



Global University Climate Forum 2015 Application Guide

The purpose of this guide is to introduce you to the Global University Climate Forum, explain the benefits and responsibilities of membership, and walk you through the application process.

About the Forum

Sponsored by the International Alliance of Research Universities with additional support from the International Sustainable Campus Network, the Global University Climate Forum is a network of student teams from universities around the world who collaborate on initiatives that promote sustainability at their home institutions. As members of the Forum, student teams propose and implement measurable initiatives that reflect the three priorities of sustainability – people, planet, and prosperity. Teams share their projects with one another via an online forum and participation at Forum workshops, which are hosted in conjunction with global conferences such as the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (UNCCC). The Forum embodies the saying, “Think global; act local” by focusing on tangible, campus-based solutions that ultimately impact the dissemination of student awareness and global environmental consciousness.

Past Workshops

Sponsored by the International Alliance of Research Universities, the first of this series of workshops occurred in December of 2009 with the coordinating support of Yale University and the University of Copenhagen. Fifteen teams from universities around the world convened at the University of Copenhagen to present their projects, network and undergo peer review in the midst of the UN Climate Change Conference of Parties in Copenhagen (COP15).

In June of 2012, student teams participated in a workshop in Rio de Janeiro, a side-event during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20. This workshop was held by Yale University in collaboration with [Fundação Getulio Vargas](#) and the [UMass Boston Center for Sustainability and Governance](#).

Upcoming Forum Workshop

The third Forum workshop will take place in December 2015 in Paris, France, during the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). Selected teams will be invited to send two or three student representatives to participate in this one-day event. In the event of a high volume of accepted applications, workshop participation may be limited to one or two students per university, but the organizing team will endeavor to ensure that there are additional opportunities to participate and network.

We recognize that it may not be possible for all teams (or team members) to participate in the workshop, but this should not prevent you from applying to be a member. The Forum offers many other valuable opportunities to its members, including a collaborative online forum, mentorship and a certificate of completion. There is also the possibility of attending future workshops.



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Application Process

Each application will be reviewed by representatives from the organizing institutions. Some teams may be advised to make changes to their proposals based on assessment by relevant staff and faculty members. Teams that submit proposals that do not clearly demonstrate institutional capacity or support may be asked to submit additional documentation.

Application Materials:

- Each TEAM must complete the Forum Application Form, which includes a Project Overview and short response questions.

Key Dates:

In order to accommodate the varied schedules of universities around the world, the Global Forum will hold two application sessions. Students who plan to attend COP21 and who will need visas to travel to France are strongly encouraged to apply during the first application session.

Application Period 1 (Recommended for those who may require visas)

Application Period Start: 31 March 2015

Application Deadline: 30 April 2015

Finalist Notification: 18 May 2015

Application Period 2 (Preferred for teams that will include first year students)

Application Period Start: 01 September 2015

Application Deadline: 01 October 2015

Finalist Notification: 16 October 2015

Proposed event date: 6 December 2015 (to be confirmed)

Project Requirements and Recommendations

Projects must:

- Be administered at a college/university campus.
- Have a set deadline and a detailed schedule of activities leading up to the end date.
- Have clear deliverables to measure success.
- Be interdisciplinary.
- Be planned to commence immediately or soon after the December event, after being peer-reviewed and presented to the Forum.

Each project team must:

- Have at least 3 student members who will be on campus during the coming academic year (i.e. 2015-2016, 2016, Spring/Summer/Winter terms of 2016).
- Have at least 1 university administrator or faculty member listed as their adviser.



- Demonstrate that they have the capacity and support to deliver their proposed project.
- Be willing to take the Forum's end-of-the-year surveys designed to test the effectiveness of the projects, the Forum as well as rate the institutional support found on the team's campus.

Teams may:

- Develop academically rigorous projects that will be implemented off campus so long as they have measurable impacts.
- Propose an initiative that builds on existing programming, but they must be transparent about pre-existing conditions.
- Contact the organizers with questions or concerns in advance. Emails to sustainability@yale.edu will be directed to the best contact for responses.

Looking Forward: Individual and Team Membership Requirements

- Each INDIVIDUAL must be a member of a Forum team implementing a project that meets the requirements described in the previous section.
- Each TEAM must submit a blog post of at least 300 words per month that school is in session, reporting project progress (beginning when the projects are implemented in the months following the December event).
- Each TEAM must comment on at least one other group's blog each month, serving as support and engaging with fellow students.