



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg

ANNUAL REPORT

20 25

FAUMUN
DELEGATION

MODEL
UNITED
NATIONS



Moving Diplomacy.



PREFACE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Dear Distinguished Delegates,
Supporters of FAUMUN,

When we all first signed up for the Model United Nations course at FAU, we thought it would be just another university seminar—interesting, maybe even a bit challenging, but nothing more. We could not have been more wrong.

Participating in MUN is more than simulating international diplomacy. It is a personal journey - one that challenges students to step out of their comfort zones, sharpen their communication and negotiation skills, and develop a deeper understanding of international relations. For those who continue their path, joining the team represents a transition from individual growth to collective responsibility. Taking on a leadership role means not only organizing and coordinating complex processes but also inspiring and mentoring new participants. It is in this role that a university course evolves into a true passion project—something close to the heart, driven by purpose and dedication.



Attending the National Model United Nations conference in New York as a delegate last year marks a key milestone for many participants in the FAUMUN program. Returning to the same conference one year later, not as a delegate but as a Faculty Adviser, offers a unique perspective. It highlights how the FAUMUN journey does not end with the role of delegate, but continues to evolve. Standing on the same ground, now with the responsibility of supporting and guiding the new delegation, brings into focus just how much personal and professional growth can happen within a single year.

One of the most rewarding aspects of returning to NMUN as a Faculty Adviser is witnessing the development of the delegates. Observing their journey—from the early days of uncertainty to becoming confident, well-prepared, and diplomatic representatives in New York—demonstrates the lasting impact of the program. It is a privilege to accompany and support this transformation.



The Model UN project at Friedrich-Alexander-University took a bold step this year by launching its first-ever Europe Delegation - a true pilot initiative. Naturally, embarking on such a new path came with uncertainty and a fair share of apprehension: we did not know how the new conference would unfold, we had not yet met our delegates, and we were laying the groundwork for a new branch of the program. The core intention was to create a version of the project that would be both more sustainable and cost-effective, while maintaining the depth of learning and the value of the experience. This ambitious goal could only be realized thanks to an incredible team. The delegates, in particular, played a key role - not only through their open-mindedness and dedication but also through the thoughtfulness and energy

they brought to every session. Their commitment and professionalism were inspiring. Ultimately, the project culminated in great success, including several awards—a testament to the team's hard work. I feel deeply honored to have been part of this journey and to have contributed to a project that, I believe, has set a promising precedent for the future.

Within the last three years of leading the FAUMUN project, it has been astonishing how every year the delegates form their own project – through their ideas, commitments, and the team they shape. Every delegation is unique on its own, but this year's Double Delegation has been special on another level as well: by doubling the project, the size of our delegation increased promptly, making it the largest delegation and FAUMUN project year so far. While this brought about its own challenges in managing a larger team and organizing an extended delegation, it also opened up new opportunities: new conferences to attend as well as many more fellow students to network and become friends with. Recognizing that the participation in the New York Delegation can be costly for students, I am proud to have developed the Europe Delegation to not only diversify our project and the conference destinations we are able to offer our participants, but also to construct a program more accessible to students. Consequently, the Double Delegations can offer the best of both worlds, celebrating the diversity of our university. Overseeing the growth of the project throughout the last year has shown me that willingness, persistence, and dedication can bring about the change we have been striving for.

Putting on a new program and curriculum while keeping the quality of the persisting programs demands even more creativity and spontaneity by both the team and the delegates than before. As Project Director, I could not have wished for neither a better team by my side nor a more supportive university environment, particularly the support received by our academic host Prof. Dr. Krajewski and our university president Prof. Dr. Hornegger. Lastly, the openness our delegates approached the new concept was unmatched, for which I am utterly grateful.

Sincerely

Sarah Hermann, Sophia Knopp & Anabel Kummer

Project Management EU & NY Delegation, Project Director



PREFACE

PRESIDENT FAU

Dear readers,

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that I present to you the FAUMUN Annual Report for 2025. This report highlights yet another extraordinary year for the Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg Model United Nations (FAUMUN), highlighting the achievements, experiences, and growth of our dedicated participants and the wider FAUMUN community.

Model United Nations (MUN) programs provide students with a unique opportunity to engage deeply with the intricacies of international relations, diplomacy, and global policy making. At FAUMUN, we are committed to offering our participants a comprehensive and immersive experience that nurtures critical thinking, public speaking, negotiation, and leadership skills. This year, FAUMUN participants engaged in a dynamic array of national and international MUN conferences, each serving as an invaluable platform for learning, exchange, and collaboration. For the first time, we implemented a Double Delegation format, with one part of our team attending the traditional closing conference in New York, while another participated in the MUN conference in Rome. The 2025 academic year has exemplified this commitment, showcasing the resilience, creativity, and dedication of our students and staff as they adapt to an ever changing global landscape.




This innovative approach enabled us to offer a cost-effective and sustainable option, with the added benefit of Rome being accessible by train. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the success of this new structure. Throughout the conferences, our delegates demonstrated exceptional preparation, insight, and diplomatic skills as they navigated high-stakes Security Council debates and tackled pressing global issues in General Assembly sessions. Their remarkable participation not only enhanced their academic and professional competencies but also helped to solidify FAUMUN's status as a leading MUN program in Germany and beyond. Notably, our delegation earned the Distinguished Delegation Award in New York and the Honorable Mention Delegation Award in Rome, marking significant academic and collaborative achievements. The success of FAUMUN in 2024/25 would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our sponsors, partners, and the FAU administration. Their contributions have ensured that our high-quality program remains accessible to all students, regardless of their financial background.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our students whose unwavering dedication, despite academic and professional pressures, reflects their enthusiasm for international relations, diplomatic processes, and global responsibility. Their engagement with the MUN format is profoundly significant, particularly in these times of geopolitical tension. I also wish to thank Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski for his continued support as our patron and for providing insightful guidance through his annual Expert Lecture. Our gratitude also goes to Prof. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt and Prof. Dr. Markus Beckmann for their enriching presentations. The many institutions that welcomed our Double Delegation also deserve our appreciation for opening their doors, providing tours, and sharing their expertise, all of which greatly enhanced the project and offered our students learning experiences not often available in a traditional university setting.

In closing, I invite you to explore the FAUMUN Annual Report 2025, which offers a detailed account of our activities, achievements, and future aspirations. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another year of curiosity, engagement, and global dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Hornegger
President Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

PREFACE

UNSN PRESIDENT

What do you think of when you think of the United Nations?

Most people picture the General Assembly Hall in New York City, the golden wall with the UN emblem, the green marble behind the speaker podium. Personally, I think of the news from the Security Council, of yet another blocked resolution, another missed moment to act.

And for many, that is all they will ever associate with the United Nations.

You, dear delegates, probably think of more than that when the UN comes up in conversation or on the news. You might think of one of the many UN bodies, like the United Nations Environment Assembly, because you spent a week in New York simulating exactly that council, debating how to restore ecosystems after war. Or maybe you think about how the right to privacy in the digital age is not just hidden in unread terms and conditions, but something being seriously discussed in the Human Rights Council. You know now that the UN is more than just a symbol or an ideal. It is not just endless speeches. It is a place of action.



The World Health Organization led the effort to eradicate smallpox. The Montreal Protocol brought countries together to phase out ozone-depleting substances, and because of that, the ozone layer is healing. Those are the big examples, the ones people mention when they want to prove that cooperation works.

And in today's world, we really depend on those reminders. Isolationist views are on the rise, causing friction everywhere. At the same time, the challenges we face, such as climate change, global food insecurity, or the risk of another pandemic, are getting pushed from the headlines to the back pages. But you did more than just skim the headlines. You spent an entire semester learning about the UN through FAUMUN, which, through interactive simulations, expert-led briefings, and collaborative resolution drafting, immersed you in real-world diplomacy.



Every hour you spent preparing for a conference, you brought those problems back into focus. You chose to look at issues most people would rather avoid because they are too complicated to understand or leave one feeling depressed. Or perhaps because they do not feel personal yet.

I admire the time you invested into FAUMUN, through the briefings, your position papers, the difficult debates and every Monday session. That you paid attention. That you did not let the complexity or the discomfort drive you away. I hope you carry that spirit forward. That you keep asking hard questions even when others shrug them off. That you stay curious, even when it is easier not to be. That you keep pushing, even when it feels like shouting into the void.

When I think of the UN, I think of the thrill I felt standing inside the General Assembly Hall, surrounded by almost 2,000 other NMUN delegates. All of us had just spent a week discussing the same global problems that diplomats and experts tackle every single day. It felt like we were part of something real, something bigger, something hopeful.

I hope you feel the same and that you will keep that feeling close. I hope you will keep believing that your voice matters.

I had the privilege of listening to your discussions and speeches, and I was genuinely impressed by how thoughtful, well-prepared, and passionate you were. I hope you will look back on this time and realize how much you learned, and I hope you will take that with you, wherever you go. And I hope you made connections, not just in your delegation, but with people you met along the way. I hope that you will keep with the spirit of international cooperation and friendship.

To our project leads and head delegates: thank you for your incredible work this year. You gave so much of your time and energy, and it showed. Thank you also to Prof. Dr. Krajewski and the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg for supporting this important project, one that reflects the university's values of openness, communication, and cooperation.

To all delegates:

You did amazing work. And maybe, one day, one of you will stand in that same General Assembly Hall again, maybe as NMUN staff, maybe as part of the FAUMUN team, or, who knows, maybe representing a UN member state. And if you ever make your way back onto an international stage, you will know your voice belongs there.

Sincerely,
Laura Folkendt
President United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V.

PREFACE UNSN MUN DEPARTMENT HEAD

Dear Delegates,

It is an honor to write this foreword for a project close to my heart: Model United Nations. As a former participant and now department head at the United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V., I know firsthand the unique experience FAUMUN offers.

FAUMUN is not only a platform to learn diplomacy but also a forum that inspires young people to think globally and act as responsible citizens – a vital skill in today's world.

Through MUN, you practiced debate, negotiation, and compromise—skills vital in politics and everyday life. You learned to speak up, to listen, and to see beyond policies to the people and stories behind them.

FAUMUN builds friendships and a community that lasts well beyond the project itself. As an alumna, I am proud of your progress and invite you to explore in this edition how MUN shapes the next generation of leaders.

All the best to you,
Lea Manger
MUN Department Head United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V.





PREFACE

HEAD DELEGATES

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It was truly our greatest pleasure introducing you to the world of diplomacy this semester. Watching each of you step into this complex and often challenging field with such enthusiasm and determination has been nothing short of inspiring. From our very first session to the final moments of our last conference, we were continually amazed by the level of commitment, passion, and thoughtfulness you brought to the experience.



You approached every session and conference with open minds and willing hearts. You challenged yourselves—and each other—to think more critically, to move outside of your comfort zones, and to become more confident versions of yourselves. Public speaking, debating, and negotiation are not easy skills to master, yet you embraced each opportunity to grow with courage and grace. The effort you invested in preparing for every simulation, in researching global issues, and in stepping into the shoes of diplomats from around the world did not go unnoticed. We not only watched you grow in your skills but also in your confidence and your ability to listen, empathize, and lead. With each conference, you elevated your performance. We saw you wrestle with complex issues and we saw you do so with a genuine desire to understand, to collaborate, and to find solutions.

You spoke with conviction, defended your positions with intelligence, and above all, treated each other with respect and professionalism. It filled us with pride to watch you surpass yourselves time and time again. The world of politics, diplomacy, and international decision-making needs people like you—engaged, driven individuals who strive not just to speak, but to listen; not just to argue, but to understand; not just to win debates, but to solve problems. You have shown that you are willing to do the hard work that change requires. As you move forward—whether continuing in this field or exploring new paths—we encourage you to hold on to the lessons you learned here. Remember that diplomacy is not just about politics; it is about people. It is about patience, perseverance, and the belief that dialogue can be a powerful force for good. Never underestimate the power of your voice, your ideas, or your ability to make a difference.

Sincerely,
Maja Warlich & Charlotte Bassewitz
Head Delegates

THE DELEGATION





TEAM



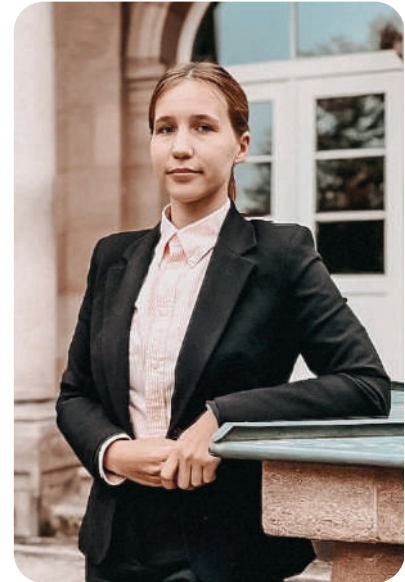
ANABEL KUMMER

Project Director 2024/25

To satisfy her intellectual curiosity, Anabel pursues her master's degree in physics. Her dedication to knowledge and diligence led her to tap into the realm of international politics and multilateralism in a UN context by becoming a delegate of FAUMUN in 2020/21. During her study year abroad at the University of York, UK, in 2021/22, she furthered her expertise by being an active member of the United Nations Association of the University of York. As such, she participated in multiple training conferences as delegate, while also being trained in chairing MUN conferences. Since 2022, she holds the position as FAUMUN Project Director and therefore is in charge of the overall organization and general concept as well as the planning and implementation of the project, while also handling public relations and content related aspects. By being involved as an active member and partaking in the social media team of the United Nations Society Nuremberg, she puts her proficiency to use by leading the social media marketing of FAUMUN.

New York Project Manager 2024/25

Sophia's journey with FAUMUN began as a delegate in the 2024 New York Delegation. Currently, she is pursuing her bachelor's degree in International Business Studies. Her academic journey took her to the University of Glasgow, where she first encountered the dynamic world of Model United Nations. Beyond her academic pursuits, she is actively engaged in political activities as a committed member of a political party. Her professional background includes valuable experience working as a project manager in Switzerland, where she honed her skills in a diverse and multicultural environment. As the Project Manager for the upcoming FAUMUN New York Delegation, she is excited to guide and witness the growth of our future delegates. She looks forward to being part of their journey, helping them develop their skills and understanding of global diplomacy.



SOPHIA KNOPP



SARAH HERMANN

Europe Project Manager 2024/25

After completing her A levels, Sarah pursued a dance training program before deciding to embark on a bachelor's degree in Literature, Art, and Media Studies at the University of Konstanz. She then moved to FAU for her master's degree in Media Studies. During her time with the FAUMUN New York Delegation 2023/24, Sarah achieved notable success, earning the Outstanding Delegate Award at the ErfurtMUN conference, both the Outstanding Delegate and Outstanding Position Paper Awards at the BayernMUN conference, and was recognized with a Distinguished Delegation Award in New York. Motivated by these achievements, she joined the United Nations Society Nuremberg to offer her support. However, just a few weeks without Model UN made Sarah realize that she wanted to continue being part of this enriching experience. This led her to applying for the position of Project Manager. As Project Manager of the Europe Delegation, her tasks involve overseeing content-related issues, managing and organizing operations, promoting the project's marketing efforts, and collaborating with partners.

Head Delegate 2024/25

Charlotte is studying Education with English, Latin, and German as her subjects. As a delegate in the FAUMUN 2024 New York Delegation, she successfully represented Ecuador in the Security Council at the ErfurtMUN conference, Turkmenistan in the General Assembly at the BayernMUN conference, and Japan in the Commission on the Status of Women at NMUN New York 2024. She is looking forward to mentoring the coming Double Delegation of 2025 as Head Delegate. Together with Maja, she will be responsible for guiding, mentoring and advising the delegates.



**CHARLOTTE
BASSEWITZ**



MAJA WARLICH

Head Delegate 2024/25

Maja is studying Computer Science with an emphasis on IT security. As a delegate in the FAUMUN 2024 New York delegation, she successfully represented Bolivia in the ECOSOC at the ErfurtMUN conference, Thailand in the General Assembly at the BayernMUN conference, and Japan in the General Assembly First Committee at NMUN NY 2024. She is looking forward to mentoring the coming Double Delegation 2025 as Head Delegate. Together with Charlotte, she will be responsible for guiding, mentoring and advising the delegates.



EUROPE DELEGATION



ELIAS KNÖRRER

The United Nations represents a collective hope for peace, security, and cooperation across borders. For me, it symbolizes the importance of nations coming together to tackle issues that are too large or complex for any one country to solve alone. Climate change, human rights, poverty, and conflict resolution require global collaboration, and the UN provides a forum for dialogue, shared responsibility, and concrete action. The UN is a cornerstone of multilateral diplomacy, where diverse nations come together to find common solutions for a more stable and equitable world. It stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, underscoring the belief that global challenges can only be effectively addressed through unity and shared commitment. The UN is not just a political entity but a promise to future generations for a more stable, just, and sustainable world.

In a world that is retreating into ever more opinion bubbles while the discussion culture is rapidly declining the art of diplomacy and proper communication in a respectful manner is becoming more and more important. It does not matter which path one has chosen at university; these skills benefit everyone everywhere. Moreover, the art of listening has vanished in many parts of society, including universities. One can learn way more from his or her opponents than from one's friends and likeminded people in general. The world needs to again realize that an opponent does not have to automatically be an enemy. If more people were to learn the skills which are being taught at FAUMUN the world, would probably be less hateful and emotionally driven.



MIKKO KLÖTZIG



JONAS LANG

FAUMUN not only enhances FAU's reputation, making it more attractive to prospective students interested in international relations and diplomacy, but it also fosters a culture of academic excellence. Furthermore, FAUMUN encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, bridging gaps between various faculties like TechFak and WiSo and fostering a more integrated academic community. Additionally, FAUMUN provides opportunities for networking with international students and professionals, expanding the university's global reach and creating a network of future leaders who are connected to FAU. Overall, FAUMUN enriches the university experience by preparing students for global challenges and enhancing their academic profiles. This enhances the institution's standing in the academic world, making it interesting for aspiring diplomats and scholars alike.

EUROPE DELEGATION



LORENZ EBERHARD

I applied for FAUMUN because I have a strong passion for understanding the world and the mechanisms of diplomacy. In a globalized world, it is more important than ever to grasp the complex political, economic, and cultural interactions that shape international relations. Through FAUMUN, I hope to gain valuable insights into how diplomatic negotiations work and how global issues are addressed on an international stage. Additionally, I am eager to improve my skills in negotiation and public speaking. These are essential abilities not only in diplomacy but also in many other fields, and I believe that the FAUMUN experience will provide me with the opportunity to develop them in a practical, hands-on environment. Being able to present arguments clearly, listen to different perspectives, and find common ground are skills that I am keen to strengthen through this program.

I applied to FAUMUN for several reasons, primarily due to the focus on diplomatic relations and social interaction, both within the delegation and during conferences with other universities and new faces. I place great value on engaging with and exchanging political opinions and perspectives with people who largely share similar interests and goals. Furthermore, the opportunity to improve one's rhetorical and professional skills, and to showcase these on an international level in the name of the university, is, in my opinion, an exceptional chance that should not be missed. From my position, I hope to achieve personal growth, particularly in terms of my communication skills and, more generally, my confidence when addressing larger groups of people.



MARKO NINIC



RAPHAEL JUSTL

As someone with both French and German nationality, the United Nations hold special meaning for me. It represents the possibility of unity and cooperation, even among nations with a complex history, like France and Germany. The UN shows that despite differences, countries can come together to build a better future for everyone and overcome their past. Even further, the UN represents equality to me because it does not favor any region or conflict, it treats everyone the same and helps those in difficult situations. It provides a platform for dialogue between countries and promotes the search for common solutions to the problems facing the entire planet. Growing up with two nationalities, I see how valuable it is when different perspectives come together for a common cause.



JULIA PECHTEL

The United Nations, to me, represents the most vital platform for addressing the global challenges that transcend national borders—none more pressing than climate change. As a political science student with a deep interest in international relations, I see the UN as the best chance we have to confront this existential crisis collectively. Climate change requires cooperation across countries and regions, and the UN provides a rare space where almost every nation, regardless of its size or power, has a voice. This inclusivity is particularly significant for regions like Latin America and Africa, which are often marginalized in traditional Western political frameworks. These areas will most likely be crucial in the global energy transition towards renewable energy sources. By ensuring these regions have a seat at the table, the UN helps create more equitable and effective solutions to climate change. It stands as a vital actor in shaping a more just, inclusive, and sustainable global future.

As a Ukrainian raised in Germany, I have witnessed how nationalism and isolationist movements are gaining strength, yet at the same time, people are drawn together in this age of modernization and technological advancements. Looking more into it, the UN's mission to promote peace and diplomacy is now more important than ever, as countries face the temptation to turn inward in response to political, economic, and social pressures. In a world that is more interconnected through globalization, the UN serves as a major platform and crucial mediator in these turbulent times of hardships and disaster: promoting dialog, cooperation and shared solutions to challenges that transcend borders, such as climate change, security, and human rights. In the end, the UN reminds us that global cooperation is not only possible but necessary in addressing the shared challenges of our time and is key to building a more just and stable world together.



**YAROSLAV
FETYSOV**

NEW YORK DELEGATION



**MIRIAM ANTON-
FRIEDERICHS**

I expect both personal and professional benefits from my participation in FAUMUN. Through international collaboration with students from all over the world, I can learn about different new perspectives and arguments on challenges facing our society. I will hopefully build long-term connections with people I hope to meet again during my professional career. FAUMUN also gives me the unique opportunity to gain a taste of the processes and workings of the UN. This is an opportunity that I would never have through my other university modules. Such an insight will help me especially with regard to my career plans. I can test whether I am suitable for the work of a diplomat and whether I can imagine myself in such a job in the long term. In any case, I will significantly improve my soft skills, as well as my language skills.

The UN is a vital institution in our interconnected world, offering a global platform for nations to engage in diplomacy, address complex issues, and negotiate solutions to shared challenges. Through its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN demonstrates its commitment to resolving critical issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. Beyond these goals, the UN plays a crucial role in preventing conflicts and promoting global peace. To me, the UN resembles hope for a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. It embodies the spirit of international cooperation and shared responsibility, encouraging collaboration of not only governments, but also businesses and individuals, to combat humanitarian crises, uphold human rights, and protect the environment.



TIM BITTL



LENA BRÄUNING

For me, the UN means hope and humanity. In a world often characterized by conflict, injustice and crisis, the UN stands as a symbol of tireless commitment to peace and cooperation. It reminds us that in spite of our differences, we can work together for a better future. The UN is a place where voices are heard, where diplomacy and dialog are paramount. It stands up for the rights of the most vulnerable and fights against poverty, hunger and discrimination. Its mission to preserve peace and protect human rights is invaluable. At a time when the world is facing major challenges, the UN is a beacon that encourages us to act in solidarity and work for a fairer world. It inspires us to think beyond national borders and to see humanity as one big family.





NEW YORK DELEGATION



LEONIE HOFMANN

FAUMUN unites students from various semesters, backgrounds, and experiences, enriching the diversity of perspectives and encouraging participants to think beyond their usual scope. In addition to fostering critical thinking, FAUMUN provides comprehensive training in public speaking, enhances research capabilities, and challenges students to navigate unfamiliar scenarios. Ultimately, FAUMUN equips students with a broad range of valuable skills, encourages cross-departmental collaboration, and facilitates both national and international networking. These opportunities not only support academic success but also prepare students for their future careers, making FAUMUN an asset to the university and its mission of educating students for their future work life.

The UN is an organization that brings together a wide range of countries to collaborate on solutions for both regional and global challenges. It aims not only to address current issues but also to develop long-term strategies for challenges that affect our planet and future generations. The importance of the UN is evident in the critical topics it addresses, such as world hunger, human rights protection, and maintaining global peace. The UN's primary focus is on improving the well-being of people around the world, prioritizing human welfare over economic or political power. For me personally, maintaining world peace is the most crucial aspect of the UN's work. Political tensions and armed conflicts have the greatest impact on ordinary people, and history has shown us that the cost of war on civilians is unbearably high.



LEA MÜHLBAUER



JOHANNES LIEGSALZ

FAUMUN is a powerful way of teaching about the UN, its structure, the culture of diplomacy, and how it reacts to world events. Through FAUMUN, our university also gets in contact with a wide range of different universities, which benefits the students as well as the university as a whole by creating networking opportunities and getting to know different styles of education. From my participation in FAUMUN, I expect a fascinating educational experience, where I will learn a lot of skills that are very useful in day to day and more importantly in professional life. I applied because of my deep interest in political discourse and debate and I hope to further my knowledge of diplomacy, negotiation and debate.



**PELAYO CASTREJON
HERRERO**

I joined the program with the hope to improve some of my soft skills such as public speaking, negotiation and teamwork and leadership combability. I expect to learn much from this course, not only about the UN and the possible future of the world, but also about what some of my strong qualities are and how I can exploit them in the future when searching for a job. I also applied in search of new experiences and community. I believe I will meet many likeminded minds that are as motivated as I am to perform a great job while living a once in a lifetime opportunity. It is exciting to participate in such a unique project while, in the meantime, making new friendships and becoming a better trained professional.

FAUMUN equips students from all disciplines — whether law, engineering, or other fields — with essential skills in public speaking, negotiation, and diplomacy. This ensures that everyone from any background has the chance to participate and grow in the political world. Through FAUMUN, students can gain a deeper understanding of global issues and international relations, preparing them to become influential leaders in our interconnected world. It yields confidence, critical thinking, and collaboration, which are key to addressing global challenges effectively. By supporting such initiatives, the university showcases itself as a forward-thinking institution committed to interdisciplinary learning and developing responsible global citizens. This not only attracts prospective students, faculty, and international partners but also contributes to a more interconnected and proactive academic community.



**LUCIA D'AUBAREDE
VAZQUEZ**



EMMA GEBHARDT

FAUMUN brings together students from various fields of study, creating teams that represent a wide range of expertise. This not only highlights the versatility of the university's programs but also encourages students from different disciplines to work together, exchange ideas, and find common ground. By doing so, FAUMUN strengthens cross-departmental collaboration and allows students to apply their knowledge in a real-world context. Furthermore, the program enhances the university's international connections through the interactions with other universities during the simulations. This collaborative experience helps build a stronger academic network, promotes cultural exchange, and ultimately increases the university's visibility and reputation on a global scale.



NEW YORK DELEGATION



DIDRIK ROSENQVIST

The amazing opportunity that FAUMUN offers, has already opened my eyes to new ways of thinking. I very much look forward to meetings and conversations with so many people with such diverse backgrounds and to learn about how the UN works as an organisation. Participating at FAUMUN gives a unique insight into how our world and societies work, and is something that appeals to me very much. I believe my participation at FAUMUN will allow me to acquire knowledge and experiences which I will be able to carry with me and use in the future, and which provide a foundation for a future within the world of diplomacy. To be part of such a wonderful community with all that it offers is a major reason for why I want to take part in FAUMUN.

I believe that the UN serves as a forum for dialogue and negotiations, fostering countries to work together on solutions to maintain peace and resolve other crises. It is particularly fascinating how diplomats from various countries with different cultural backgrounds and attitudes come together and finally reach a consensus or compromise. Over the past decades, the UN has seen several significant successes, including humanitarian assistance in conflict regions and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals that aim to eradicate poverty. Through initiatives like FAUMUN, knowledge about diplomacy and international relations is passed on to the next generation in the hope that they will also continue the process of making the world a better place for everyone.



MARIA RAPAPORT



STINA RICHTER

Model UN places strong emphasis on problem solving, critical thinking and diplomacy, all of which are crucial skills for navigating the complexities of international relations. Due to its practical nature, I believe it is able to transfer knowledge and teach soft skills like no other course in university. This experiential learning approach makes it uniquely effective at transferring knowledge and fostering essential soft skills. What makes MUN truly unique is its ability to give participants a glimpse into the life of a diplomat. The fact that this course requires you research the political stance of different countries and current topics of political interest excites me greatly. This process of research and preparation is incredibly rewarding for me as it not only deepens my knowledge of international relations but also keeps me informed on the most pressing political topics.



SOPHIA MEUSEL

I have always tended to be in my comfort zone and therefore stuck to my familiar routines. However, since I started university, I have been opening up to new people, new experiences, and new insights, which has made me more reflective, open, and diverse. Therefore, in FAUMUN I see the opportunity to further engage in unfamiliar spheres and to educate myself further on various global topics. On top of that, the work of the UN has always fascinated me which is why FAUMUN offers a great opportunity to learn more about the complexity of diplomatic relations, peacekeeping missions, and global connections. This interdisciplinary project will broaden my horizon and make me more aware of global issues and present topics.

FAUMUN allows the FAU to be a presence on the global stage, which can help attract new students and partnerships to the FAU, which enhances its profile across the world, as it shows the world that the FAU is willing to help develop and support a global mindset within its students, which is crucial in supporting the UN and other international organizations. Participating in Model UN conferences in New York and Rome also allows students from across the university to come together and helps student's development by bringing different ideas and backgrounds while improving their negotiation and diplomatic skills. This helps them develop into more open-minded and well-rounded individuals, which will serve them well in their professional careers.



ALEXANDER MEYER



**THUKILAN
JEYARATHAN**

I am the byproduct of two lives deeply impacted by a ruthless civil war, and the shattered dreams of my parents inspire me daily to make a meaningful difference in the world. Their experiences taught me that the struggles of some countries, like Sri Lanka, often go unnoticed by the global community. This has fueled my belief in the profound need for an organization like the United Nations, which strives to ensure that no nation's challenges are ignored. To me, the UN represents a vital platform that fosters global connectivity, encourages dialogue, and provides equal opportunities for countries to address their issues on an international stage. However, I am aware that the United Nations faces significant challenges today, including questions about its capacity to effectively contribute to peace and justice in a rapidly changing world. I see the UN not just as an institution, but as a symbol of hope and potential.



DANIELA PAVLOV

The FAUMUN project benefits the university in several ways by engaging students in global issues, which in turn makes them aware of cultural diversity and other perspectives. By organizing conferences in Erfurt, Bamberg, and Berlin, students benefit from extremely important networking opportunities with fellow students from various institutions. FAUMUN deliberately develops students' intercultural competencies through debates that are based on real-world issues, so that they can learn the critical thinking, communication, and negotiation skills necessary for their professional life. This experience-based learning not only enriches their knowledge of international relations but also helps them to acquire leadership skills and a sense of civic duty, thus enhancing both the academic life of the university and its contribution to society.

I have applied for this opportunity to learn more about the working methods of the UN and the role of diplomats. My primary goal is to deepen my understanding of international relations and diplomacy, gaining first-hand insights into global decision-making processes. This experience will allow me to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. The diverse language and rhetoric training offered is an excellent way to enhance communication skills, which are crucial in the business world and essential for effective diplomacy. Moreover, the chance to engage in real-world scenarios will improve my ability to navigate complex negotiations and discussions. I see this as an invaluable opportunity to further my personal and professional growth, making me better equipped for future challenges in the international arena.



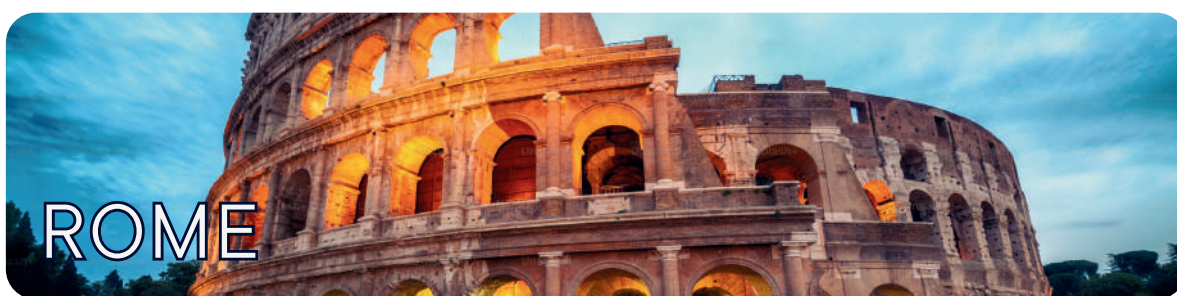
RAPHAEL SCHÄFER



MAX TREMEL

Coming from a politically active family, and always being interested in politics and diplomacy, I have applied to FAUMUN in the hope of getting to know new perspectives and positions on different political and societal topics. I am looking forward to exchanging ideas with different people, coming from all across the globe, getting to know their different concerns about the future and hearing the different suggestions, on how to deal with them. I am eager to learn more about the processes behind international politics and the inner workings of the UN. Furthermore I hope to become better at giving speeches and learning about negotiation techniques and applying them in the different MUNs, spread over the term. Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to connect myself with different people from other faculties and building friendships along the way.

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THE PROGRAM





THE SEMINAR

The Seminar - from FAU Student to FAUMUN Delegate

The official kick-off meeting for FAUMUN, where all 26 delegates, both Head Delegates, Project Managers, and our Project Director took place on 11 October 2024 at the stunning Villa Spaeth in Nuremberg. While everybody managed to join, a few even joined right after they had an exam the same day, a real display of great dedication. Excited yet nervous, we got together at 10 a.m. in business attire, as was our first step into what could be described as our MUN journey.

Sometime after the brief period of unfamiliarity, we soon felt at ease with our newly found family. Upon arrival, each one was given one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to work with throughout the FAUMUN process. Well-planned social games got us into the mood, engineered by the Head Delegates themselves a round of speed-dating that got us acquainted with each other on political and personal matters.



The formal part of the day began with the speeches of the Head Delegates and the Project Managers, who gave an overview of the key organizational aspects, such as the timetable, goals, and expectations of the seminar. Moreover, information was given about the UN system, speech and negotiation techniques, and also diplomatic skills. Shortly afterward, we welcomed Laura Folkendt from the alumni association of the FAUMUN, the United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V. (UNSN), who informed us about the association and its events.



Immediately after the presentations, we had a speed-dating game between delegates with interesting topics to talk about for one minute. After that, we went out to take our very first official photo as a delegation. Everyone was pretty nervous; in suits, the whole feeling and atmosphere became very professional and official. We also had time for group pictures, capturing those moments in the photos.

Lunchtime was also a very great time to build relations because people united over common pizzas and resumed discussions. Some of us learned even in this disconnected break how each one's educational journeys unexpectedly coincided at one point or another. The afternoon session kicked in with an enlightened session on the dress code and business attire guidelines of the United Nations. The feedback was priceless, really appreciated, and done in such considerate manners whereby they looked into our current outfits and made some constructive suggestions.



The highlight of the day was, however, the presentations that were prepared in advance by the delegates. In groups of five, we prepared 20-minute presentations on the history of the UN, its main bodies, and its operational structure among others. We also presented on intergovernmental organizations and regional cooperations such as the African Union. These indeed included discussions related to the UN's history, intergovernmental organizations such as the African Union, and right afterward, the elaborate, constructive feedback that kept assuring us we were in an excellence-dedicated environment, the perfect environment for Model United Nations.

As the seminar wore on, it became evident that this year's FAUMUN was something special: The program would, for the first time, consist of not only a delegation to New York but also to Rome, something that brought novelty and hence excitement and added an even wider range of diverse individuals to the group. At the end of the day, we had picked up valuable knowledge but also a meaning of some bond and belonging. The initial euphoria from catching up with new faces had turned into a firm enthusiasm about what was yet to come. Leaving Villa Spaeth, tired but smiling we were already set for the next steps in this FAUMUN adventure.



SPEECH TRAINING

From Student to Public Speaker

Speeches are an important tool delegates can use during a formal session of a conference to convey their ideas and make finding like-minded country representatives in the next informal session easier. When holding speeches, the delivery is as important as the content of one's speech. To practice public speaking and writing MUN speeches, a speech training by both our Head Delegates and Benjamin Klahr - FAUMUN alumnus himself and speech coach who also works for the radio - was offered. Even real diplomats receive speech training, since their role often involves delivering messages, negotiating, and influencing on behalf of their country and effective communication can determine the success or failure of diplomatic initiatives.

The primary focus on the first day was on how to deliver a speech. The speech training commenced with listing speakers we like to listen to, and in a next step figuring out what makes them good at giving speeches. Some notable examples included Barack Obama, Emma Watson, and Anne Hathaway. We then went on to watch different impactful speeches while keeping in mind that a good speech should be tailored to their purpose, audience and context. Next, Benjamin introduced us to the "speech toolbox" encompassing volume, speed, register, prosody, timbre, articulation, and body. The toolbox includes things you can adjust to become a better speaker. We engaged in a group exercises where we learned how to improve on different toolbox components.



Further, we were divided into smaller groups to actively deliver speeches. Smaller groups made this experience a lot more comfortable. We were then asked to give an impromptu speech, deliver speeches from previous delegates and Emma Watson's UN speech. The latter two were recorded which allowed for self-evaluation. Feedback from fellow delegates and Head Delegates as well as the newly acquired knowledge led to some participants improving over the course of one day.

On day two of the speech training weekend, the delegation gathered in business attire to learn how to write an impactful speech. We were provided with a presentation on the structure of a speech and one on Do's and Don'ts by our Head Delegates. To remember the Do's the delegates were introduced to the acronym 'HAIL', which stands for honesty, authenticity, integrity, and love, and is supposed to remind us to be clear and straight, while being ourselves and wishing others well. We were then asked to write a 60-second speech on a topic of our choice within the next 20 minutes. We delivered our speeches in front of smaller groups. Although a variety of topics emerged, the most popular topic was how we could improve public transport, as that day the trains to Erlangen were cancelled. The Head Delegates provided helpful feedback which could be incorporated effectively in the second round of giving the same speeches.



The next exercise was to write a 90-second speech on a random UN topic in 20 minutes. Again, the speeches were held in our smaller groups and feedback was provided and incorporated.

What followed next was a 90-second spontaneous speech in our small groups where an UN-related keyword was presented and a few seconds later the speech was to be held. One had to think about what they were going to say on the spot, and no one knew from the beginning what their complete speech would look like in the end.

The last exercise of the day was writing and giving a speech related to our MiniMUN topics. Delegates could choose between a speech either addressing climate change and health, or sustainability in the fashion industry. Once again, we delivered these speeches in front of our small groups and again received helpful feedback.

During the weekend, the speech training equipped us with helpful tips and tricks when giving speeches while at the same time showing us how to write meaningful and memorable speeches. The newly acquired knowledge not only prepared us for our first conference but will most definitely prove to be beneficial to us even beyond FAUMUN.



NEGOTIATION TRAINING

To Negotiate or Not to Negotiate - That is the Question

“We now declare the meeting suspended for ... minutes”, the hammer strikes and the delegates move out of their seats to use the given time to prepare, write, edit, and finish working papers that will hopefully be adopted as resolutions of the conference.

At the end of November following the speech training a few weeks prior it was finally time for the negotiation training. How do you convince other delegates to support your working group and agree to become signatories to your working paper, or how do you argue your case so that another delegate not only understands, but also agrees with you? How does one compromise without compromising oneself? These are just a few of the questions in our heads when we started off into an intensive and long negotiation training day.

After a brief introduction to the day, Charlotte and Chris present different negotiation techniques, such as the so called “door-in-the-face” technique: a version of haggling, in which you start off by asking for much more than you actually want with the prospect of your counterpart gradually approaching your actual wish, which is much less than asked for.

But what is training without practice and practical exercises? We were paired up and began negotiating ourselves with the aim of gaining a certain percentage of two non-existent euros. Some groups very easily found a compromise with both parties reaching their goals, some others did not reach an agreement at all. After a few rounds with small changes to the plot, we all began to realize how hard it can be to negotiate, especially if it looks as if you will not get what you are bargaining for.



Simulating multiple negotiations trained us in different and occurring aspects of MUN conferences. With a fun and interactive role play, this pilot exercise turned out to be a successful way to train our negotiation skills in a way that poses challenges and forces one to negotiate with the others.

COUNTRY AND INTERCULTURAL DAY



With the New York Delegation representing Côte d'Ivoire at NMUN in New York and the EU Delegation heading to Rome, our curriculum featured one day dedicated to Côte d'Ivoire for the NY Delegation and Rome including its UN institutions for the EU Delegation, while also putting a focus on intercultural competence for all of us.

During the first half of the day, we were split up into the two delegations focusing on different topics, but with the same task: prepare a presentation on an assigned topic: Côte d'Ivoire and the African Union for NY delegates, the history of diplomacy or the Food and Agricultural Organization headquartered in Rome for the EU delegates.



Both delegations were given about an hour to prepare a presentation with accompanying slides. This may seem not enough time, but it forced us to work in a speed and with a cooperation that we all would need at the later conferences, especially in New York and Rome. For the New York delegation, delegation pairs joined the same groups, preparing the collaboration within their pairs in yet another way for the upcoming conferences at BayernMUN and in New York.

Did you know that since 1986 in Côte d'Ivoire, any other name for the country such as Ivory Coast or Elfenbeinküste is not officially recognized, and that Côte d'Ivoire has asked the international community to always refer to the Member State as Côte d'Ivoire and nothing else? We now do. Except from learning much about Côte d'Ivoire and Rome respectively, the first part of the day addressed the intensity and collaboration that is always to be found at a Model UN conference, be it with 30 or 3000 delegates.



The second part of the day was dedicated to intercultural competence: how to work in groups with people of different backgrounds, personalities, and opinions - a big part of the MUN experience. Intercultural competence would specifically prove necessary during the work within working groups formed during conferences.

Together with the Blockseminar and led by our training officers and team, we delved into intercultural competence through interactive exercises. The activity “More Than One Story” allowed us to get to know each other better as well as giving us the opportunity to train active listening. In smaller groups, we shared stories about ourselves on a random topic while the rest of the group actively listened and could ask questions. Techniques like these can be essential on a conference, when delegates must communicate and appreciate each other’s position as a delegate representing a country - and as a person.

Afterwards, we - once again in small groups - engaged in role plays with the aim to complete tasks, such as agreeing on a Christmas song and choreographing a dance. The twist of the game was that we all had roles that we had to stay true to during the tasks, such as the silent observer who was not allowed to speak or the cuddler who constantly invaded the others’ personal space. This forced us to find creative ways to communicate and work as a group, another aspect that is important in MUN. The role plays also showed us, which role do we want to take in a group and what should be avoided when working in groups, a valuable experience!

PROF. MARKUS KRAJEWSKI ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

On 02 December 2024, our FAUMUN delegation had the honor and privilege to attend the enriching expert lecture given by Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski concerning the topic of public international law. Besides introductory explanations to the definition of international law, Prof. Krajewski delved into the difficulties of implementing it, its broader context in the international diplomatic arena and the United Nations as a whole. Prof. Krajewski was able to keep the general atmosphere engaging and interactive as he encouraged questions while appealing to build our own opinions. This approach enhanced our general understanding of the state of affairs regarding this topic.



Our session commenced with a digression into the source of international law which builds itself on the assumption that all states in this world want the law to be enacted in the first place. From this foundation onwards, Prof. Krajewski delved into the subjects of public international law while citing the difficulties of defining the judicial status of Palestine and Taiwan amidst geopolitical tensions.

Furthermore, the implementation of said international law becomes more and more difficult as resolutions from the General Assembly cannot be binding. At the same time, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice has so far only been accepted by 72 member states. This lack of willingness to apply judicial frameworks tends to create dead end situations like the trial between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the accusation of war crimes or arrest warrants against high Israeli officials like Benjamin Netanyahu and Joao Galant where the International Court of Justice is unable to execute said warrants. As our session neared its conclusion, Prof. Krajewski remained very open to questions posed by delegates.

Summa summarum, the matter of public international law remains an essential aspect of working for or with the UN. Embracing the difficulties faced when navigating this complex and ever shifting field of diplomacy is an essential key for success while attending MUN. With a healthy dose of sarcasm and a generally optimistic view on the matter, Prof. Krajewski not only enrich us with his profound knowledge in this field but also communicated hope when facing seemingly overwhelming difficulties.



PROF. HEINER BIELEFELDT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

On 25 November 2024, the FAUMUN delegation had the honor of hosting Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt for an engaging and thought-provoking expert lecture. As a distinguished human rights expert and former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Prof. Bielefeldt offered unique insights into the state of global human rights and the role of international institutions in protecting them. Throughout the lecture, he explored the evolving authority of the United Nations, noting the organization's growing challenges in recent decades. The recent UN Climate Conference 2025 in Baku served as a timely example, where the expected breakthroughs in climate action failed to materialize — highlighting the limitations of international diplomacy, but also the continued necessity of multilateral cooperation.

A central theme of the discussion was the growing pressure on human rights worldwide. Many of the norms that once seemed firmly established are increasingly contested or undermined. We discussed about how to include future generations into the topic of human rights and what role digitalization and Internet giants play in the field of human rights. Further, we discussed the topic of human rights and authoritarian regimes as well as the current situations in Russia or China.

Despite all of these discussions, the lecture carried a message of resilience and hope. Across the globe, individuals and communities continue to defend fundamental freedoms, even under difficult and dangerous circumstances.



Prof. Bielefeldt emphasized the importance of viewing human rights as a truly universal framework, rather than one tied to any particular cultural or political context. In this light, the global community — and particularly the United Nations — has a crucial role to play in upholding international conventions, monitoring violations, and reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect human dignity.

For the FAUMUN delegation, the lecture was not only an academic highlight but also a strong call to action. It reaffirmed the importance of engaging with global issues and contributing to the defense of human rights through dialogue, diplomacy, and international cooperation. Many thanks to Prof. Bielefeldt for sharing his expertise and experience in such an inspiring way.

PROF. MARKUS BECKMANN ON SUSTAINABILITY



Prof. Beckmann's expert lecture focused on sustainability as a basic concept, answering the questions what sustainability actually is and where the term comes from. He explained the term was first used by Hans Carl von Carlowitz in 1713 in the context of forestry and - although it has existed for 300 years - the term has only been commonly used since the 1970s. This might be due to the realization that the earth's resources are limited, which is mentioned in "The Limits to Growth" (1972) by the Club of Rome. In the same year, the United Nations Conference on Human Environment was held, which was one of the first international environmental conferences and therefore a big milestone regarding sustainability.



The expert lecture ended without a conclusion however, due to the global south wanting to grow in the same way the global north did and thus a preference of development over environment. To discuss both topics at once, the UN set up the "World's Commission on Environment and Development" in 1983. Its first report included the nowadays classic definition of Sustainable Development as follows: "Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Further, the numerous efforts of the United Nations towards sustainable development in the form of the conferences and Sustainable Development Goals were mentioned. While Prof. Beckmann believes the Sustainable Development Goals are generally good targets, he mentioned them being full of trade-offs and normative issues.

Lastly, Prof. Beckmann discussed some supposedly sustainable solutions with the delegation, concluding that lower or preferably zero CO2 emissions would be ideal. He expressed a sense of urgency by explaining to us what tipping points are: tipping points are certain points that could be reached if global warming further progresses, where even if the disturbance is stopped the system would still collapse. Examples include the melting ice in Greenland, the release of frozen methane, and the Amazon turning into a desert.

Overall, Prof. Beckmann's expert lecture provided us with thought-provoking insights and highlighted the importance of sustainable development once more. Although the situation is urgent, he ultimately provided us with hope by showing that people can adapt rapidly. Examples of that include the sole use of electric cars in Norway and the fact that the increase of the use of solar energy between 1954 and 2022 is the same as between 2022 and 2044. The solution lies in finding ways to substitute and completely waive CO2.

CONFERENCES







ERLANGEN MUN

On 09 November 2024, the FAUMUN delegates experienced a unforgettable day that not only deepened our understanding of political discussions, but also gave us the opportunity to slip into the role of diplomats and simulate a UN conferences. The ErlangenMUN conference, hosted in collaboration with the University of Bamberg, opened up a platform for us to exchange ideas and perspectives with like-minded students from both universities, Erlangen-Nuremberg and Bamberg.



The excitement was palpable in the air as the conference opened with impressive words from our university president, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hornegger. His speech, which was both inspiring and motivating, set the spirit for the day and encouraged us to openly discuss the challenges facing the international community. Our academic host, Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski, also enriched the opening with valuable insights into the topics that would be on our minds that day. The discussion focused on two key topics that are not only of global relevance, but also require urgent action: First, achieving gender equity and empowering rural women and girls; second, promoting gender equity in access to healthcare. These issues were discussed with passion and conviction by the delegates, who no longer spoke in a small, protected circle, but rather in front of a large, engaged group of delegates. It was an exciting challenge that we took on - one that made us all rise above ourselves.



The conference gave us the opportunity to test our rhetorical skills, in addition to making new friends and establishing valuable contacts. Interacting with delegates from the University of Bamberg was an enriching experience that fostered a sense of community and collaboration. Every speech, discussion, and feedback helped us grow together as a group and learn from each other.

After an intense day of debates and exciting dialog, the conference culminated in a festive closing ceremony. The atmosphere was one of pride and enthusiasm as we reflected on the successes of the conference and celebrated the milestones achieved. The ceremony was followed by a successful social event, which gave delegates the opportunity to get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere. Not only were conversations held, but new friendships were forged that will last beyond the conference. Overall, ErlangenMUN 2024 was a complete success, which makes us look forward to upcoming conferences with great anticipation.

The vision of debating in New York one day now seems more tangible than ever. This first experience has not only deepened our understanding of international issues, but also inspired us to actively participate as future leaders in shaping a fairer world.





BAMBERG MUN

From December 13 to 15, 2024, the FAUMUN Delegation took part in its first multi-day conference. Together with delegates from the University of Bamberg, we all gathered in Bamberg to debate human rights issues within the Human Rights Council and address them in our resolutions. The conference focused on two main topics:

- I. Human Rights and the Use of Private Military and Security Companies
- II. Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Following the opening session, the first committee sessions began: After initial speeches, the agenda was swiftly and unanimously set to focus on topic I, “Human Rights and the Use of Private Military and Security Companies.” Already during the early speeches, two emerging blocs could be identified: a coalition of mainly Western member states advocating for the deregulation of private military and security companies due to their own involvement in such firms, and a group of member states from the Global South that often suffer from the consequences of private military and security companies and therefore called for stricter international regulation.

After the session ended on Friday evening, the FAUMUN-Delegates participated in a debriefing with their team to reflect on and analyze the day’s proceedings. Afterwards, delegates were invited to a local bar to socialize with the other delegates attending the conference and network.

On the next day of the conference, the positions of member states gradually became clearer and the speeches slowly but surely evolved from mere expressions of opinion into constructive proposals and appeals for cooperation among the member states. The speakers list seemed endless reflecting the delegates’ enthusiasm for speaking remaining unbroken. The day brought multiple opportunities for informal exchanges and networking during the lunch and coffee breaks. As the day progressed, the focus gradually shifted away from formal speeches toward informal sessions, during which working groups began to form which worked with determination on drafting a resolution. Early efforts to recruit support showed success, and a merger between two working groups began to take shape after minor formalities were adjusted and differences resolved.

After the usual debriefing within FAUMUN delegation, the evening continued with the Delegates Dance in Bamberg's historic old town. Hidden in an old baroque building, the richly decorated ballroom hosted the "Christmas Clubbing Party," organized by the University of Bamberg and featuring a wonderfully-Christmassy decorated Delegates Dance.



On the third and final day of the conference, not much was left to discuss, as both working groups had internally reached broad agreement on their respective content. Final speeches were delivered in an attempt to sway the opposing side, followed by voting on the drafted resolutions. In the end, the resolution put forward by the Western-dominated working group passed by a narrow majority, while the resolution of the Global South was rejected. As a result, a motion to adjourn the meeting was put forward and approved by the committee. BambergMUN 2024 came to a successful conclusion, as we all had learned valuable lessons which would help us master the upcoming conferences.



ERFURT MUN

In January, our delegation had the pleasure to participate in ErfurtMUN. The first day started with a train ride, lunch and first impressions of Erfurt. It seemed that although not many of us have visited the city before everyone was quickly charmed by it. Delegates of Erfurt University prepared a city tour, the stops included Erfurt City Hall, the Old Synagogue, the Krämerbrücke, the Old University, and the Erfurt Cathedral. The tour concluded at the beautiful historic Erfurt City Hall, which hosted the us and the conference for the weekend.

The opening ceremony in the ballroom of the historic Erfurt Town Hall was filled with welcoming words that offered motivation. The three committees simulated at ErfurtMUN 2025 were the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the United Nations Environment Assembly. The topic on the Environmental Assembly's agenda was Fostering Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste, and the Security Council discussed Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Conflict Areas, while the General Assembly talked about the Protection of Journalists in Armed Conflicts.



The following day, the working groups implemented the suggestions and corrections by the Chair into their working papers. A joint lunch at the Italian restaurant next door offered networking opportunities as well as a three-course meal.

The intensity stemmed from the working groups now deciding to pitch their working papers through their speeches and in one-on-one conversations during the informal session. Apart from advertising one's work, the speeches were also filled with praise and appreciation for delegations that worked together. When delegates started getting tired due to the length of the second conference day, they were motivated by other member states. This, along with the prospect of attending the Delegates Dance - which turned out as the perfect conclusion of the day - in the evening, woke up the delegates.



The last day commenced with speeches expressing gratitude for fruitful collaboration as well as acknowledging other working groups efforts and advocating for the urgency to vote upon the draft resolutions. Before the conference was adjourned until next year, a few speeches on the next topic on the agenda were given. For the closing ceremony, two delegates per committee were chosen to present their committee and the work put forward. Lastly, the award ceremony rewarded delegates for their position papers and their performance during the conference, among them many rewarding FAUMUN delegates.





BAYERN MUN NUREMBERG

As the final conference before heading to New York, BayernMUN was the final opportunity for our delegates to train for NMUN as well as have the chance to work with their committee partners for the first time to see how they work together in a conference. BayernMUN turned out the largest conference the delegates had faced throughout their FAUMUN experience: BayernMUN was attended by the FAUMUN New York Delegation, the FAUMUN Blockseminar, the University of Kiel, Colgate University from the United States, the University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, and two high schools from the region, enabling our delegates to collaborate with delegates at different levels of MUN experience and who came from all around the world, creating an exciting atmosphere within the historic Nuremberg castle.



The first day kicked off with an engaging panel discussion focusing on the future of multilateralism and diplomacy, with guests such as the international security expert Nico Lange, the former UN-special envoy Martin Kobler, and the chairman of the German Society of the United Nations Dr. Ekkehard Griep. The discussion was highly interesting as topics such as international security and the current state of international cooperation were debated. Delegates provided many questions and were given well thought-out answers.



Following the panel discussion, the conference commenced and delegates convened to set the agenda:

- I. Supporting the Involvement of Women in Governance and Decision-Making
- II. Minimizing Economic Shock in a Globalized Economy

These two topics being distinct from one another gave rise to well-prepared speeches and many discussions among delegates, and allowed them to share their ideas on both topics. By the end of the first day, topic I was selected as the topic that was worked on first.

Throughout the second day, delegates worked hard in their working groups, discussing proposals and coming to compromises that allowed the working papers to take shape. All the while, delegates worked on their negotiation skills and ability to create detailed working papers. Throughout the conference, delegates helped each other in explaining the rules and procedures of MUN conferences, as some delegates had far less experience than others, which exemplified the cooperative nature of Model UN, showcasing the willingness of delegates to help one another. Between the productive informal sessions, the formal sessions were filled with passionate speeches that allowed delegates to gain an understanding on their peers' member states' positions. Among all of the speeches, some speeches stood out specifically as they displayed a lot of passion or a long silence in tribute to a member state highlighting the dedication of everyone representing their member state. The day concluded as delegates worked to hand in their working papers ready to be corrected and prepared for the Delegates Dance.

Delegates returned to the General Assembly on Sunday, ready to carry on drafting resolutions as well as preparing for voting. As delegates perfected their papers, they looked forward to drafting amendments for when the working papers were submitted as draft resolutions. By the time the voting procedure had started, three draft resolutions were on the floor and everyone was eager to see their hard work be rewarded by passing them. Finally, two out of three resolutions passed and thus concluded three days of negotiations and hard work, as delegates were ready for the closing ceremony.

During the closing ceremony, delegates were given a wonderful message from the one of the leaders of the Nuremberg city council, Christine Kayser, which underscored the importance for young people being involved in programs such as Model United Nations. During the awards ceremony, FAUMUN delegates were rewarded three out of four Position Paper Awards, two out of four Outstanding Delegate Awards as well as a Peer Award, rendering BayernMUN a major success for FAUMUN. Despite many delegates writing exams during the preparation phase for the conference, they had prepared very well for this conference and performed exceptionally. Overall, BayernMUN had prepared our delegates well for New York by collaborating with different universities and schools, working with committee partners, and generally improving our abilities as delegates.





MUN ROME

FAUMUN at MUN Rome 2025: A Diplomatic Journey in the Eternal City

From February 24 to 27, 2025, our FAUMUN Europe Delegation had the privilege of participating in MUN Rome, an esteemed international simulation that gathered students from universities around the world. Unlike the NMUN conference in New York, where delegations represent a single member state across different committees, MUN Rome follows a different structure: each delegate represents a separate member state within their assigned committee, fostering diverse diplomatic exchanges. With a total of twelve FAUMUN delegates, we took on various roles in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Security Council (SC), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), tackling pressing global issues.



Our ECOSOC delegates engaged in intense negotiations on the topic of Preventing Global Supply Chain Disruptions through Secure Maritime Trade. Amidst discussions on international shipping security, trade resilience, and cooperation among maritime nations, they forged diplomatic alliances and developed innovative policy solutions. Meanwhile, in the Security Council, our delegates debated Advancing Global Security through Nuclear Disarmament, navigating the complexities of arms control, geopolitical tensions, and disarmament strategies. Our NATO representatives contributed to high-level talks on the Pledge of Long-Term Security Assistance for Ukraine, a particularly relevant and pressing issue in today's geopolitical climate.

The conference commenced with a warm and personal welcome from the committee chairs, setting the stage for a collegial yet professional atmosphere. Throughout the conference, delegates balanced rigorous sessions with moments of cultural immersion. Some enjoyed long, flavorful lunches in Rome's renowned culinary scene, while others opted for quick visits to a nearby bakery between committee sessions. Beyond the debates and negotiations, MUN Rome fostered connections among participants from diverse backgrounds, leading to meaningful friendships that extended beyond the conference halls.

On Wednesday evening, the delegates' dance at Teatro Centrale provided a joyful and well-earned break from diplomatic discussions. It was a chance to unwind, celebrate the achievements of the past days, and bond with fellow participants in a vibrant and historic setting. The conference concluded on Thursday with a grand closing ceremony at the Auditorium Antonianum, featuring inspiring speeches filled with gratitude, empowerment, and reflections on the collective achievements of the delegates. Each committee selected a delegate to share their experiences, highlighting the progress made and the impact of the discussions.

The FAU delegation proudly received an Honorable Delegation Award for its outstanding performance, along with several individual awards recognizing exceptional contributions to debates and resolutions. These accolades served as a testament to our team's dedication, diplomacy, and commitment to meaningful discussions. As we left Rome, we carried with us not only awards but also invaluable experiences, newfound friendships, and a deeper understanding of global diplomacy. The lessons learned and the connections made at Rome MUN 2025 will undoubtedly shape our future endeavors in international relations.





NMUN NEW YORK

The National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York was without a doubt one of the biggest highlights of our FAUMUN journey. Even though it was considered a regular simulation, coming to the city where the United Nations headquarters is located was a feeling that is hard to put into words. Walking past the flags in front of the UN building, entering the building, and attending sessions made the whole experience feel incredibly real. We were literally stepping into the shoes of diplomats, working on global issues alongside delegates from all over the world. Generally, the NMUN conference is a platform for young people to engage in real diplomatic discussions and negotiations. It mirrors the work of the United Nations by assigning students to represent different member states and work together on real-world issues in committees like the Security Council, General Assembly, and specialized agencies such as UNESCO. Delegates are required to research their assigned member state's position, propose solutions, draft resolutions, and find ways to build international cooperation.

The conference days were long and exhausting. Working for twelve hours, catching a few hours of sleep, and waking up early to do it all over again for four days was challenging. However, looking back, the experience was completely worth it. Some of us made new friends, others stepped out of their comfort zones, and many reached personal goals they set for themselves. All of this shows that even though we worked extremely hard, we also enjoyed every minute of it and are truly thankful for the opportunity to participate. From the moment we attended the opening ceremony, sitting in a beautiful hall, listening to inspiring speeches, we knew this was going to be something special. Seeing the FAUMUN video from the previous year played at the opening ceremony made us proud and motivated us even more to represent our university well. Walking through Times Square at night and feeling the energy of New York was something we will remember for a long time.



On the second day, the real work began. We officially started the conference, and our delegation represented Côte d'Ivoire. After long debates to set the agenda, each committee finally moved on to forming working groups and drafting the first working papers. During longer informal sessions, we had the chance to speak with delegates from all over the world, exchange ideas, and even learn about each other's cultures, which was one of the most enriching parts of the experience. Personally, being a delegate at NMUN had a huge impact on me. Negotiating, defending my member state's position, and collaborating with others made me understand how complex and difficult international relations really are. It also helped me grow my communication skills, resilience, and critical thinking, especially when things got stressful. It taught me leadership, cultural awareness, and gave me a deeper sense of what it means to be a global citizen.



By the third day, the atmosphere in the working groups became more intense. Delegates started serious negotiations about what to include in the working papers and whether or not to merge with other groups. Even though there were significant similarities between some working groups, groups decided not to merge because of time pressure and the risk of making the paper too complex. Still, we managed to find many sponsors for our paper, which was very satisfying. Although we made huge progress that day, there was still a lot to do to complete everything before the final sessions.

The fourth day was filled with emotions. It was our last full day at the conference, and we could feel the sense of accomplishment in the air. We spent the morning handing in amendments, giving our final speeches, and voting on the resolutions. Afterward, our Head Delegates gave heartfelt speeches thanking us for our hard work and commitment. The applause at the end of the session made it clear that for all of us, the NMUN conference was about much more than drafting papers and giving speeches — it was about the connections we made, the friendships we built, and the personal growth we experienced. Taking the last group pictures and saying goodbye to our working groups was bittersweet, but at the same time, it showed just how meaningful the experience had been.

On the fifth and final day, we attended the closing ceremony in the iconic General Assembly Plenary Hall at the UN headquarters. Sitting in such an important hall where real world leaders meet was unforgettable. During the ceremony, our FAUMUN delegation was honored with a Distinguished Delegation Award, which made all of us incredibly proud and happy. Afterward, we had the unexpected opportunity to go on a spontaneous tour of the UN headquarters and visit famous places like the Security Council Chamber.

This was an amazing way to conclude our FAUMUN journey. Looking back, I think we can all agree that participating in FAUMUN has not only helped us develop important skills such as giving speeches, negotiate, drafting position papers and draft resolutions, but has also given us great memories and friendships that we will carry with us for a lifetime. We are deeply thankful to our team, who took care of all organizational matters and made this incredible experience possible.

BERLIN







UN REFUGEE AGENCY

UNHCR GERMANY

Our delegation was invited to visit the German Headquarters of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Berlin. The briefing was held by Mascha Hotopp in a very interactive manner and began with a presentation containing basic facts regarding the agency and its work.



The UNHCR is a UN agency established in 1950 with the primary mandate to protect and support refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless individuals, and internally displaced people. It was initially created to help millions of Europeans who were displaced by World War II. Today, the agency operates in over 130 member states to ensure that people forced to flee their homes have access to shelter, safety, and are treated according to human rights. Current operations include refugee camps in Congo, Sudan, and Myanmar.

UNHCR has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and 1981. During our visit, we learnt that UNHCR is a humanitarian and not a political organization with the obligation to protect only refugees, not migrants. We further found out that the work of the UNHCR is based on the Geneva Refugee Convention (1951), also known as the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which defines the definition of a refugee and outlines the rights of refugees as well as the legal obligations of member states to protect them.

When asked why the UNHCR does not operate in Palestine, we were explained that a separate UN agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), is tasked with providing relief, education, healthcare, and social services to Palestinian refugees, which was founded a year before UNHCR.

As statelessness and refugee crises are some of the most pressing problems nowadays, this visit showed us what can and has been done to help refugees and that the need for an agency like this is more present than ever.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



During our study trip to Berlin, we were invited to the World Health Organization (WHO) Hub in Berlin. After a warm welcome and a brief introduction from the staff, the presentation began with an overview of the WHO's core mission and functions. One of the team members described the organization as a globally united effort to promote and protect health in its broadest sense — encompassing not only physical, but also mental and social well-being. WHO's goal is to safeguard populations, prevent future pandemics, and support vulnerable member states through systems such as universal health coverage.

For many of us, this was the first time hearing about the WHO Hub. We learned that it operates as a global platform for collecting and analyzing health data to identify early signs of disease outbreaks. By doing so, it helps scientists, public health authorities, and governments around the world respond quickly and collaboratively to disease outbreaks. The presentation also included an explanation of the various tools and initiatives the Hub uses to gather and interpret information. These were explained in a very clear and engaging way, giving us a deeper understanding of how such a complex system works in practice. A particularly compelling part of the visit was the introduction of a new simulation program currently in development. This tool allows governments to model pandemic scenarios, test different policy responses, and observe their potential outcomes. This simulation aims to help member states to prepare more effectively and make better-informed decisions during health emergencies.



Following the presentation, we had the chance to ask questions, leading to a lively discussion around key topics such as governmental data collection, the role of misinformation, and how quickly member states can react to global health threats like COVID-19. The responses were thoughtful and informative, helping us to better understand challenges we often only read about in our preparations.

Overall, the visit to the WHO Hub was a valuable experience: It offered us not only a behind-the-scenes look at global health operations but also answered our questions on a multitude of aspects relating to WHO. We are thankful for the insights shared and for the opportunity to engage with professionals working on such impactful issues.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The FAUMUN Delegation was invited to a briefing with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Representation Office in Berlin. Situated in the political capital of Germany, the office acts as an interface between UNDP and German stakeholders, engaging with the federal government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to promote sustainable development worldwide.

The Berlin office presents the impact of UNDP's work in more than 170 member states in areas ranging from democratic governance to climate action, crisis prevention, and gender equality. It also works towards increasing Germany's contribution to international development cooperation and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

During our visit, we were able to see how UNDP supports member states such as Côte d'Ivoire, where it promotes inclusive growth, peacebuilding, and climate resilience. The exchange explained how UNDP country offices collaborate with national governments to develop tailored development plans, especially in post-crisis contexts. In Côte d'Ivoire, this means strengthening public institutions, increasing women's participation in decision-making, as well as improving access to healthcare and education in rural areas.

A standout moment in the session was the Q&A, where we touched on topics from funding models, innovation and digital development, to the growing importance of partnerships between the UN and local actors. It was especially encouraging to hear about how member states like Côte d'Ivoire are not simply recipients of aid but rather equal partners in shaping their own development paths—with UNDP offering technical advice and capacity-development support at every turn.

The visit brought our MUN experience to life. As delegates of Côte d'Ivoire at NMUN NY, it was a powerful reminder of the real-world relevance of our work. The policies we debate and the resolutions we draft are actual challenges and initiatives that are affecting lives on the ground.

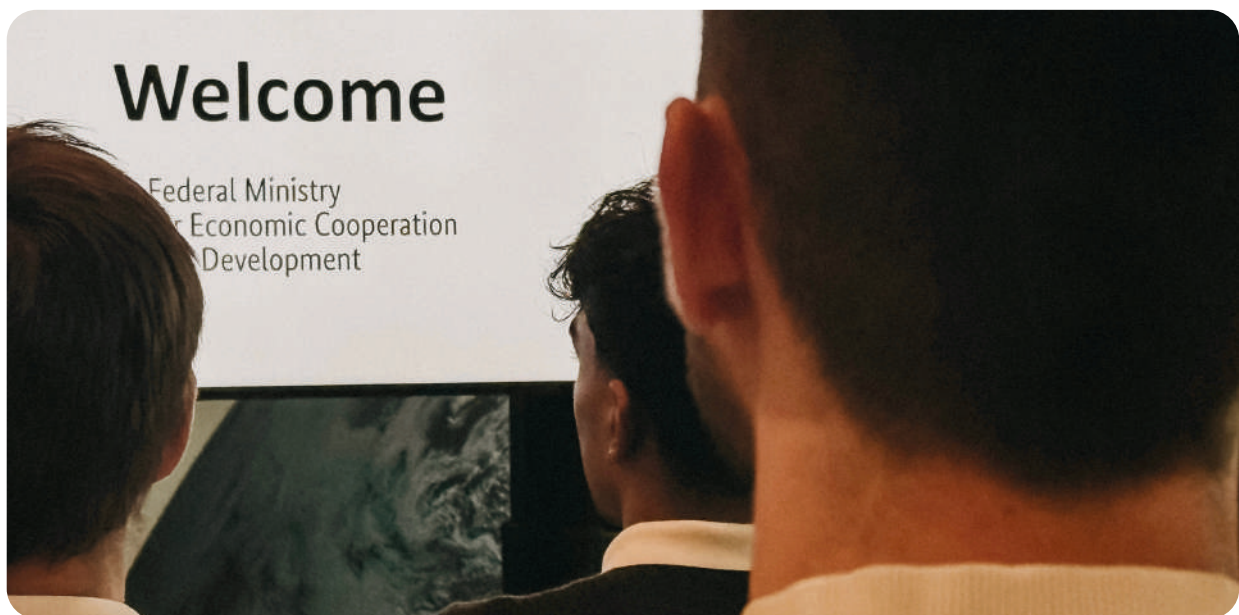


FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



It was with pleasure attended the mission briefing at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Berlin, Germany's lead agency in designing and conducting international development policy. The BMZ is committed to fostering worldwide partnerships designed to improve sustainable development, promote the eradication of poverty, and promote human rights.

During our visit, we discussed the strategic priorities of the ministry, including its emphasis on feminist development policy, climate action, and multilateral cooperation. As our New York Delegation represented Côte d'Ivoire at their final conference, attention was devoted to the BMZ's Africa Strategy, which aims to implement the African Union's Agenda 2063 by promoting economic growth, peace, and sustainable development in Africa. The BMZ collaborates with Côte d'Ivoire on initiatives to enhance governance, economic growth, and social infrastructure. This type of work is part of broader programs such as the Compact with Africa, which seeks to strengthen investment environments and spur private sector development in partner countries.



The briefing provided a clear picture of how Germany's development policies are being implemented and how they have tangible impacts on countries like Côte d'Ivoire. It emphasized the importance of global cooperation in solving global problems and achieving sustainable development objectives.

This experience enhanced our skills as Model United Nations delegates, giving us a broader perspective on how the policies and strategies we encounter in simulations are applied in real-world diplomacy. It reinforced our commitment to approach future activities with informed and empathetic diplomacy, grounded in both knowledge and understanding. Ultimately, it inspired us to strive toward becoming not only better delegates but also more responsible global citizens.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

We were warmly welcomed by Audrey Mathieu, who is part of the Dialogue with Citizens unit. The department is responsible for addressing public inquiries, receiving approximately 20,000 questions annually via mail. Our visit began with a historical perspective on the ministry's premises. We learned that we were in the former Emperor William Academy Building, while another part of the ministry is housed in what was once a veterans' facility. Notably, the Academy Building is situated directly on what used to be the border between the Russian and French sectors in divided Berlin.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action oversees a broad range of policy areas, including technology, small and medium-sized enterprises, energy policy, digital industries, foreign trade, and climate action. The ministry operates on two levels: the political level, where officials are elected for the duration of a legislative term, and the working level, where employees serve in long-term capacities. Civil servants at the working level analyze data, assess economic and climate-related trends, and provide policy recommendations.

During the session, key economic and governmental principles were discussed, including the separation of powers, the social market economy, and the working principles of the federal government. These principles include ministerial autonomy, collegial principle, and chancellor principle.

Additionally, we explored several significant policy initiatives, such as the Federal Climate Change Act, which commits Germany to achieving climate neutrality by 2045. We also examined the European Green Deal, with Ms. Mathieu highlighting the role of movements like Fridays for Future in advancing climate action. We learned that Robert Habeck, the Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (serving from 2021 to 2025), was present in the building that day but unfortunately, he did not have time to take a picture with us. Overall, our visit to the ministry provided valuable insights into the buildings history and the works and functions of the ministry as well as discussions about the future of economic policy.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE



Housed in the historically significant Detlev Rohwedder Building, we were invited to join the Federal Ministry of Defense for a briefing, beginning with a fascinating presentation on the building's eventful history: originally constructed as the Reich Aviation Ministry under Hermann Göring, it later served as the "House of Ministries" in the GDR, accommodating 13 ministries. After reunification, it briefly housed the Treuhandanstalt before becoming the headquarters of today's Federal Ministry of Finance.



The talk began with a comprehensive overview of the structure and organization of the G20 summits, emphasizing the intricate decision-making processes that shape international economic policy. We gained valuable insight into the current challenges facing the International Monetary Fund, particularly the potential implications of a U.S. withdrawal and its impact on global financial stability. The presentation further explored issues of international debt and the role of multilateral development banks, from basic definitions of debt to redistribution mechanisms and state bailouts in exceptional circumstances. Through concrete examples, we were able to see how multilateral institutions respond to crises and coordinate among diverse member states.

The discussion highlighted the interconnectedness of national policies and global economic outcomes, demonstrating the importance of cooperation at the international level. We learned how policy decisions within one country can ripple across borders, affecting development, trade, and financial stability worldwide. The session provided clarity on how multilateral institutions balance the competing interests of stakeholders while pursuing equitable solutions. Overall, the experience offered a rare glimpse into the complexities of global finance and the mechanisms that sustain international economic collaboration.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Rearmament, defense spending, arms production, recruitment. These are a few key words that describe in what situation Germany as well as many other countries in Europe find themselves in these turbulent times. These are also topics that Lieutenant Colonel Scharnhorst and Major Schönowsky guided us through during our visit to the German Federal Ministry of Defence in Berlin.

For our briefing, we entered the building that today hosts the Federal Ministry of Defence - the Bendlerblock - but about 80 years ago it served as the headquarters of a military resistance led by Claus von Stauffenberg against Adolf Hitler called mission Valküre. The historical significance of the site could be felt in the air as we took our seats in the Bendlerblock for our briefing.

One special characteristic of the German armed forces - the Bundeswehr - is that they must not work without the German parliament's cooperation and decision-making as it is a so-called parliamentary army.



Since many committees of the UN handle topics that are connected to armed forces and armed conflicts, the visit to the Federal Ministry of Defence gave us an insight into how militaries work on international levels as well as defending the national interests of their nations. That countries such as Germany and other European states feel compelled to recruit more soldiers and increase spending on arms production — treating it as a necessity rather than a choice — appears contradictory to the global commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement (2015).

With five years left to achieve the 17 SDGs, the Bundeswehr also focuses on SDG 4 (Gender Equality) with the aim of having a 20 % share of female soldiers within Bundeswehr. This is to be achieved with a 0%-tolerance policy towards discrimination. This may seem like a problem that needs to be addressed on national levels, and national levels only, but in our MUN experience, achieving gender equality has to be done on international levels and in all parts of the UN. The need for peace at every level is undeniable, and FAUMUN has demonstrated that it can best be pursued through communication, commitment, and mutual understanding — both among member states and between individuals.

The delegates were invited to observe how diplomats operate in practice during a visit to the German Federal Foreign Office. Andreas Glossner, a FAUMUN alumnus himself, welcomed us and presented insights into his work as a diplomat, highlighting his current role and previous positions, including his time at the Permanent Mission to the UN. The discussion with him was highly engaging, as his work at the UN closely reflected our own experiences in Model UN conferences. He also shared how the demands of diplomatic life impact family life — often challenging to balance yet ultimately very rewarding. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of personal relationships at the UN and how they can be a roadblock or very useful in coming to agreements and compromises.



The visit offered us a unique opportunity to gain first-hand perspectives on the realities of international diplomacy beyond the simulations of Model UN. Andreas emphasized that successful negotiations often depend not only on technical expertise but also on trust and empathy between delegates. He illustrated this point with anecdotes from his work in multilateral settings, where informal conversations sometimes proved more decisive than formal speeches. The delegates also learned how persistence and patience are crucial qualities, as many diplomatic processes take years to produce tangible results. Overall, the exchange provided valuable lessons about the complexity of diplomacy and the skills required to navigate it effectively.

The session also highlighted the strong link between diplomacy and sustainable development, showing how foreign policy decisions directly affect global challenges such as climate change, migration, and conflict resolution. Andreas pointed out that diplomats must always balance national interests with broader international responsibilities, a task that requires careful judgment. For the delegates, it was eye-opening to see how much of diplomacy relies on soft skills such as communication, adaptability, and cultural sensitivity. The experience underscored the value of our own preparation in Model UN, where similar skills are essential for building consensus and drafting resolutions. Ultimately, the visit to the Foreign Office left a lasting impression on all of us, reinforcing our motivation to pursue international cooperation with commitment and professionalism. This visit not only deepened our understanding of the realities of diplomatic work but also inspired us to envision our potential future roles in shaping international relations.



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS

“For a peacekeeping mission, you need a peace to keep.” – Dr. Wibke Hansen (ZIF)

The Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), we were warmly welcomed by Dr. Wibke Hansen, Senior Advisor of Management, and Tobias von Gienanth from the Policy, Partnerships & Innovation Team. They introduced us to different types of peace operations, highlighting examples such as the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which protects civilians and supports justice, and the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM), a non-executive mission in Ukraine, focused on building a civilian security sector and investigating international war crimes happening in Ukraine.



The ZIF was established in 2002 by the German Parliament for “Strengthening civilian capacities for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding” and now employs around 80 people in Berlin. Its mandate consists of the Personnel Agency, a think tank, and a training institute which prepares personnel for international missions.

We then engaged in a discussion about the difficulties the ZIF faces when sending personnel on a mission abroad. Unfortunately, humanitarian and development assistance is severely underfunded – a situation that might even become worse in the current political climate. It was interesting to learn that Germany is actually the second largest financial contributor (after the USA) in the field of development and humanitarian assistance.

We also examined the successful mission in Côte d'Ivoire and noted that most member states continue to host a UN country team, with agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNDP working alongside peace operations and remaining in place to support various dimensions of sustainable development. Our visit deepened our knowledge on UN mission and peacekeeping and building, and we highly appreciate the open exchange with the ZIF team, giving us answers to all our questions.

EMBASSY OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Warmly welcomed by His Excellency Abdallah Azize Diabaté, Ambassador of the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in Berlin, our delegation had the unique opportunity to engage in a meaningful exchange in preparation for the upcoming conference in New York. The visit aimed to deepen our understanding of Côte d'Ivoire, both culturally and politically, enabling us to represent the member state with insight and authenticity.

The ambassador began the session by introducing us to the rich and varied culture of Côte d'Ivoire. He highlighted the nation's strong tradition of hospitality—a value we immediately experienced through the warm and respectful reception at the embassy. A particularly striking point in his address was the emphasis on dialogue as a cornerstone of diplomacy. “Peace can only exist where there is knowledge of one another,” he noted, underscoring the importance of mutual understanding as a foundation for international cooperation.



To complement his words, Ambassador Diabaté shared videos showcasing Côte d'Ivoire's diversity and dynamic economic transformation. These visual materials provided us with perspectives on the nation's rapid development, social variety, and resilience—insights that are not easily accessible through regular research.

Following the presentation, an open discussion allowed us to pose individual questions relevant to the topics we will address during the MUN conference in New York. The ambassador responded thoughtfully, offering clear and well-explained answers based on Côte d'Ivoire's policies and diplomatic views.

Our visit was not only informative but also inspiring. It gave us a clearer, more complete impression of Côte d'Ivoire and significantly enhanced our preparation for the conference. We are sincerely grateful for the embassy's hospitality and the engaging dialogue, which left us better equipped to represent Côte d'Ivoire with respect and understanding on the international stage.



EUROPEAN UNION HOUSE

The EU House in Berlin is home to the Liaison Office of the European Parliament in Germany and the Representation of the European Commission in Germany, as well as an exhibition about the European Union (EU). The European parliament is the parliament of the EU and the European commission is the equivalent of a European government.

Since 1957 and the foundation of the European Economic Community, it has expanded to form the European Union we know today. In current times, with a war in Europe, climate change affecting not only the daily weather, but also causing natural disasters, a recent pandemic, and inflation and economic instability, the EU provides stability for its 27 member states and its population of 449 million people.

Through the interactive session, we learnt more about the EU, such as that the EU not only affects our daily life, but also provides for our security, for battling climate change and supporting international organizations such the UN and its multiple bodies.



Our visit can be summarized as a fun, interesting, and inspiring learning session that laid the ground work for our conference in Rome. With the wonderful Bobo Camara, we engaged in discussion about the EU, its relation to the United Kingdom, a nation some of us had already represented at different conferences, and about prospective expansions of the Union. Although MUN focuses on the United Nations, the visit to the European House allowed us to gain insight into the supranational organization that is for us as students in Europe in many ways closer to home.

At the ARD Hauptstudio, we were greeted with a tour around the studio, visiting a sound broadcast studio in which podcasts are recorded, and the TV studio, where news programs are filmed, with the famous view of Berlin behind it. Afterwards, we sat down with the deputy editor Anna Engelke. First, we received an overview of how ARD is structured and how public broadcasting functions in Germany, including how the Hauptstudio reports on federal politics through news coverage and editorial content.



As media and news make up an important part of our lives, we had many questions that covered a broad range of topics. Among these were questions about fighting misinformation, which the ARD is trying to fight with fact-checking as well as branching out onto social media platforms and maintaining transparency in reporting. Neutrality was another key topic, and Mrs. Engelke explained that while complete neutrality is impossible, it is essential to present both sides of an argument and enable viewers to form their own opinions. Mrs. Engelke also revealed that former Chancellor Angela Merkel was very interesting to interview, and the defence minister Boris Pistorius gives straight answers to questions and holds normal conversations, which doesn't always occur with politicians. Our visit to the studio showed importance of accountability and high-quality reporting in the current era and highlighted the importance of fact-checking.



ROME

Closing Ceremony
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Ceremony ROME 2025



SECRETARY-
GENERAL

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GERMAN MISSION TO THE UN ORGANIZATIONS IN ROME

As part of our study trip to Rome, the FAUMUN EU Delegation was invited to join the German Mission to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, where we were warmly welcomed by two staff members. We were first provided with an overview of the chain of command between the German ministries in Berlin and the diplomatic missions in Rome: The ministries coordinate with the Federal Foreign Office, which communicates foreign policy objectives to the Permanent Mission. The Mission, in turn, liaises with UN organizations such as IFAD, WFP, and FAO in alignment with the government's agenda. Staff emphasized that changes in the government in Berlin can significantly influence their day-to-day operations. At the time of our visit, the Mission was in a transitional phase following the federal elections—actively adapting to new directives rather than remaining idle.

The staff's insights into the interpersonal dynamics of diplomacy were particularly engaging. They explained that the most crucial exchanges with representatives of other governments often occur informally rather than in official meetings, blurring the line between professional and private life, especially when contact with certain delegates is restricted. We were especially surprised to learn that the so-called "Romeo tactic"—familiar from espionage thrillers—can sometimes pose a real concern. These revelations highlighted the subtle and complex personal challenges that diplomats must navigate alongside their formal responsibilities.

To conclude, we received a concise overview of the challenges facing the UN, particularly the potential implications of a U.S. funding freeze. In that scenario, Germany, as a prospective leading contributor, would likely assume an even more prominent role. Overall, the visit offered a highly informative insight into an exclusive institution, providing a vivid impression of the complexity and multifaceted nature of daily diplomatic work. It also underscored the delicate balance between national interests and global responsibilities that diplomats must navigate. Finally, the experience reinforced our understanding of the skills, adaptability, and judgment required to operate effectively in international diplomacy.



During our time at the Rome MUN conference, the FAUMUN delegation had the privilege of visiting the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on Tuesday, February 24, 2025. This visit provided us with invaluable insights into the organization's mission to combat rural poverty, promote sustainable agricultural development, and enhance global food security.

Founded in 1977 as a specialized agency of the United Nations, IFAD was established in response to the global food crisis of the early 1970s. Recognizing the urgent need for long-term solutions, IFAD was created to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries, focusing on empowering rural communities. Today, its vision is centered on inclusive and sustainable rural transformation—ensuring that smallholder farmers and marginalized populations have access to resources, markets, and opportunities to improve their livelihoods. The organization works closely with governments, NGOs, and local communities to implement projects that increase agricultural productivity, enhance climate resilience, and promote gender equality in rural economies.



Our visit began with an exclusive tour of IFAD's headquarters, led by Gabriele Mercuri, highlighting the sustainability efforts embedded in its design. We were then warmly welcomed by Sacha Westerbeek, who provided an introduction to both FAUMUN and IFAD. This was followed by an insightful session with David Suttie on IFAD's overarching goals and project objectives, giving us a deeper understanding of the organization's scope of work and key deliverables.



One of the most engaging discussions of the day was led by Rahul Antao, who elaborated on IFAD's programming, emphasizing the project design process and the critical role of youth in global agricultural initiatives. Andrea Barbato then provided valuable insights into career opportunities at IFAD, including internships and professional pathways into international development. A session on social media, conducted by Angie Lee, explored IFAD's communication strategies and the challenges of addressing "doomer" content in development narratives.

The highlight of our visit was the concluding networking session and open discussion moderated by Sacha Westerbeek. This provided an opportunity for FAUMUN delegates to ask questions, engage with experts, and gain deeper insights into IFAD's initiatives. We extend our sincere gratitude to all the speakers who shared their expertise and experiences with us, making this visit an inspiring and enlightening experience.



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Following the conclusion of the Rome MUN conference, our delegation had the privilege of visiting the World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome. This visit provided us with a deeper understanding of WFP's vital role in combating hunger and addressing global food insecurity.

Our visit began with a warm welcome and a guided tour of the base-level building, where we were introduced to WFP's extensive operations. One of the most striking moments was the memorial board honoring WFP members who lost their lives in service, a sobering reminder of the risks involved in humanitarian aid and the pressing global challenges that make their work essential.

We then attended an insightful presentation by Eleonora Dionisi, an esteemed consultant at WFP. She provided an overview of WFP's history, principles, and objectives, emphasizing its commitment to achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

A Visit to the World Food Programme Headquarters i. A key focus was WFP's 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded for its efforts in preventing hunger from being used as a weapon of war and conflict. Eleonora also detailed WFP's operational structure, explaining its funding mechanisms and the challenges of securing resources to sustain global food aid initiatives.



An exciting part of the session was the introduction to World HungerMap Live, an interactive online platform that provides real-time data on food security worldwide. This tool showcased the scale of WFP's work and its reliance on data-driven decision-making to allocate resources efficiently.

The visit was an eye-opening experience, leaving us with a profound appreciation for the dedication and impact of WFP's work. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Eleonora Dionisi for her time and expertise, making this visit an unforgettable learning opportunity.



NEW YORK







GERMAN MISSION TO THE UN IN NEW YORK

A look behind the scenes of German diplomacy in New York

As part of our FAUMUN delegation, we had the special opportunity to visit the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York. There, we were welcomed by a German diplomat who has been working in New York for several years and will soon return to Berlin to continue his service at the Federal Foreign Office.

It was a remarkable experience to engage with a diplomat so directly. We had the chance to ask many questions—about specific political issues, the daily routines of diplomatic work, and his personal experiences. His answers were candid, thoughtful, and offered us fascinating insights into the realities of international negotiations. His presentation was also highly informative.

It provided an overview of Germany's priorities and challenges at the UN and illustrated how complex and dynamic multilateral diplomacy can be. What stayed with me most were the personal reflections he shared with us: what it's like to live abroad with a family, how it feels to navigate life between two worlds, and which encounters have shaped him along the way.

These personal insights made the discussion lively and comprehensible. Experiences like this show how valuable projects such as FAUMUN are. They provide not only theoretical knowledge, but also real-world exposure to international politics— and make diplomacy truly tangible.



EU DELEGATION TO THE UN IN NEW YORK



On Monday, April 7, 2025, the FAU Delegation had the privilege of visiting the European Union Mission to the United Nations in New York City. Following a moment to appreciate the impressive views from the building, the delegation was warmly welcomed by a legal expert of the EU Mission who had just participated in a coordination meeting on disarmament. That meeting, which ran from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., enabled the EU Mission to issue an official statement on the topic by 10:00 a.m. Thus, we had the opportunity to speak to someone who is directly involved in the tasks of the EU mission.

The European Union maintains diplomatic relations with many countries and participates in seven multilateral organizations, including those based in Rome and Vienna. In New York, the EU Mission has a dual role: representing the European Union within the UN and coordinating the positions of its Member States. Each year, the Mission attends approximately 1,000 meetings, engaging in negotiations and issuing press statements.

During coordination meetings, positions formulated in Brussels are adapted to align with the diplomatic and legal language of the United Nations. This translation process involves shifting from arguments grounded in EU law to those framed within the context of international law. In order to amplify its influence within UN negotiations, the EU seeks to build coalitions with other countries—either “aligning countries” or “like-minded countries.” Aligning countries, such as those in the Balkans, Türkiye, or Moldova, tend to support EU statements through direct endorsement. In contrast, like-minded countries—such as Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and Switzerland—engage more actively in negotiations, often attempting to shape the EU’s positions in accordance with their own policy goals.



The delegation also discussed current geopolitical issues, including the EU’s position on the Israel–Palestine conflict, internal challenges around achieving consensus among EU countries, and the broader implications of shifting global dynamics. The delegation also discussed current geopolitical issues, including the EU’s position on the Israel–Palestine conflict, internal challenges around achieving consensus among EU countries, and the broader implications of shifting global dynamics. It was clarified that, within the UN context, EU Member States cannot promote individual national positions when representing the Union. While legal arguments are unified under EU law, individual national opinions may still differ. The only exception is the Security Council, where Member States represent themselves and are free to express their national perspectives independently of the EU line. The visit was highly insightful and we all learned a role about the role of the European Union at the UN in New York.



UNITED NATIONS HQ

On our final day with the New York delegation, we had the unique opportunity to visit the United Nations Headquarters. Standing in front of the iconic building, surrounded by the flags of all member states stretching out from left to right, was a moment that's hard to put into words. The atmosphere felt meaningful—this is a place where world leaders, diplomats, and even public figures have walked the halls, negotiating resolutions that impact the global community. For many of us, it was a surreal experience, especially since working at the UN has long been a dream.

Our tour guide greeted us warmly and led us through the different sections of the building. We had the chance to see impressive rooms such as the Security Council Chamber and the General Assembly Hall, where our closing ceremony had taken place just hours earlier. Walking into those rooms, especially the General Assembly, was unforgettable. As our guide said, “This is where decisions are made that affect billions of lives.” Hearing those words while sitting in the very place where those decisions happen gave us a real sense of the scale and responsibility that comes with international cooperation.

One particularly meaningful part of the tour was a wall dedicated to human rights, featuring powerful photographs and excerpts from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These images serve as a reminder to everyone who passes by—whether they are visitors, employees, or world leaders—that the core mission of the UN is to protect and promote the rights of all people. The photos reflected individuals from different backgrounds and regions, emphasizing that human rights are universal and apply to everyone, regardless of origin, belief, or status. The tour wasn't only informative—it was engaging, too. Our guide shared fun and unexpected facts, like how even a K-pop band had once visited the headquarters, something none of us expected to hear. His openness to questions and ability to connect serious topics with relatable moments made the experience feel more personal.

Overall, this visit was a highlight of our delegation. It gave us the chance to physically enter the rooms we've only ever seen in news reports and documentaries. More than that, it allowed us to reflect on the real impact of diplomacy and international collaboration. We walked away not just with photos and facts, but with a deeper sense of what the United Nations stands for and why its work continues to matter today.



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