



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

UNISCA Summer Course 2022

Course Catalogue Number

7323C001FY

Credits

6 EC

Instruction language

English

Time Period & location

4 July – 15 July 2022, online and in class course

UNISCA Foundation

Board of Directors

Nieuwe Achtergracht 166

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A word from the Academic Officers

Dear student,

Welcome to the United Nations International Student Conference of Amsterdam 2022. This Course Manual aims to provide you with all the information you need to complete the course successfully.

This Course Manual covers all the academic details of the course: attendance prescriptions, the readings and the assignments, guidelines for the position paper, some practical information and the rules of procedure. If at any time, you have questions regarding the course, always first consult this manual. There is a good chance that you will find the answer to your question in here. Besides this Course Manual, our website offers a lot of useful information to help you answer your questions. Whenever you are unable to find an answer to your questions, please send an email to academic@unisca.org.

We wish you all an informative and engaging course, in which you will not only practice your diplomatic skills and learn about international issues, but also meet many interesting people from all over the world. Please keep in mind that while UNISCA involves a simulation, it still is an academic course and should be considered as such. Good luck and have fun!

Academic Officers UNISCA Board of Directors 2021-2022

Anahita Sen, Kehan Shetty & Charlotte Stabel

1.0 The Course

1.1 Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the modus operandi of the United Nations (UN) and interpret the dynamics of international politics and diplomacy;
- Identify important issues and challenges related to and occurring within this intergovernmental organization, embedded in globalized world politics;
- Explain the rules and procedures of a contemporary UN conference setting and use and adjust to these processes within a UN simulation. Identify and operate within the rules of conduct in an official UN forum, write UN resolutions, and describe the policies of the States Parties of and committees within the UN and/or International Court of Justice;
- Evaluate the role of different official representatives within UN committees such as state delegates, journalists, lawyers and judges and act on behalf of these actors by simulating their interests, roles and goals;
- Develop argumentation skills through negotiation and debating in interaction and collaboration with fellow participants;
- Reflect upon one's own development of academic and professional skills and further discover interests, beliefs and values by participating in an international and interdisciplinary learning environment.

1.2 Course content

UNISCA is a two-week Summer Course consisting of two parts where academic insights and practice meet. The first week of this course focuses more on theoretical knowledge of the United Nations and contemporary global issues discussed within this organization. In this part of the course, in class and/or online lectures and debates will contribute to an understanding of the structure of the UN, its conference setting and policies of States Parties. Moreover, multiple lectures will be given on global issues and the topics discussed in the Committees in the second week of the course. Students will participate in workshops about negotiation, debating and diplomacy. Although UNISCA is not a regular university course, multiple academic assessments are required to fulfill the program. Apart from writing a position paper, presenting this paper in an opening speech, participating sufficiently and reflecting upon one's skills development, participants apply the literature and topics discussed in the first lecture week during the exam (7st of July 2022).

The actual Model United Nations (MUN), an academic simulation of the United Nations will follow in the second week. Students are assigned to different roles such as State Parties, lawyers, judges or journalists for the duration of the conference. As a delegate, you represent the official policies of the country you have been assigned to and defend these policies on different global issues. These

issues are discussed within the Committee. Resolutions are to be written and an international court case will be simulated by the lawyers and judges. All the events will be reviewed, reported and commented upon by the Press Department via an online daily news platform.

Both parts are mandatory for all participants and consist of academic and practical preparation for the Model United Nations.

1.3 Acknowledgement of Study Credits

Bachelor students who successfully complete the entire course are awarded 6 ECs (European study Credits, Bachelor level) by the University of Amsterdam. If you are not registered at the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences (FMG) of the University of Amsterdam, you will (in most cases) need permission from your examination commission or student counselor in order to adopt the credits into your Bachelor.

For students at a Dutch university: Study Credits awarded by UNISCA can be used as 'free elective courses' or '*vrije keuzeruimte*'. Some faculties acknowledge UNISCA as a bound elective course as well. If you are not sure about the recognition of UNISCA at your university, please contact your study counselor or the UNISCA Foundation (secretary) for more information. On your request, the UNISCA Board of Directors can provide your university with detailed information about the justification of the awarded study credits.

Please note that unfortunately *no* ECs are awarded to Master students, since UNISCA is not a course at the Master level. However, master students are allowed to participate in the conference and could after full completion receive a certificate of participation.

1.4 Admission requirements

To obtain credits for this course, students must have completed the first year (at least 60ECs) of their BSc (*propedeuse*). For non-European universities that use a system that is not compatible with these requirements, please contact UNISCA's secretary.

1.5 Examination and grades

UNISCA is an academic course including examinations in order to determine whether students are able to pass the course and gain credits or not. UNISCA requires students to sufficiently prepare prior to the conference and fulfil assessment requirements and show continuous effort during the online course to be able to pass. Since the program only consists of two weeks but is rewarded with 6EC's, a high-workload is often experienced by students.

Important deadlines:

8 May	Deadline application UNISCA (11.59PM Amsterdam Time)
TBA	Second application deadline
1 July	In possession of a UvA-student number to hand-in assignments
1 July	Deadline position paper (11.00PM Amsterdam Time). The position paper must be handed in online (Canvas). Further details on how to turn-in your paper will be provided by the Academics of the UNISCA Board in due time.
4 July	Opening ceremony (in the morning)
7 July	Exam (from 9.00-11.00am)
8 July	Opening-speeches held within committees setting
9 July	Grades exam published (in the afternoon)
11 July	Retake of exam (in the morning from 9.00-11.00AM).
14 July	Deadline reflection on skill development (5.00PM)
15 July	Closing ceremony

The final grade for this course is the weighted average of four assignments that are specified below. More information about each assignment will be provided by the Board of Directors of UNISCA and by the lecturers on the first day of the program. **Missing more than one day will exclude you from the course.**

Component	Weight	Minimum grade for passing	Compensable	Resit
Position paper	35%		Yes	Yes
Exam	40%	5.5	No	Yes
Opening speech	10%		Yes	No
Skills development (incl. learning experience, reflection, participation)	15%		Yes	No
Attendance	-			Pass/fail

Attention! The exam needs to be completed with a 5.5 or higher in order to successfully complete UNISCA. Any mark below should be retaken. You can also retake the essay, but you cannot retake both the exam and the essay.

The weighted average of all four parts together must be higher than 5.5 to pass the course and receive study credits. Refunds on the tuition fee will not be given due to failing the course. The exams are graded according to the Dutch grading system. The Dutch grading system is marked between 1 and 10. An exam is considered a pass when it is graded 5,5 or higher.

1.6 Academic Position Paper (online - 35% - 2000-2500 words)

All participants must write a Position Paper in order to participate in the course, which needs to be handed in prior to the start of the first week. The goal of the position paper is to prepare the participant for the conference. The position paper is an academic paper which provides an analysis of the position your country will take on the three topics dealt within the committee you are assigned to during the conference. This requires students to read the literature assigned for each committee and conduct further research on how this intersects with the political interests and strategies of the country you represent. The position paper is not a political document but an objective sketch of the country's characteristics and possible positions with regards to the discussed topics within the mandate of the committee. This requires an understanding of the relevant country specific aspects, content of the topics, and mandate of the assigned committee to provide a suitable potential strategy for your role.

Formal requirements position paper

The following basic requirements are mandatory. These basic requirements should be included in order to receive a passing grade:

- Respect the word limit and deadlines (see further specification below).
- Use all of the mandatory literature specific to the committee topics outlined in the committee specific study-guides. Furthermore, use at least one peer-reviewed, academic book or academic article in addition to the mandatory and committee specific literature.
- Quality as well as quantity of academic sources is assessed and contributes to the academic level of your paper.
- Referencing: use a common academic referencing style (like Oxford or APA style) consistently. Include a bibliography.
- Spelling and grammar: check your paper for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors before handing in your paper.
- Include a title page with your name, name of the course, e-mail, UvA-student number, title of your paper, country and committee assigned to you, total number of words used in your paper and date of submission.
- Use a readable, consistent and clear layout. Make sure you use different chapters or paragraphs to structure your paper. Letter type: Times New Roman, Arial, Tahoma or Garamond; 12 pt; 1.5 spacing. Use single spacing only for quotes longer than three lines. Include page numbers.

- Add written objectives on your own learning experience to this paper (*see instructions skills development below*) on the last page of your position paper.

Structure and contents of the position paper

As a starting point for writing the position paper, students should use the Committee specific-literature announced by the Academic Officers. In addition, students are expected to write a position paper based on their own academic research. Include the following content points in your position paper:

- Summarize those characteristics of your country/role that will be of *relevance* to the conference. Those may include: geographical, historical, political and economic matters as well as priorities your country has in the international arena, relevant alliances, perceptions other countries have of yours, the role of your country in the UN, the domestic social dynamics in your country or the role of you as a journalist, lawyer or judge (max 250 words).
- Your (country's) position on each of the three topics dealt within the committee assigned to you. You may use more words for topics that are more important to your country/position, but make sure all topics are sufficiently covered (750 words max. per topic).
- Your own learning experience (see skill development for instructions on this part).

Make sure your paper answers the following questions per topic:

- What is the relevant background?
- What is the position your country/role will take (include the maximum and minimum outcome you are willing to accept during negotiations) during the conference?
- What is a recommended strategy your country/role may use during the conference?

Make sure the explanation for why your country/role has the position it holds and why the strategy you recommend is based on existing academic literature. If suitable, you may include a conclusion (250 words max.) at the end of your paper. In addition to the above described requirements your position paper will also be assessed on academic writing skills and criteria such as a clear and coherent structure, writing style and spelling/grammar errors.

Specification word limit: 2000- 2500 words (excluding page on learning experience)

Please note the word limit must be respected. Papers with more than 2500 or less than 2000 words will not be graded. Please indicate the number of words you have used on your title page. The word limit does not include the title page, bibliography and the part on learning experience.

Specification deadline: The position paper must be handed in online no later than Friday 1st of July at 11.00PM, Amsterdam time. The papers will be submitted through Canvas which includes a

plagiarism check. Further details on how to hand in your paper will be provided in due time and more information about the study guides will be provided by the Board of Directors.

1.7 Skills development (learning experience + reflection) (In class/online + assessment, 15%)

This assessment consists of three parts: a written note on expectations of your own learning experience, a (creative/innovative) reflection on your own learning development and participation during the online conference.

Part I: Note on learning experience – included in position paper: deadline is 1st July, 11.00PM

Before the beginning of the conference all participants should write a note on personal expectations of the simulation and the professional skills aimed to be developed and/or improved. The note on the learning experience should be included at the end of the position paper, resulting in the same deadline: 1 July, 11.00PM. Please answer the below set of questions, in order to be able to reflect on the answers after participating in the simulation.

The following questions should be answered as part of your mandatory written position paper:

- How do I expect this course to contribute to my professional development?
- Which professional skills do I aim to improve in this course?
- What do I want to undertake to improve these skills? How do I want to develop these skills? Mention concrete activities or steps you can take.
- Which format (written, audio or visual) will I use to reflect on these personal learning objectives?

This note on learning experience should be no longer than 1 page of text. Please add this note at the end of your position paper, after the bibliography on a new page. Also, add name, student number, committee and assigned State Party/role.

Part II: Reflection - deadline is Thursday 14 July, 5PM

On the second-last day of the simulation students will hand in a short reflection on their own learning experience and development of skills. By doing this, students will be encouraged to take charge of their own learning processes. The purpose of the reflection is to be self-critical on your learning process and to provide personal space for keeping record of own thoughts and ideas in relation to the course.

The reflection could be handed in in any form, as long as the criteria are met. One of the following options for a format should be used:

1. Written note: essay, newspaper, academic article, memo or policy report.
2. Audio file: podcast, video or interview.
3. Digital visual art: magazine, collage or photomontage.

Requirements reflection:

- Name, UvA-student number, committee + State Party/role, date, name of the course
- Reflection after experiencing the conference upon the expectations established prior to the conference (note on learning experience). Reflect on the answers given before the beginning of the course and include the following:
 - What did I undertake to improve these skills? Was I on the right track? What other paths did I take to achieve my goals? Give an example.
 - Which of the professional skills that I aimed to improve did I improve? Did I make good progress? And how? Discuss with another participant and illustrate.
 - What could I have done more? What obstacles did I encounter? How have I removed those obstacles? Give an example.
 - What is/are my short-term/long-term professional goal(s)?
- The reflection should have one of the following formats: written, audio or visual
- The reflection per format should contain the following elements:
 - Written: 1-2 pages
 - Audio: 4-6 minutes
 - Visual: digital graphic/pictorial in PDF, PPT or JPEG format
- The reflection should be handed in on time and to the online platform announced during the conference. If a student hands in more than one file, the first file will be treated as the assignment.

Both the note on the learning experience and the reflection are part of the grade for 'Skills Development'. The grade will be formed based on the level and quality of reflecting upon yourself and your development in skills, and not so much on the level of your skill. The ability to evaluate your own learning processes critically and constructively is rewarded.

Part III: Participation – during the two-week conference

UNISCA is an intensive two-week course. (Online) Attendance and participation in both the lectures, assignments (first week) and conference (second week) are mandatory. Every student is required to prepare before (online) class by reading the required literature. In addition, students are required to actively and constructively participate in the debates and discussions during the conference. Furthermore, students will be assessed on punctuality, application of the Rules of Procedure, ability to represent their role actively, professional communication and giving and receiving feedback. Failing to do so will affect your grade negatively. **Missing more than one day will exclude you from the course.**

1.8 Exam (digital examination - 40%)

The exam will consist of multiple short essay questions, which will test your knowledge of the mandatory literature and the lectures. The study material for the exam consists of **general UN literature and Committee-specific literature**, which will be announced by the Academic Officers in time.

The difficulty of the questions will be such that the exam can only be passed if you have taken detailed notes of the literature upon careful, close-reading prior to the exam. There may also be questions regarding the lectures that will take place before the exam. To be able to answer these questions, attention should be paid to and notes should be made on the *main points* of the content of the speakers.

Attention: The exam will take place on Thursday morning 7 July from 9.00-11.00AM. This will be a digital test, which means the test will be written on your own computer at home. In order to participate in the exam, students need to have an UvA-ID. Questions about completion of this registration could be forwarded to the UNISCA Secretary. The retake of the exam will be on Monday morning 11 July from 9.00-11.00AM. Any questions related to the exam can be forwarded to coordinators of the course.

1.9 Opening speech (In class – 10%)

All students are required to give a presentation on their country's positions/assigned role on the topics discussed in the Committee. In this opening speech, you will illustrate the interests, strategy and position of the State Party/ role you represent. In the ICJ committee, the lawyers and judges present a statement on their views on the topic and trial. Journalists will present the view and role of the media in the committee they are assigned to related to the topics of the committee. The presentations will be held in the first session of the Committee and are considered to be the opening statements made by the State Parties, lawyers, judges and journalists.

Each presentation will be 5 minutes in length, no slides are needed. In the presentation you should not only provide an overview of the issues described in your position paper, but also present an in-depth elaboration of your State Party's strategy and goals during the conference week. Furthermore, presentations will be assessed on general presentation skills (interaction with the audience, structure, strength argumentation, timing and length and speaking) and connection to the literature described in the position paper. Please note that the presentation could be merely based on the already written position paper prior to the conference. Because the conference will take place in class, each delegate will get the floor for 5 minutes to do their presentation. All opening speeches are listed to be presented to the whole committee at the same time during the first committee session.

A written version of your presentation should be sent to the chairs of your Committee via email on the day the presentations are held. Each committee will be joined by a journalist who will present his or her view on the topics discussed.

1.10 Attendance at the UNISCA Conference

Attendance is mandatory during the lectures and committee sessions. Students are allowed to miss one day, or two half days, in case of valid and documented personal reasons. In case of absence, please contact the Secretary of the Board beforehand. The Secretary will discuss this with the coordinators of the course.

Because of the COVID restrictions, it is possible the conference is (partly) being held online. For the online parts of the conference, this means participants should be online using video screening and audio connection during the committee sessions and during the lectures of the conference. Depending on the session, participants can be asked to verbally or orally respond to questions asked by the speaker, chair or lecturer.

1.11 Re-takes

Attention: The exam needs to be completed with a 5.5 or higher in order to successfully complete the academic course UNISCA. Any mark below that is subject for the retake. You can also retake the essay, but you cannot retake both the exam and the essay.

Position paper

Students may re-do their position papers (35%) *once* if *all* of the following three conditions apply:

1. A *complete* paper (valid attempt) for which all the formal requirements have been respected must be turned in before the original deadline.
2. It must be clear from reading the paper that a serious effort has been made by the student to complete a paper at the desired academic level for this course.
3. The position paper was graded a 5 or lower (<50%)

The re-take of the position paper has to be handed in before 11.00PM on July 24th. Please note that all participants of the UNISCA Summer Course have to hand in a paper for the original deadline on the 1st of July in order to be allowed to do a re-take and to start the course. Missing the original deadline means that you are out of the course.

Retake Online Exam

The online retake for the examination (40%) is on Monday morning 11 July (9.00-11.00am). Students who were graded lower than a 5.5 must retake the exam in order to pass the course and gain credits.

Feedback

Students can request feedback from the lecturers on the position paper and exam grades by sending an email to academic@unisca.org. Due to the online context and short grading period, no face-to-face exam inspection can be organized.

1.12 Plagiarism

Fraud and plagiarism are defined as any act or omission on the part of the student which makes an accurate assessment of his/her knowledge, insight and skills partially or wholly impossible often by using someone else's work as your own. It ranges from a deliberate attempt to deceive to more accidental unintentional cases where one forgets that something in their notes is not actually their own work or paraphrased incorrectly so that it literally overlaps with the original source without proper referencing. Using a 'quote' without attribution, even when unintentional, is taken to be plagiarism. Any acts of plagiarism will be dealt with very seriously and may result in a student failing the course.

All position paper submissions will be checked through Ouriginal (anti-plagiarism software). Further information can be found on: <https://student.uva.nl/en/content/az/plagiarism-and-fraud/plagiarism-and-fraud.html>

1.13 Dyslexia, dyspraxia and students with other special needs

The UNISCA Summer course aims to be an inclusive course with a learning environment in which each student can maximize their potential. Therefore, certain aspects of the course can be adapted to accommodate students with dyslexia, dyspraxia or other special needs.

In accordance with the Teaching and Exam Regulations (OER 2021-2022), such possible adaptations are directed to accommodate individual needs. It is the student's own responsibility to apply for special needs arrangements by sending both course coordinators an email before the start of the course.

1.14 Course privacy regulations and Chatham House Rule

Sharing of any (online) lectures, discussion sessions or simulations outside of the UNISCA course module is prohibited. Lecturers and speakers may decide to limit recordings and distributions of materials. Participants are not allowed to record or distribute any (online) materials without the permission of the board, course coordinators, speakers and participants. All sessions are based upon the principle of the Chatham House Rule. Any questions or concerns in relation to privacy matters may be forwarded to the UNISCA Academic Officers.

2.0 Documents

2.1 Readings

The readings of the course will be provided by the Academic Officers.

2.2 The Rules of Procedure

All participants of UNISCA are expected to fully comprehend the Rules of Procedure. The Rules of Procedure will be made available by the Academic Officers as well.

3.0 Contact Information

3.1 Academic queries

Please direct all your questions with regards to the paper and other academic matters to academic@unisca.org.

3.2 Student Service Desk

During the conference, you can contact the Student Service Desk for all your administrative questions and problems via <https://student.uva.nl/en/contact/digital-student-service-desk/digital-student-service-desk.html> or via Whatsapp +31 (0)6 2522 3400 (not for calling or texting).

If you are, for any reason, unable to attend a part of the course, you have to report your absence to Ana Waschnewski, secretary@unisca.org.

3.3 Student Medical Service

Oude Turfmarkt 151

1012 GC Amsterdam

Tel: +31 (0)20 525 2878

Emergencies during office hours: (+31) (0)20 525 2889

Emergencies outside of office hours and on the weekend: (+31) (0)88 00 30 600

If you call this number for emergencies outside of office hours, ask for the student doctor (*studentenarts*) on duty.

<https://student.uva.nl/en/content/az/doctors/doctors.html>

Pharmacy:

Damstraat 2

1012 JM Amsterdam

Tel: +31 20 6244331

3.4 Police contact

Emergency: Tel: 112

Non-urgent: Tel: +31800-8844

3.5 Location

The entire conference will take place on Roeterseilandcampus, Roetersstraat 11, Amsterdam. There remains a possibility that the conference will (partly) take place online due to Covid-measures. This will be communicated to the students in due time.

3.6 Dress Code

We encourage participants to be dressed formally, business casual throughout the entire conference week in order to feel more connected to the world of diplomacy.

4.0 The UNISCA team

The University of Amsterdam and the UNISCA Foundation annually organize the UNISCA course and conference. Together with the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and the Amsterdam College of Law (PPLE) UNISCA guarantees the academic content of the course. UNISCA is a member of the Dutch Association of the United Nations.

4.1 The Executive Board of Directors

The Executive Board is responsible for the daily activities of UNISCA, engages in all organizational and developing aspects of the course, funding and acquisition, and is responsible for external relations. The Executive Board of Directors consists of:

- President: Davita Bontekoning
- Secretary: Ana Waschnewski
- Treasurer: Michiel Teertstra
- PR/event: Janine Hoefert
- Academic Officer UN committees: Anahita Sen
- Academic Officer ICJ: Charlotte Stabel
- Academic Officer Journalists: Kehan Shetty

4.2 Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of the UNISCA Foundation watches over the long-term wellbeing of the conference. The Advisory Board consists of:

- Ruben Boerma
- Sebastiaan van der Weide
- Joost Jonkman
- Maartje van Lelyveldt
- Jeanine van Münster

4.3 The University of Amsterdam

The coordinators from the University of Amsterdam are responsible for the academic part (such as academic content, grading) of the conference. The coordinators are:

- MSc. Eva Verschuur (e.n.verschuur@uva.nl)
- MSc. LLM. Cate van Kessel (c.l.l.vankessel@uva.nl)