



# B I R D M U N C I

Blacksburg International Relations & Diplomacy  
Model United Nations Conference

## DELEGATE GUIDE



February 6th-19th, 2024  
Blacksburg, VA



# Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

I am so excited to welcome you to our inaugural collegiate conference! I am honored to be serving as your Secretary-General, especially as this is my last year at VT. A little bit about me - I have been with Model UN at VT for the past three years, and I'm currently serving as the Crisis Training Chair on the executive board. I'm a political science major with minors in peace studies and urban planning, and I will be attending law school this fall! I'm looking forward to meeting all of you during our conference weekend.

BIRDMUNC I has been the culmination of hard work from all members of our club, especially our secretariat. I am extremely thankful to be a part of this incredibly dedicated team, and I hope that you enjoy this conference as much as we do!

Model UN at VT greatly values inclusivity and fostering a collaborative and respectful environment. When administering BIRDMUNC, it is one of our main priorities that these values are reflected both in and out of committee by our staff and competing delegates. We aim to provide you with a fun, memorable, and educational conference experience in which everyone feels welcome regardless of race, gender, sexuality, religion, creed, etc. As such, we hold both delegates and staff members responsible for following the Code of Conduct and policies outlined in this delegate guide. This is to ensure a good conference experience for everyone and to carry our values forth.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you here in Blacksburg!

Sincerely,

Brooklyn Oster

Secretary-General

[brooklyn22@vt.edu](mailto:brooklyn22@vt.edu)



## Technology Policy

For our GA committee, resolutions will be written digitally and delegates should therefore have laptops with them for the duration of the conference. Resolutions will be written on Google Docs and should be shared with other delegates in the bloc as well as the chair, co-chair, and vice chair. During moderated caucuses and voting procedures, laptops should be closed or turned off. Working on resolutions or accessing the internet during moderated caucuses is prohibited.

Laptop use is prohibited in our crisis committees. Delegates will use the two-pad system to submit crisis notes, and all directives will be written on paper.

Across all committees, cell phone use during committee sessions is prohibited.

The use of generative chat-based AI is strictly prohibited for all committees for the writing of directives, resolutions, crisis notes, speeches, etc. A delegate found in violation of this policy may be subject to disqualification from awards.

## Photography and Video Policy

Model UN at VT reserves the right to use, publish, edit, and display any photos or videos taken during BIRDMUNC on social media, websites, at opening/closing ceremonies, and in other promotional material for the club. These photos or videos may include, in whole or in part, delegates competing in BIRDMUNC.

## Dress Code Policy

BIRDMUNC staff members and competing delegates are required to wear Western business attire during committee time. This excludes socials, closing ceremony, "Fun MUN" sessions, and time spent outside of committee.

## Cross-Delegation Collaboration

As Model UN is a highly collaborative, diplomatic, and social activity, we encourage delegates to work primarily with those of different delegations during committee.

To create a richer conference experience and ensure fairness in awards, we strongly discourage delegates from the same delegation to work closely together. For crisis, this means that collaboration in backroom and directives among two delegates of the same delegation is heavily discouraged. While this will not disqualify a delegate from an award, it will affect their consideration. We understand that this may be more difficult in our GA committee due to bloc formation, but the same sentiment still applies.



## Behavior in Committee

As we aim to foster an inclusive and safe environment, delegates are prohibited from exercising discriminatory, aggressive, or harassing behavior towards others.

It is important to note that though many of our committees take place in a historical context, behaviors upholding the negative values of those contexts will not be tolerated. Delegates are strictly prohibited from expressing racist, sexist, classist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, ableist, ageist, or other culturally insensitive sentiments. Additionally, the adoption of non-Western accents or harmful stereotypes when portraying characters in committee is prohibited.

Violation of these policies may result in disqualification from the conference and the removal of the delegate from their committee for the duration of the weekend.

## Sexual Harassment

BIRDMUNC exercises a no-tolerance policy for sexual harassment, which includes but is not limited to the following actions:

- Inappropriate or unwanted touching
- Derogatory or sexually suggestive comments made verbally, electronically, or through writing
- Sharing inappropriate or lewd anecdotes or stories
- Sharing any sexually suggestive images
- Repeatedly asking an individual for a date
- Demeaning comments about an individual's sexuality or gender
- Threatening language or use of slurs

Any delegates found in violation of these policies will be automatically disqualified and suspended from the conference. The incident may be reported to authorities.