

UNIV FORUM
INTERNATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT
2019 EDITION



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1. DESCRIPTION

The UNIV□ Forum International Debate Tournament (UFIDT, onwards) is a one-day debate championship based on the model of the UNAV Law School competition debate created by [DIKAIOS](#) (the Faculty's Debate Club).

The aim of UFIDT is twofold: fostering the communication abilities of its participants and opening an enriching space of dialogue in controversial issues.

Organization

The tournament will take place in the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross headquarters (Palazzo di Sant'Apollinare) on Tuesday the 16th of April from 11:15 to 13:15.

The committee responsible for the organization is formed by the following members:

1. Guillermo A. Morales Sancho, reachable at: gmorales.1@alumni.unav.es
2. Inscription Committee, reachable at: comiteuniv@unav.es
3. Josemaría Díaz Dorronsoro, reachable at: forum.univ.rome@gmail.com

2. RULES

Tournament

- A) The application and participation in this tournament implies the acceptance of these rules.
- B) The tournament is a qualifying round (single elimination). If a team loses a debate, it is automatically disqualified (knockout format).
- C) Punctuality is of the essence. If a team is not present when the corresponding debate takes place, it will be automatically disqualified.

- D) The tournament chart will be made available on the website once the inscriptions are completed.

Teams

- A) Each team will have two or three members.
- B) Participants must be between high-school and undergraduate level (Master or above and secondary school or below are excluded).
- C) There will be only 16 teams allowed to compete.
 - a. Once the call is opened, teams will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis if they have completely filled in the inscription form (available in the web page) in due time.
 - b. No changes in the team composition after the inscription are allowed except for force majeure (such as illness or similar valid excuse).
 - c. The identification with a personal ID of the team members can be required by the organization.
- E) The inscription deadline is Thursday 5th of April at 14:00 GMT +1 time.
- F) There will be a waiting list for those teams which were not able to enter.

Debates

- A) They will all be held in English.
 - a. There is one exception to this rule if all the following conditions are met:
 - i. That both teams agree on a different language.
 - ii. That the judge masters that language.
 - iii. That it is a first round debate (neither quarter finals, nor semi-finals nor final).
- B) Each debate lasts 25'.
- C) The format will be ordered according to the *Structure and Timing* document available on the web.
 - a. In case a timekeeper is present, he will be in charge of its observance. Otherwise, the judge will conduct such task.

- b. New arguments are not allowed in the conclusion.
- D) The judge or (panel of judges) is responsible for the adjudication of disputes, evaluation and final decision. His final resolution on the winning team is not subject to appeal.

Topics

- A) For the 2019 edition these are the selected issues for debate:
 - a. First round: Should a developed country intervene in another country in a serious humanitarian crisis for humanitarian reasons with military support?
 - b. Quarters: Should public criticism of religious figures be protected under freedom of expression?
 - c. Semi-final: Should massive surveillance of social networks by the Police be allowed to prevent terrorism?
 - d. Final: Should UN Development Goals exclude money transfers to government officials in developing countries?
- B) Each group must prepare both positions. Teams will be announced which position (for or against) they will have to defend before starting the debate.

Evaluation

The judge or panel of judges will consider, among others, the following criteria and will punctuate according to the Performance Evaluation Chart (available online):

- A) Previous preparation: reports, authorities, case-law, news and sources cited.
- B) Logic: order and clarity, coherence, response to the opponents' reasons and arguments soundness.
- C) Rhetoric: correction, manners, voice modulation, attention grasp...
- D) Empathy and conviction showed.
- E) Timing observance.
- F) Team members balance.

Recommended bibliography

Apart from the corresponding research needed to prepare every topic this book has proven especially helpful:

LEITH, S., *You talkin' to me? Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama*, Profile Books, London, 2011.

Prize

The winner team will receive a Prize during the award ceremony which will be held in the University's auditorium (Aula Magna "Giovanni Paolo II") the same day at 17:00.