

Facts about the 2017 Many Languages, One World® Student Essay Contest

1. There were more than 2,000 entrants to this year's contest.
2. 60 winners represented 27 countries.
3. The contest was conceived, created and was jointly managed by ELS Educational Services and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).
4. Northeastern University served as the host of the Many Languages, One World® Global Youth Forum and the sponsor and organizer of the Northeastern University Global Youth Symposium.
5. All winners were invited to speak at the United Nations in New York City and to attend the Many Languages, One World Global Youth Forum and the Northeastern University Global Youth Symposium in Boston from the 16th of July to the 26th of July, 2017.
6. The basis for the contest challenged full-time university students (graduate and undergraduate) from around the world to write and submit an essay discussing global citizenship, cultural understanding and the role that multilingual ability can play in fostering these.
7. Essays were submitted in one of the six languages of the United Nations and were written in a language that was neither the student's first language (language(s) spoken at home) nor the medium of instruction in either primary or secondary education (or a medium of instruction if attending a bilingual school). In many cases students submitted essays in a language that was their third or fourth language.
8. The official languages of the United Nations are: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.
9. In teams, the students worked in groups, arranged according to the language in which the student's essays were written, to prepare action plans focused on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. On July 21, 2017, together in their respective groups, the winners made presentations before the United Nations General Assembly at a special meeting at United Nations Headquarters.
11. 2017 marked the fourth year of the contest.
12. The contest was covered by numerous international media outlets and is a trending subject on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #MLOW2017.
13. ELS has over 55 years of expertise in assisting international students (more than 1.2 million to date) achieve personal and professional goals through English preparation and academic skill preparation.
14. ELS has the largest network of campus based English language instruction centers in the world and offers over 70 study locations mostly on university campuses.
15. More than 650 universities around the world accept completion of advanced ELS level (Intensive English Program) as proof of English proficiency.
16. The UNAI launched in 2010 by the Secretary General is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher learning and research with the UN in actively supporting 10 universally accepted principles including in the areas

of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

17. The 6 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) discussed by winners at the United Nations were:

- **Arabic Group:** SDG 4: Quality Education
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Chinese Group:** SDG 13: Climate Action
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- **English Group:** SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **French Group:** SDG 5: Gender Equality
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Russian Group:** SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- **Spanish Group:** SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

18. In 2016, More than 9,000 individuals from 165 countries took part in the initial phase of the contest. 60 students from 36 countries were selected as winners from an essay pool of over 3,600. Winners attended many prestigious universities including: University of Pennsylvania (USA), Xi'an International Studies University (China) and Bologna University (Italy). Their fields of study include art, human rights, medicine, engineering, law, business management, communications, international relations, and linguistics.

19. In 2015, more than 3,500 people from 130 countries took part in the initial phase of the contest. 70 students from 42 countries representing 60 universities were selected as winners from an essay pool of over 1,200. Winners attend prestigious international universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), Yonsei University (South Korea), and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France). Their fields of study include art, human rights, medicine, engineering, law, business management, communications, international relations,

and linguistics.

20. In 2014, over 4,000 people participated in some aspect of the competition. Close to 1,500 essays were submitted, with contestants from 128 different countries. The 60 winners represented 26 different countries and 6 continents. Winners attended a diverse group of universities around the world, including such esteemed institutions as The University of Basel (Switzerland), Princeton University (USA), and Cornell University (USA). Their areas of study included engineering, political science, language, philosophy, economics, and computer science. This contest has been covered by many international media outlets and is prominent on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

For more information on Many Languages, One World, visit: manylanguagesoneworld.org