



# LU/UN YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM PARTNER

## Lehigh University

In 2004, Lehigh University became the sixth university in the world to gain Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status with the United Nations. This designation gives the university rare access to the world's largest intergovernmental organization.

### What is a UN Youth Rep?

Lehigh created the world's first UN Youth Representative Program, matching UN-accredited NGOs with high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students who serve as that NGO's voice at the United Nations.

Youth Representatives meet with global decision makers, participate in international conferences, and moderate briefings broadcast worldwide on UN TV. Youth Representatives have spoken on the floor of the General Assembly.

Youth Representatives visit the UN once per month, where they attend briefings, conferences and private meetings with UN officials on behalf of their NGO on topics such as the role of art in creating cultures of peace or economic development across Africa.



*Through the UN Partnership, Lehigh students, staff, and faculty attend private briefings with ambassadors and UN officials, take tours of UN headquarters, and attend conferences, workshops and symposia at the UN. Lehigh also hosts a UN Speaker Series on campus and places interns each semester at the UN.*



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### What is a UN NGO?

An NGO is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary citizen's group organized on a local, national or international level and officially recognized by the UN. An NGO bears the responsibility of disseminating information to its constituency regarding UN beliefs, practices and activities. In turn, NGOs provide a wealth of expertise that shapes and informs UN decision-making.

