



# EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE 2019

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a european horizons conference

## Prospectus

Yale University  
April 4–April 6, 2019



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## ESC2019: OVERVIEW

In April 2019, around 100 undergraduate and graduate students from across the United States, Europe, and all over the world will gather at Yale University for the fifth annual European Student Conference, to discuss some of the major challenges facing the European Union today.

As in previous years, the students will be selected from universities all over the world, in a competitive application process. On the basis of previous years, we expect that around half the participants will be American or Canadian nationals, 40% will be European nationals, and 10% will be other international students.

The student participants will be joined at the conference by twenty dignitaries from politics, diplomacy, business, academia, and the media, who will share their knowledge and expertise with the students in workshops and panel discussions. Throughout the conference, the students will craft policy papers that shed new light on European challenges in the realms of Democracy, National Sovereignty, Brexit, Security, EU-East Asia Relations, Energy, Technology, and Internet Governance. The aim of the European Student Conference is for students to take on these challenges, by engaging in critical thinking and enriching discussion and debate.

## FORMAT

The conference is structured around three main formats:

- **Keynote speeches** will be held by some of our guests from the world of European politics and transatlantic relations in the opening and closing plenaries, followed by questions from the audience.
- **Three panels** will be held throughout the course of the conference, featuring up to three guest experts, as well as a moderator. Each 60-minute panel will focus on a select topic currently dominating our discussion and understanding of Europe. Panels are followed by ~20 minutes of questions from the audience.
- **Workshops** of up to 20 students, advised by up to three guest experts, will each tackle one of the conference themes outlined on the following page. Students will arrive at the conference having already prepared drafts of their policy papers, and will revise their ideas in light of their group discussions in three workshop sessions throughout the conference. Each group will present a final policy paper proposing concrete policy solutions on the final day of the conference.

## PURPOSE & THEMES

The conference will be framed thematically around a number of key challenges facing Europe that participants will seek to resolve, with one another and with the guidance of the guest expert, professors and decision-makers. The aim of the conference is to make progress towards understanding and tackling these challenges—both by coming up with concrete plans of action for implementing the policy visions and strategies students develop and by identifying steps that conference participants themselves can take.

The headline challenge of this year's conference is **"Redefining the role of Europe in a multipolar world."**

Within their workshops the students will discuss the following themes:

1. **Democracy:** How can Europe counteract the rise of anti-democratic extremist parties in its national governments and the European Parliament?
2. **National Sovereignty:** How should national sovereignty evolve as the European Project progresses?
3. **Brexit:** How can the EU address anti-European concerns in order to prevent further member states from leaving?
4. **Security:** How can Europe adapt its security policy to changing political relations?
5. **EU-East Asia:** How can Europe reposition itself in a new multipolar world order?
6. **Energy:** How can Europe reconcile its energy policy with its political and environmental goals?
7. **Technology:** How can Europe drive technological innovation?
8. **Internet Governance:** How can Europe harness the economic and informational benefits of digitalization, while simultaneously regulating potential misuses that threaten liberal democracy?

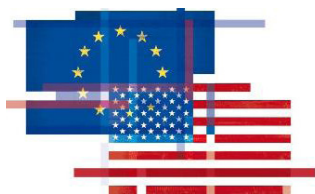
## OUTCOME

Before the conference, students in groups will discuss their policy ideas for the themes of their respective workshops and formulate them into policy-papers.

At the conference, students will present their policy papers to one another, as well as to the decision-makers and professors. During the workshops, they will exchange ideas and engage in common discussion with other participants in order to refine their policy solutions. They will present the final versions of the policy-papers during the final presentation session on day two of the conference.

After the conference, the students will go back to their respective universities and share their policy ideas for Europe's future with their university communities. Furthermore, European Horizons will publish the policy-papers in our journal, the Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs, and distribute the journal to university libraries across the European Union and the US, as well as to European decision-makers. For prior editions of the journal please visit: <http://europeanhorizons.org>

This conference is organized in partnership with the European Parliament Liaison Office with the U.S. Congress



# ESC2019 PROGRAM

## Day 1: Thursday, April 4

TIME	ACTIVITY
19.00–21.00	Evening welcome reception for student participants. Guest Experts already in town are warmly invited to attend.

## Day 2: Friday, April 5

TIME	ACTIVITY
9.00–10.00	Welcome, registration, breakfast
10.00–11.00	Opening plenary and welcoming speeches
11.00–12.00	Panel #1: The European Parliament Election 2019
12.00–13.00	Lunch
13.00–14.30	<b>FIRST WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democracy</li> <li>• National Sovereignty</li> <li>• Brexit</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• EU-East Asia</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Internet Governance</li> </ul>
14.30–15.00	Coffee break
15.00–16.00	Panel #2 (tbc)
16.00–18.00	<b>SECOND WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> (same groups)
18.00	Student Dinner
20.00	Dinner Event for VIP guests
22.00	Social event for all student participants

## Day 3: Saturday, April 6

TIME	ACTIVITY
9.00–10.00	Breakfast
10:00–11:30	Panel #3 (tbc)
11:30–13:30	<b>THIRD WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b> (same groups)
13.30–14.30	Lunch
14:30–15:00	European Horizons Presentation
15:00–16:00	Presentation of final policy papers
16:00–17:30	Closing plenary, farewell speeches

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# YALE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

