



# Online Model United Nations

[www.onlinemodelunitednations.org](http://www.onlinemodelunitednations.org)

## Overview:

O-MUN is the first, fully online Model United Nations program in the world. Currently starting its second year, O-MUN has proven to be a viable and engaging online alternative to the largest academic simulation for high school and university students. The O-MUN high school program has over 1000 registered students and is active in over 20 countries. A university level program is currently being launched, and a middle school program is not far behind.

O-MUN has active student participants from over 30 countries. The program has also established more formal ties with schools and MUN programs in Singapore, Malaysia, China, Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Lebanon, Qatar, UAE, Jordan, Israel, the UK, and United States. This country expansion is expected to double in the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

O-MUN is a recognized non-profit in the state of Texas. Federal non-profit status is due in early fall, 2012.

## Mission and Vision:

O-MUN believes in democratizing the availability of the Model United Nations experience, to engage all students in the collaborative process of problem solving and consensus building, and to foster leadership and positive engagement through the discussion and debate of the world's most pressing problems.

O-MUN believes that there is inherent worth in bringing together diverse groups of students, across different cultures and vast geographic distances, in real time, for the process of gaining knowledge and laying the foundation for openness and understanding between people.

O-MUN believes in the leveling effect of technology, and supports, through its academic program, the ability to bring diverse students together in an online environment, working together and at the highest academic standards, to promote human development, tolerance, and peace.

## The Technology:

The pinnacle of the MUN experience is a debate on an issue currently before the United Nations. In O-MUN, debates take place in a Blackboard Collaborate classroom. Students from multiple countries collaboratively author documents on Titan Pad and on Google Docs. A donated LMS, OrgSync, is used to help organize debates and house applications and other managerial needs. Social media/Facebook is the hub of the community, with hundreds of active delegates on these sites. Students are beginning to experiment with Twitter as a research tool, and O-MUN is pioneering the use of a badging system (linked to evidence-bearing urls) to recognize delegate participation and achievement.

An example of an O-MUN debate can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Va8XBLVQoAw&feature=relmfu>

## Best Practices

O-MUN currently has three powerful driving forces:

- **Technology:** O-MUN integrates several technology platforms and puts this in the hands of students. The program is product-oriented, meaning students are having to do something with technology in order to achieve a desired outcome. O-MUN also models professional and engaged use of social media, an important skill for students to learn and excel at.
- **Global Ed:** O-MUN is moving far beyond simple exchanges of information between extremely diverse student populations. MUN's universal success is due to the relevance of the subject matter and the complexity involved in finding solutions. This is appealing to students and accounts for Model UN's popularity. An online platform allows these global discussion on topics as diverse as climate change, disarmament, human rights and crisis management

to be held between students currently unable to engage is constructive dialogue: isolated students in Australia, students with limited educational options in Somalia, and politically/historically constrained student exchanges between Lebanese and Israeli students can be accommodated within the O-MUN program.

- Student Empowerment: Because leadership is housed firmly with students, implementation of debates and discussions requires students to work collaboratively to implement the program. Teachers provide guidance while the actual day to day running of O-MUN is in student's hands. From the creation of our newsletter, to the O-MUN webmaster, to the chairs at global debates, all are done by high school students for high school students.

## **Links to the O-MUN Universe:**

One can get a feel for the O-MUN community by looking at the following links:

Website (under construction) [www.onlinemodelunitednations.org](http://www.onlinemodelunitednations.org)

Official Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/onlinemun>

The Wiki (Content is currently migrating to a new official website) <https://sites.google.com/site/omunwiki/home>

Debate's Hub: [www.onlinemun.org](http://www.onlinemun.org)

Twitter: OnlineMUN

## **Contact Information:**

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