



RAUN

Regional Academy on the United Nations

Training the next generation of internationalists!

“The Regional Academy on the United Nations is a valuable multicultural educational initiative to train an emerging generation of young scholars in issues of importance to the United Nations. With its program of meetings in several countries, and its flexible multi-national teams of students working together to address challenges for global governance, the Regional Academy offers a model of how to encourage collective solutions to world problems.

I congratulate the founders and the participants of the RAUN for their efforts. I hope to see many of them taking on important roles for international cooperation in their future careers.”

Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary General

OVERVIEW

The Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) is an international multi-disciplinary program which trains students and young scholars in issues related to the United Nations and international cooperation. RAUN's aim is to provide participants with broad knowledge and resources about the UN and their functions, to raise their cultural awareness and openness, and to offer a forum for networking and academic exchange.

The academy follows a unique format combining lectures and workshops with practical hands-on-experiences. The program consists of three sessions per academic year starting in April/May until January. The sessions take place in different participating countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria) and include lectures and interactive workshops on various topics of relevance. All courses are given by high-ranking experts and practitioners who also share their rich experience with participants in an informal setting.



Apart from their course-work during the sessions, participants work on research projects in cooperation with different UN agencies and other international organizations allowing them to contribute to the finding of innovative solutions to contemporary global challenges. Through their group work and social activities, participants are able to form strong networks with their like-minded peers and experts from various fields in an environment that fosters diversity, tolerance, cultural learning, and understanding. During the program, students get the opportunity to visit UN institutions in Vienna as well as Permanent Missions and Embassies in other countries allowing them to interact directly with experts, practitioners, and diplomats.

The Regional Academy was established in January 2012 in Vienna, Austria, in close collaboration with the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna, the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the Czech United Nations Association, as well as different partner universities, such as the University of Economics in Prague (CZ) or the University of Szeged (HU). Other partners include The Hague Institute for Global Justice, University of Vienna, Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Webster University Vienna, Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade in Serbia, and the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University in Slovakia.

Since its creation, RAUN has trained over 140 young scholars from more than 20 nationalities who have continued their endeavors in academia, government institutions, the UN system and other international organizations. The academy was endorsed by the United Nations Secretariat through the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson in December 2013 and by the President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice, Abiodun Williams in July 2015.

STRUCTURE AND COURSE FORMAT

The 2016-2017 RAUN will be held in three 3-4 day long sessions that will take place in Prague (CZ), Bratislava (SK), and Vienna (AU). Each session consists of several lectures and workshops that will be given by experts and practitioners in the respective field. Apart from course-work, the sessions also include teamwork, networking and social activities that foster group dynamic, personal development and intercultural learning and understanding.

At the onset of the academy, groups are formed that will be assigned to partnering UN agencies and other international organizations. Based on predefined topics of interest, participants are required to work on a research project in close cooperation with their partner institution. The theme for the 2016-17 RAUN program is “Eliminating Poverty and Creating a Better World: The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda“. The research projects will focus on investigating UN entities’, other international organizations’ and governments’ policies and plans to advancing equality and increasing opportunities for all.

The research projects that are conducted aside of the regular session program deal with a variety of highly relevant topics, such as international security (e.g.: nuclear safety and disarmament; terrorism; and civil wars), international development (e.g.: development in post-conflict societies; and 2030 Agenda for Development), international human rights (e.g.: refugees and migrations; rights of minorities; and human trafficking), and the United Nations in the 21st century: (e.g.: UN role in maintaining peace and security; UN reforms; and R2P).

As part of the academy participants are required to write a unified group project paper of 20 pages as a prerequisite for successfully completing the RAUN program. The paper must follow RAUN guidelines. During the last session, which takes place at the UN Headquarters in Vienna, participants are given the opportunity to present the outcome of their research projects, including policy recommendations, to representatives of their partner institutions and a group of jury experts. After the final sessions, participants are awarded certificates based on their performance in the academy.



RAUN 2016 – 2017 Sessions:

First session in Prague: 2-4 May, 2016, arrival in Prague on 1 May.

Second session in Bratislava: 12-14 September, 2016, Arrival in Bratislava on 11 September.

Third and final session in Vienna: 10-13 January, 2017 (dates subject to change)

NOTE: For successful completion of the academy participants are strictly required to participate in all three sessions

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

The Regional Academy on the United Nations offers its participants several unique benefits and opportunities ranging from:

- Learning from high-ranking United Nations and government officials
- Practical knowledge about the United Nations system and international cooperation
- Exploring and exchanging different views about the world
- Networking with like-minded academics and practitioners
- Developing strong interpersonal skills
- Acquiring cultural awareness and understanding
- Improving academic writing and presentation skills
- Support the work of the United Nations in finding innovative solutions
- Additional performance certificates for best students
- Receiving certificates of successful completion and earning ECTS credits

PhD participants from the University of Vienna receive 10 ECTS credits while Master partici-



pants from the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University in Slovakia receive 6 ECTS credits. Participants from the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics Prague receive 3 ECTS credits.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to Masters and PhD students from academic fields related to international affairs, such as international relations, law, economics, environmental sciences, international development, and related fields. Eligible candidates are invited to an interview in which they are assessed based on their knowledge and interest in the United Nation system, their research experience, and their personality. Applicants are required to show strong discipline, eagerness to learn, cultural openness, and other personality traits needed to perform with excellence in an international and multi-disciplinary environment

Applicants are required to fulfill the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in a Master's or PhD program in one of RAUN-related fields;
- Have at least basic knowledge of and interest in the UN system and topics of the RAUN;
- Very good knowledge of English (written and spoken) and good knowledge in writing academic papers;
- Ability and willingness to work and learn in a multinational and multicultural group;
- Be between 21 and 28 years of age by the time of applying;
- Be studying at a University based in one of the partner countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia);
- Be able to combine the Academy's program with their studies;
- Be able to attend all three sessions

All applicants are required to send the following documents when applying:

- Latest CV (one to two pages) in English with photo;
- Motivation letter (one page) in English;
- Completed expression of interest form;
- Sample of written academic paper (preferably in English but not limited to it). This could be a BA or MA thesis, a module paper, a paper submitted for a conference, a proposal for a MA or PhD thesis, etc.;
- University grades of the past academic year
- A reference letter from a professor

Required documents should be sent to raun.applications@gmail.com

Application deadline: 30 March 2016 at 00.00 ECT

Note: all documents should be put together and sent as one single PDF file. The name of the file should be named and sent as "Country_first_last name_RAUN_application.pdf". This means, country where you are applying from (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia), your first and last name, RAUN application.

(e.g. Slovakia_Jana_Novakova_RAUN_application.pdf)

Fees and expenditures: Please note that a non-refundable participation fee of 100€ is required from selected participants. RAUN Participants also need to cover all their costs of transportation to and from sessions, accommodation and meals unless stated otherwise. Some sending universities provide funding for some or all of the costs. Students are encouraged to inform themselves about this and apply for available grants at their universities, local governments and other institutions. The organizers of each session will facilitate budget accommodation and meals for participants.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

Phase one of the selection process involve a screening according to participation requirements listed above. We advise applicants to read the requirements carefully and only apply when they are sure that they fulfill them. Only those who fulfill requirements will be contacted. In case of doubt please contact us.

During **phase two**, applicants who fulfill general requirements are evaluated according to the information they provided in their CVs, motivation letters, university grades, and the submitted research paper. During this phase, competent applicants are shortlisted and invited for personal interviews.

Phase three – the final part of the selection – involves a competence-based interview with applicants during which candidates' credentials are assessed. After the interview, successful candidates are informed and provided with further information about the program.

RAUN ALUMNI NETWORK

RAUN graduates have continued their endeavors in various sectors of their interests. While doing so, a number of them join the RAUN Alumni Network which offers a good opportunity to connect the annually growing community of RAUN's graduates and to ensure that the great intellectual potential of all successful RAUN scholars is maintained beyond the end of each academic year. For more information about the RAUN Alumni Network visit www.ra-un.org/alumni-network.html



CO-ORGANIZING UNIVERSITIES



**universität
wien**



Comenius University in Bratislava
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES**

UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES AND PARTNERS



**diplomatische
akademie wien**
Vienna School of International Studies
École des Hautes Études Internationales de Vienne



**Webster
UNIVERSITY**
Vienna
Private University

