Youth delegate programme

Selection Process for the Intergovernmental Meeting

The selection process is organized by the Swiss National Youth Council (SNYC). In response to a call for applications, interested candidates submit a motivation letter and a CV to the SNYC. A certain number of candidates are then invited to an interview with representatives from the Foreign Ministry and the Swiss National Youth Council, and former youth delegates. The interview contains questions in German, French and English about personal motivation, experience in volunteer work, the work of the United Nations and youth issues. After the interview, three youth delegates are selected, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the Swiss National Youth Council decide which intergovernmental meeting the youth delegates will be attending. Normally each youth delegate can attend one meeting. The selection committee tries to select a gender and language-balanced team. The youth delegates then receive several briefings from the SNYC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant institutions in order to prepare them for their role as youth delegates and to inform them about youth issues and the work of the different departments in the area of youth.

Before the Intergovernmental Meeting

The youth delegates travel around the country to visit secondary schools, NGOs and youth organizations to organize workshops, meetings and conferences. Each year the three youth delegates select a common theme in regard to youth issues, and work together to plan the national activities. The youth delegates also prepare their position, together with the SNYC, prepare a statement to the General Assembly (when possible), familiarize themselves with earlier resolutions on youth, participate in online dialogues and take part in preparatory meetings with the Swiss delegation. The SNYC supports the youth delegates throughout the year. The youth delegates meet every two months with the SNYC to inform it about their ongoing work. The youth delegate attending the General Assembly takes part in a preparatory meeting that is traditionally organized by the European Youth Forum.

Existing since: 2003


Call for applications: November/December

Number of youth delegates: 3. Each year the Swiss National Youth Council together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decides which three conferences to send youth delegates to.

Length of term: 2 years. During the first year the youth delegate takes on an active role by attending intergovernmental meetings and working on national projects, including awareness-raising activities to inform Swiss youth about the UN. During the second year the youth delegate acts as a mentor and support for the next youth delegate.

Criteria for applying:
- Availability for 2 years
- Knowledge of at least two national languages (French, German, Italian or Rhaeto-Romanic) one active, one passive, as well as English
- Background in working with youth organizations or youth projects as a volunteer
- Declared interest and knowledge of international affairs and the United Nations
- Between 18 - 25 years old
- Commitment to work approximately 6 hours per week for the project

Visa Procedure: A2 visa
At the Intergovernmental Meeting

The youth delegate is an official member of the national delegation and works on youth-related issues. S/he participates in informal consultations on youth resolutions, attends other discussions, and can usually deliver a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly. During the General Assembly the youth delegate also organizes a side event and a working breakfast at the Swiss mission.

When returning home

When returning home, the role of the youth delegates is to share the experiences from the intergovernmental meeting through workshops and forums with various NGOs, schools and youth organizations as well as to follow up and report on the discussions at the intergovernmental meeting. The youth delegates also have the responsibility to support, select and act as a mentor for the next youth delegates during the following year.

Funding

The Swiss Foreign Ministry covers some expenses related to the activities in Switzerland, as well as the cost of travel and accommodation for the intergovernmental meeting. The Swiss National Youth Council covers the costs for national projects. The SNYC receives its funds from different foundations.

The youth delegates have to cover a part of their subsistence expenses, as well as telephone use while out on the road or at the intergovernmental meeting.

Contact

To learn more about the selection process and the Swiss youth delegate programme please visit the Swiss National Youth Council at www.youthrep.ch