposals for their negotiation room. Each student will then negotiate on their country's behalf, balancing their country's policy priorities with the good of the European Union as a whole.

What are the deliverables?

There are three deliverables:

1. Each student must submit one **Position Paper** addressing **both** of the issues on the agenda that pertain to the respective ministerial session. The Position Paper should be 1-2 pages.
2. Each student must submit one **Draft Resolution**, which should be a maximum of 1 page.
3. **One student from each country team** also gives a **90-second introduction (presentation)** at the opening session on Friday night.

Position Papers and Draft Resolutions are due two weeks prior to the event. Students not submitting BOTH a Position Paper and a Draft Resolution will not be eligible for awards.