what is Model UN?

Model UN, or “MUN” (뮤ń), is an extracurricular activity in which students debate ideas and collaboratively work to articulate solutions to today’s global issues.

At any given conference the topics being discussed could range from...

...the rehabilitation of child soldiers to...
...governance of the International Space Station to...
...the establishment of the UN Charter

During these weekend-long conferences, students become delegates and don the personas of diplomats and political figures. Within each committee, delegates, armed with research and wit, discuss topics pertinent to that committee’s agenda and aim to craft comprehensive solutions that address the complexities of the issue at hand.

Throughout their time as delegates, students develop fundamental skills that will be an asset to whatever future awaits them.

You will get to see, first-hand, what it takes to work towards advancing the world that we live in.

keep an eye out for more delegate resources and general information about MUNUC by visiting us at munuc.org
POSITION ASSIGNMENTS RELEASED (BEGINNING OF OCTOBER)
Country and position assignments are sent out to the school and delegates that will be attending the conference. Once this information is received and delegates know who they will be representing and on which committee they will be, they can begin their research. Committee topics will also be available online. Delegates may begin to conduct preliminary research.

RESEARCH (LATE NOVEMBER) AND UPDATE PAPERS (EARLY JANUARY)
Background guides will usually be posted online. These are documents written by the executives of each committee that focus on the powers of the committee as well as the topics that have been chosen for debate. Background guides are a valuable source of information and the starting point for further research. The posting of these documents signals that it is a good idea for delegates to think about more in-depth research and position papers. A couple of months later, update papers will also be posted. These documents give additional information on the topics and include any recent happenings relevant to the committee.

POSITION PAPERS (DUE MID-JANUARY)
Position papers are documents prepared by the students that detail their delegation’s position on the committee’s topics. These papers incorporate research done by the delegate and are turned into committee executives. More information and tips about writing position papers will be incorporated into future modules that will be posted online.

FINAL PREPARATIONS (END OF JANUARY)
Transportation logistics should be finalized and students should think about their packing lists and getting their Western business attire dry-cleaned. Since most conferences do not allow electronic devices during committee session, research and preparation material might need to be printed beforehand.

Over the coming weeks, we will send out training materials so that you can come to conference prepared to participate confidently in committee. We will start by introducing how committees work and how delegates should prepare when reading background guides. We will then introduce the different types of committees that MUNUC offers and how to prepare for each committee. This overview will be followed by tips on how to speak in committee, write resolutions and directives, and an overview of parliamentary procedure.
ASSISTANT CHAIR
Assistant chairs are members of a committee’s dais that help delegates articulate their ideas and ensure everyone can participate in the committee.

BACKGROUND GUIDE
A written document available to all delegates before conference. Background guides provide information on each of a committee’s topic and point delegates toward opportunities for further research.

CHAIR
The head of the committee. The Chair oversees the committee’s debate and guides the delegates to producing a topical resolution.

CONTINUOUS CRISIS
A special type of committee at MUNUC. Continuous crisis committees produce multiple, short directives throughout the weekend instead of one resolution.

DAIS
The University of Chicago students who sit at the front of the room and are in charge of the committee.

DELEGATE
The high schoolers who make up the representatives on each of MUNUC’s committees.

MODERATOR
The person who runs parliamentary procedure. Moderators sit at the center of the dais and control debate with a gavel.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
Rules that structure committee debate and voting procedure.

SINGLE-SESSION CRISIS
This type of crisis occurs only during one session on a traditional committee.

TRADITIONAL COMMITTEE
The classic Model UN committee. Traditional committees debate a topic throughout the weekend, eventually producing a resolution that addresses the topic’s problems.