



Day of Crisis Competition Rules

I. Object and Purpose

The Day of Crisis Competition (hereinafter DoC), was created by Professor Jean-Marc Thouvenin with the support of Simmons & Simmons international law firm. It is organized annually by The Hague Academy of International Law (hereinafter the Academy). Over the course of 24 hours, several teams of students, representing governments, international organizations, businesses or non-governmental organizations, face a series of major international crises. Participants are required to deal with a variety of legal issues by providing an opinion, advising a client, drafting documents, and negotiating or elaborating diplomatic strategies. This non-stop 24-hour international law and diplomacy competition challenges students' knowledge of public international law and a variety of skills, such as collaborating in a team, drafting, negotiating and working under pressure. Participants are expected to organize their teams in order to effectively deal with numerous requests, establish priorities, and make use of their abilities in a limited time frame with a view to addressing all challenges put before them. The capacity to define and implement successful strategies, especially during negotiating sessions, to accurately assess situations and legal questions, and to effectively cope with stress, are indispensable attributes to successfully compete.

II. Official language

The official language of the DoC is English. All documents and communications have to be written in English, except relevant bibliographical references and citations in original languages other than English.

III. Content

During the DoC, each team will be solicited by governments, companies, or even private persons to deal with several international legal issues.

Each team will be considered as belonging to different private consulting groups.

Teams may be requested to provide expertise in the following ways:

- by providing written advice to clients on how to behave in a given situation;
- by drafting documents (e.g. press releases, applications instituting proceedings etc.);
- by negotiating on behalf of a client in bilateral or multilateral fora.

Guidelines with regard to the different assignments can be found in the Annex to these Rules.

At the end of the DoC, each team will take part in a final plenary session. In the course of a multiparty meeting modeled after the United Nations Security Council and similar bodies, the teams will act on behalf of a specific client. The evaluation of the final plenary session is carried out as specified in art. VII.

IV. Organization

The DoC takes place during two days on the premises of The Hague Academy of International Law or in any other location in The Hague selected by the Academy. The Academy is responsible for the organization of the competition. The Secretary-General of the Academy and his organizing team draw up the competition material and evaluate the performance of each team throughout the competition.

The Secretary-General calls on a jury of highly qualified professionals and/or academics to judge the final round of the competition.



V. Schedule

The DoC is held every year starting on a Friday morning until Saturday mid-day of the following day. The precise dates of the competition will be announced on the Academy's website and via other communication channels before or when the registration period opens.

Registrations will be open for a limited amount of time. Approximately eight to ten teams will be selected and notified about their selection shortly after the closing of the registration period.

VI. Eligibility and Registration

1) Participation

Any university, law school or college offering a law and/or international relations degree may submit a team for the competition. The institutions based at the Peace Palace (i.e. the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration) may equally enroll a team. Only one team per university, law school, college or Peace Palace institution is eligible.

2) Composition of Teams

Each team is composed of four to five members who are enrolled at the same university, law school or college, or who are employed by either the International Court of Justice or the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

3) Eligibility of Team Members

Any person, regardless of nationality, may be a member of the team designated by an institution as described in paragraph 1, if he or she:

- (a) is enrolled as a student during the year of the competition and;
 - (b) is pursuing full-time or part-time studies in law and/or international relations, at a Master's degree level minimum;
- or
- (c) is employed by either the International Court of Justice or the Permanent Court of Arbitration during the year of the competition and;
 - (d) is pursuing full-time or part-time studies in law and/or international relations, at a Master's degree level minimum;
 - (e) has a sufficient command of the English language, both written and oral;
 - (f) has not previously participated in the DoC competition.

4) Team Registration

Each team must register by completing an online registration form published on www.hagueacademy.nl before the deadline. A valid team e-mail address must be provided at the moment of registration. The admissibility of each registration is dependent on the respect of the established deadlines and the completeness of the registration form, including the accompanying certification of the institution where the members are registered as students or employees. The certification specifically indicates the team as the one designated by the institution to participate in the competition.

The Secretary-General of the Academy verifies the eligibility and selects the teams that will be allowed to compete. Besides verification whether the teams comply with the general admissibility criteria, the selection will be based on the letter of motivation of the team, the letter of recommendation for the team and the CVs of the individual team members. A balanced geographical and gender representation will also be taken into account. Due to the limited number of teams that the Academy can accommodate, there is no "right" to be registered. The selection made by the Secretary-General of the Academy is final and without appeal.

The teams will be duly notified of the outcome of their application.

All teams authorized to participate in the competition are presumed to have familiarized themselves with these Rules and are bound by them.



5) Fees and Practical Information

Participation in the competition is free of charge but teams will be financially responsible for their transportation and accommodation.

The DoC will be held in accordance with the public health guidelines in place on the dates of the competition.

VII. Evaluation of Teams' Performance

It is primarily the participants' ability to establish successful strategies, especially during negotiating sessions, their accurate assessment of situations and of legal questions, and their ability to cope with stress that will be evaluated. The performance evaluation will be based on both a collective (primarily) and individual (secondarily) basis.

The jury of the final plenary session and the organizers of the DoC will establish the teams' ranking. The outcome will be communicated to the participants after a deliberation.

VIII. Certificates and Prizes

Each team member will receive a certificate of participation in the competition at the conclusion of the DoC. The teams and participants that particularly distinguished themselves throughout the competition will be issued special certificates and prizes.

The prize categories of the competition are Best Team, Best Negotiation, Best Initial Statement, Best Written Advice and Best Oral Statement.