



Quaker United Nations Summer School 2026 Programme Description

The Quaker United Nations Summer School (QUNSS) is a two-week programme where young changemakers are introduced to the United Nations and the vibrant international Geneva to deepen their understanding of multilateralism, strengthen their policy, negotiation and advocacy skills, and connect with a supportive international youth network rooted in Quaker values to promote peace, justice, and the protection of Earth.

Programme description

The QUNSS is organized by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva. For more than 50 years, QUNO has brought together young people from around the world to meet in Geneva, Switzerland and to learn and reflect collectively on how the United Nations can serve humanity in advancing peace, justice, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

Through a dynamic mix of expert-led discussions, interactive simulations, reflective practice, and social engagements, participants gain a meaningful and accessible understanding of how the UN system works in practice. A unique feature of this programme is the opportunity to meet directly with diplomats, UN officials, and advocates from many different fields—offering insights and stories that go far beyond what can be learned from books or classrooms.

The 2026 edition will explore today's debates on the value and challenges of multilateralism, supporting participants to accurately understand, critically question, and humanize the United Nations.

Participants will also be introduced to QUNO's long-standing work in faith-based and values-driven action, quiet diplomacy and negotiation, and its thematic areas such as human rights, migration, human impacts of climate change, peace and disarmament, and sustainable and equitable economic systems.

Finally, participants will become part of a vibrant cohort and an active global alumni network of people who share their passions and values, providing fertile ground for future collaborations and lasting friendships.

When & Where?

The QUNO Summer School 2026 will be held from June 29 to July 9 in Geneva, Switzerland. Most sessions will take place in the iconic Quaker House, with field trips to the UN Palais des Nations, other international organizations, and notable landmarks in the city.

Who Should Apply?

Young people aged 20 to 26 who are passionate about building a better world, who are curious about multilateral cooperation, and who are involved in areas such as social justice, community engagement, climate action, advocacy, or policy, among others. QUNSS gains its strength from the diversity of its participants, and applicants are invited to bring their unique contexts and lived experiences into the shared dialogue on how to build more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies.

Quaker-based programme open to everyone

QUNSS is an inclusive programme that welcomes participants from all faiths and beliefs. Non-Quakers are also fully eligible and are equally considered/invited to apply. The programme is grounded in ethical reflection, and in the Quaker practices and values such as simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

Language

We encourage applicants from diverse linguistic backgrounds. However, the working language of the programme is English, thus a high-level proficiency is required.

Accessibility needs

QUNSS aims to be an accessible and inclusive space for everyone. QUNSS will make the best effort to accommodate the needs of chosen participants.

Attendance Costs

The fee for participating in the QUNSS is **1'200 CHF** (Swiss Francs). This amount covers the programme costs, accommodation, activities and meals. Participants are responsible for paying their own travel costs to Geneva, Switzerland, their visa, and medical insurance.

Shared accommodation in a hostel will be provided from Sunday afternoon, 28 June, to Friday morning 10 July.

In an effort to make QUNSS a more inclusive and diverse space, few bursaries are available to help cover the cost of attendance from students facing significant financial hardship, with priority given to applicants from the Global South.

How to Apply?

All applicants must complete and submit their application through [the online application form](#). In the form, applicants will need to provide:

- Passport or Convention Travel Document number (valid travel document): To apply for this programme, you must already possess a valid passport or a Convention Travel Document that allows you to enter Switzerland.
- Video response: You will be asked to answer one question in video format and upload it directly via the provided link.
- Written responses: You will be asked to answer three questions in writing.
- Curriculum Vitae: You will be required to submit a CV of no more than two pages.
- Reference: You will be required to provide one reference.

Expected Timeline:

- **Application Deadline**: The deadline for applications is **January 25, 2026, 23:59 at Central European Time (CET)**.
- **Interviews**: After the first round, short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.
- **Decision communication**: All applicants will be contacted regarding the final decision by mid-February.

Questions:

If you have any further questions, please contact us at qunss@quno.ch.