

UN / NGO Pathways Program

United Nations / Nongovernmental Organization Pathways Opportunities with FDU's Office of Global Learning



UN Pathways

Every semester the UN Pathways Program organizes events, activities and opportunities that engage FDU students and faculty with the United Nations. These include the Ambassador Forums, UN briefings, tours, special events and related student activities. Fairleigh Dickinson University is committed to promoting a prominent role for higher education and student global learning opportunities within the UN system.

Ambassador Forums and Special Events: The UN Pathways Ambassador Forums bring various Ambassadors to both the Metropolitan and Florham campuses of FDU for candid conversations about the issues that affect their nations and the world. Guest presenters also include high level representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and diverse United Nations agencies, in addition to prominent representatives of leading Civil Society/Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) active in the global arena.

UN Conferences, Special Events, Briefings, & Tours: FDU's Office of Global Learning provides an ongoing series of opportunities for students to experience the United Nations structure and agenda. Students may attend briefings organized by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI); global conferences held at the United Nations Headquarters; special events to raise awareness on critical issues, and multiple other meetings that highlight concerns related to the critical issues addressed by the United Nations.

UN Semester Program

Every spring, FDU offers a special United Nations Semester Program. Students enrolled in the program take two special courses together and up to four additional courses of their choice. The special courses are (1) The United Nations: Institutions and Global Governance (POLS3202) that focuses on the organizational structure and culture of the UN and includes visits to UNHQ for NGO briefings, visits to offices and diplomatic missions, and participation in UN conferences, as well as on-campus UN Pathways events; and (2) Developing a Sustainability Mindset in a Globalized World (POLS3201).

I NGO Pathways

ECOSOC Consultative Status: On January 23rd, 2009, Fairleigh Dickinson University was granted Special Consultative Status by the NGO Committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. FDU was the first entire institution of higher learning in the world to earn this distinction. FDU also is a full member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO) Consultative relations with United Nations.

NGO Committees at the UN: FDU is dedicated to cooperation with a variety of Nongovernmental Organizations and NGO committees at the UN that are focused on addressing the most complex issues faced by humanity. FDU's Office of Global Learning works with NGOs and related committees to create innovative initiatives and applied learning opportunities for our students, including internships with NGOs, conference/event volunteer service, and special events on our New Jersey campuses.

NGO Partnerships: FDU's partnerships with specific NGOs enable our global-citizens-in-training to interact, experience and serve with communities in the field and their representatives in NGO leadership positions. Our partnership with the NGO – Friendship Ambassadors Foundation – led to creation of the annual summer Social Ventures for Sustainable Development Seminar that brings together students from diverse parts of the world, particularly China, for immersion in training designed to enhance global leadership skills for youth beginning at age 16. Youth from the United States are encouraged to participate and benefit from this global experience. FDU also works closely with NGO Aim2Flourish to promote best practices in sustainable enterprise.

I Get involved

International Student Organizations: Student organizations, such as the UNA/USA Student Alliance, are encouraged to participate in all activities that raise awareness about issues on the United Nations agenda and seize the opportunities to enhance their global learning experience at Fairleigh Dickinson University through participation in the diverse programs offered by the Office of Global Learning UN/NGO Pathways program.

Internship and Volunteer Opportunities: FDU students can gain valuable experience and professional opportunities through the UN/NGO Pathways Program, such as gaining an increased understanding of NGOs, experiencing NGO engagement within the UN system, and acquiring hands-on experience with major global issues like poverty, health, education, global peace and disarmament. FDU students may enquire about opportunities to volunteer and serve as interns through various UN-related NGO Committees and specific NGO partners.

Events for Campus and Community: In recent years, the UN/NGO Pathways programs at FDU have also sponsored or co-sponsored events including Green Day, the International Day of Peace, the Indigenous Peoples series, the International Day of Happiness events, as well as a variety of visiting lecturers and a major international symposium on Human Rights. FDU's Office of Global Learning and various student organizations participate in annual celebrations of UN Day on October 24th, commemorating the significance and contribution of this organization throughout the world.

Global Conferences and Special Events: The Office of Global Learning's UN/NGO Pathways programs sponsor or co-sponsor a variety of special events and symposia for the campus and neighboring communities. The UN/NGO Pathways programs also sends delegations including FDU students to attend select major global conferences hosted by the United Nations in different parts of the world. Student participation in such delegations is based on their level of overall participation in UN/NGO Pathways programs.

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