



U7+ Worldwide Student Forum 2023

Peace and Security – What commitments can students make to support universities as engines of innovation in peace and security?

Co-hosted by U7+ Student Initiatives Chair, École Polytechnique, and the U7+ Student & Alumni Network, the third edition of the U7+ Student Forum will be opening soon. Below is a global presentation of the Student Forum organization. Further details will be provided during the opening ceremony.

Overview

A four-week long and one-of-a-kind program.

Events will be hosted and organized by the U7 + Alliance and U7+ Students and Alumni Network (SAN)

Four types of events:

1. *Opening and closing ceremonies*
2. *Expert Panel*
3. *Student Workshops*
4. *U7+ SAN events*

Dates : June 16 to July 7, 2023

Application deadline : **June 9, 2023**

Format : online. Zoom rooms provided for all events. Moodle platform used for official communication as well as for the posting of documents.

Number of events: 6

Participants: students accepted to the forum will be divided into (ideally) 5 groups. Groups will be organized according to regions and (ideally) have an interdisciplinary focus on study fields.

Final output: preparation of recommendations in the form of slides to U7+ presidents regarding collective commitments and opportunities for universities to contribute within the G7's peace and security agenda.

Contact : Contact information and email u7studentforum2023@polytechnique.fr

Reachable at all times

Events

This section is organized in a way to highlight the purpose, outcome, activity type and resources necessary for each proposed event. None of the events, unless explicitly said so, should be handled solely by one team. The U7+ SAN is there to support in any instance, be it the provision of moderators, tech support, provision of advance material or guiding student groups.

All events are linked to guide students to produce a final outcome

1. June 16, 13:30 CEST/12:30 GMT

-Opening Ceremony (20 to 30 minutes : welcome address by Northwestern University and École Polytechnique)

-Expert Panel (60 minutes)

Objective	Presentation of the experts who will work with the students, and their fields of expertise
Organizers	U7+ Alliance and U7+ Student and Alumni Network
Topics	Presentation of the different themes that will provide input for « Peace and Security-how universities and research groups handle conflict ? »
Activity type	Roundtable, Q&A, discussion

2. June 23, 13:30 CEST/12:30 GMT

-Mixed Workshop # 1 (90 minutes)

Objective	Discussion, sharing of ideas and experiences, input from experts
Organizers	U7+ Alliance and U7+ Student and Alumni Network, experts
Topics	Focus on thematic areas (political, economic, social, cultural conflict) -Miscommunication leading to conflict -Role of women in peacebuilding -Energy and food scarcity crisis leading to conflict
Activity type	Roundtables in breakout rooms, guidance by experts, summary of discussions Questions provided to students and experts in advance Documents will be handled via Moodle

3. June 30, 13:30 CEST/12:30 GMT

-Mixed Workshop # 2 (90 minutes)

Objective	Discussion, sharing of ideas and experiences, input from experts
Organizers	U7+ Alliance and U7+ Student and Alumni Network, experts
Topics	Focus on regional/continental conflict Case studies
Activity type	Roundtables in breakout rooms, guidance by experts, summary of discussions. Laying ground for the final output Questions provided to students and experts in advance Documents will be handled via Moodle

4. July 1, 13:30 CEST/12:30 GMT (on a Saturday to accommodate most students)

-U7+ Student and Alumni Network event (90 minutes)

Objective	Informal event to allow students to engage with other students not in their group or from their university. Brainstorming on the main topic of the Student Forum.
Organizers	U7+ Student and Alumni Network (presentation of SAN activities)
Topics	How has conflict affected your life as a student? -What is your University's main aspect of study regarding peace/or peace-strategy research? What should be additionally taught/researched? -What kind of support initiatives / programs were implemented at your university? (i.e. Mental Health Support, Financial Support, Special Measurements for attendance), especially in this war and conflict situation. Come up with additional proposals for that. -What are the most effective measures that can be implemented by the university / student organization in the context of conflict in general? What would be your suggestions to leadership?
Activity type	Breakout rooms Final output : 1 page A4 report. U7+ SAN will collect what each group will have discussed. Short post/report after the event to be available for non participants to see later

5. July 7, 13:30 CEST /12:30 GMT

-Closing Ceremony (90 minutes)

Opportunity to present upcoming opportunities, network and how to stay in touch with the U7+ Student and Alumni Network.

Presentation of the final deliverable on behalf of all the participating students

We look forward to meeting you and working with you!