

The Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States



An Introduction to the
ESMOAS Program

ESMOAS: Past Keynote Speakers/Guests

Each year, the ESMOAS Program invites special guests to give keynote speeches, provide information on careers in diplomacy, and speak directly with prospective graduates about future careers in law, political relations, and beyond. We have enjoyed great success in creating networking opportunities for our students from these interactions.

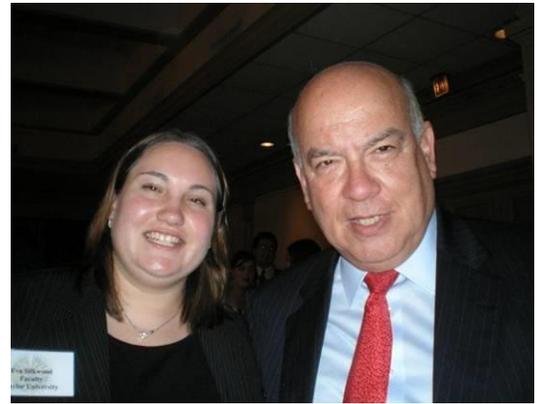
Past Keynote Speakers

The Honorable Carlos Roberto Reina, Former President of Honduras
Ambassador Eugene L. Scassa, Diplomat in Residence, St. Mary's University
The Honorable Carlos Sada, Consul General of Mexico
Ambassador James F. Creagan, former ambassador to Honduras and Bolivia
Ambassador Peter Deshazo, Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the OAS
The Honorable Oliver P. Garza, United States Ambassador to Nicaragua and
The Honorable Jeff Davidow, United States Ambassador to Mexico \

Drew Roy, Vice President for International Affairs, SBC Corporation
Dr. Charles Cotrell, President, St. Mary's University
Major General Freddy Valenzuela, United States Army
Ambassador John Maisto, United States Ambassador to the OAS
Ambassador Ron Godard, U.S. Senior Advisor for Western Hemispheric Affairs
The Honorable Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, Organization of American States
Ambassador Bill Eaton, former Ambassador to Panama
Ambassador Donna J. Hrinak, Director of Latin American government affairs, PepsiCo.
Raul Rodriguez, former Director of the North American Development Bank
The Honorable Julie G. Connor, U.S. State Department and Diplomat in Residence
Dr. Joseph A. McKinney, Ben H. Williams Professor of International Economics
The Honorable John C. Roberts, Diplomat in Residence and Bureau of Conflict Management
The Honorable Floyd S. Cable, Diplomat in Residence for Central Texas, US State Dept.
Honorable Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS
Ambassador Oliver del Cid, Ambassador of Belize to Mexico
Ambassador Paula Maria Bertol, Ambassador of Argentina to the OAS Permanent Council
Mr. Miguel Mendevil Roiz, ESMOAS Alumnus (UNAM) and member of the Mexican delegation to the UN

ESMOAS: Academic Benefits to Students

Students participating in the ESMOAS not only gain unique perspective into Latin American history, international politics, and the current events of the Western Hemisphere, but also receive a one-of-a-kind opportunity to network with other students with similar interests, as well as notable figures and experts in the field. Students have been offered internships with UNESCO, the OAS, the UN, and other international institutions, fellowships in prominent law, graduate, and medical schools across the country, references within the Foreign Service and other governmental organizations, and positions within notable civil society and non-governmental organizations around the world through their networking and participation in the ESMOAS.



OAS Secretary General Jose Insulza and an ESMOAS delegate, St. Mary's University, 2012

In short, the ESMOAS is an academically centered program with nearly two decades' history of bringing the nation's best and brightest college students together to debate and address the issues facing the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. Our organization puts the academic integrity of our workshop and competition at top priority, and our volunteers work diligently to ensure that our program is distinguished by its focus on students and their growth as leaders. As such, we are proud of our unique student alumni network. Students who have participated in the ESMOAS program in the past are actively recruited and utilized as volunteers, judges, and support staff. This helps them to build their young resume and curriculum vitae, while allowing us the privilege of experienced, well-informed staff members to help maintain the organization's academic integrity and helping keep our costs low enough to encourage participation of institutions at all levels, public and private. The ESMOAS program is an immersive program governed by the "academically centered, students first" model at all levels.



*OAS Assistant Secretary General Nestor Mendez-
Keynote Address 2016, Texas State University*

ESMOAS Student Success Elsewhere

- Four of our teams boast a 100% acceptance rate to law school among their team.
- In three of our participating schools combined, 9 of the last 12 student body presidents have been active ESMOAS members.
- Each year, students are provided networking opportunities with recruiters and ambassadors within the US State Department
- In just the past five years, the ESMOAS alumni have a 100% law/graduate school acceptance rate, obtained ~20 internships with either the foreign service, the OAS, the UN, or the US Congress
- Many of our Mexican universities place multiple students in positions within the Mexican equivalent of the foreign service and the UN

A Year-Round, Uniquely Hybrid Experience

The ESMOAS Conference in November is unique among all Latin American studies conference nationwide, in that it is actually three conferences, one each fall, one each spring, and one held in conjunction with the others semi-annually. The three sections are:



Summit of the Americas

- Simulation of the OAS (similar to Model UN)
- And the Summit of the Americas (heads of state)
- 4-7 Students per Team
- \$60 per student (up to 2 faculty free)
- Debate in 3-5 different topical committees
- Professionally judged by experts and program alumni now working in the field
- Open to undergraduate and graduate students (judged on separate levels)
- In person or online participation

Inter-American Court of Human Rights Moot Court

- Simulation of the IACHR legal proceedings
- Moot Court Format (3-6 judges, state vs. petitioner)
- 2 students per team (one state, one petitioner)
- \$60 per student (faculty free)
- Teams argue a hypothetical human rights case
- Awards for both written and oral performance
- Open to undergraduates, graduates, or first-year law students (judged on separate levels)
- Judged by program alumni and current legal professionals
- In person or online participation

ESMOAS Academic Conference

- Traditional Academic Research Conference, held every 3-4 years concurrently with Summit conference
- Papers presented in panels of three, 1.5 hours per panel with moderated discussion
- Open to students and faculty of all levels
- Paper panels are open to other participants in the program and, because of this, are very well-attended
- \$100 per presenter
- Publication deal for papers presented likely in 2021 (past six conferences have been published).



ESMOAS Summit: How Does the Program Work?

The ESMOAS Summit of the Americas can generally be split into three phases: pre-semester preparation, semester research and writing, and the conference in November.



Agenda topics to be debated during the Summit are determined by the previous Summit's participants, and are distributed among 3-5 topical committees. Registered delegations are then randomly assigned countries to represent. Teams begin researching their country and learning proper debate under the ESMOAS Rules of Procedure. Many choose to participate in the annual parliamentary workshop to further hone their skills.

During the semester, teams produce a position paper outlining their country's position and previous achievements in relation to each committee topic. They also practice parliamentary procedure, and each delegate crafts a proposal to be presented and debated for adoption in his/her committee. These items are submitted before the competition, vetted, judged, and distributed just ahead of the conference to all delegations. The General Committee, made up of each team's head delegates, simulates a meeting of Heads of State, and debates funding for the previous year's passed resolutions, as well as special sessions presented during the conference.



During the competition, delegates present their proposals on behalf of their country and debate them. On the second evening, a previously undisclosed "crisis" is announced. Members of the ESMOAS General Committee (the committee comprised of head delegates who emulate the country's actual head of state) must present a speech that evening in response, and then craft, together, a joint declaration in response to the crisis the following morning after conferring with their delegation. Delegates and teams are judged on their debate skills, speaking, research, and adherence to rules and position. Other committee members are given other extra tasks during the course of the event, including budgetary exercises and "secret missions" that only they and the judges are aware of.



After the competition, participants who performed at the highest level are recruited for the opportunity to serve students are recruited to become volunteers for the following conference, first as judges of written work. The best of the best continue on, serving alongside guest ambassadors and dignitaries as conference judges in future models. This system provides the students additional resume and C.V. support, while consistently providing our program with qualified and passionate support staff.



Summit: Recruiting and Class Preparation

Committee topics often vary considerably, allowing just about any student to be a valuable team member. Though political science, international relations, and Latin American/Hispanic studies majors generally make up a large percentage of ESMOAS teams, you can recruit from almost any area of study. Topics are spread across committees dealing with political procedures, human rights, international security, economics, the environment, and other pertinent topics, thus giving students from many different educational backgrounds the opportunity to apply their skills. Much of the training can be done through the program's website, which offers training materials for every step, from written instructions to video training sessions.



Many participating universities offer the ESMOAS program as a credit class as part of an approved curriculum, either offering it as a world history elective, a political science elective, an honors credit, part of a required “keystone” experience, or a Latin American studies class. Others offer participation in the conference as an extracurricular student organization. For those planning a class, a sample course schedule follows this page.

Helpful Links for Classroom Preparation and Research

www.oas.org

www.esmoas.org

www.summit-americas.org

<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/index.htm>

<http://www.sice.oas.org/>

<http://www.usoas.usmission.gov/>

http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=413

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/americas>

<http://www.bnamericas.com/>

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/latin_america/

Organization of American States

Our Model's Official Website

Summit of the Americas Conference

US Dept. of Western Hemispheric Affairs

OAS Foreign Trade Database

US Mission to the OAS

Inter-American Human Rights Information

NY Times News of the Americas

Latin American Business News Summary

Univ. of Texas Latin American Info System

BBC Latin American News

IACHR Moot Court: How Does It Work?

The ESMOAS IACHR Moot Court Competition can generally also be split into four periods: Hypothetical case research, legal memorial writing, preliminary oral rounds, and the tournament.



Early each spring semester, the hypothetical case for the moot court competition is written by a team of law school faculty and graduates. The case is released in mid-February. A three-week period follows the release, during which teams interview representatives for each side of the case, and gather information to write their arguments. During case prep and research, one student works from the state side, the other from the petitioner side, crafting a case together.

Each member of the pair is responsible for writing a legal briefing known as a “memorial,” outlining their side of the case. The memorials are each made up of a title page, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of facts, legal analysis, and request for relief. The instructions and templates for this style of legal writing are taught through videos and training materials found on the ESMOAS website, and in person through an instructional workshop online. The memorials are turned in around one week before the preliminary round of hearings, and are released for all teams to review.



Each student is then required to argue the case against an opposing counsel from another team in a courtroom format. This first happens remotely, via Zoom, in the Preliminary Oral Rounds, where the team presents both its state case and its petitioner case against a different team in two different sessions before a panel of judges, who then may ask questions of the team members. Judges score the two oral rounds and combine these scores with the scores for the written memorials. The judges also provide feedback on how to improve their arguments before the tournament rounds. Teams are then seeded according to total score and face each other in the double elimination tournament round, held two weeks later in person. Lower seeded teams get to choose which side they represent in the early tournament rounds.



Besides the overall team award, given to the winner of the tournament rounds, judges give awards for overall team written and oral performance, and for individual oral performance, as well.

A Sample Summit Course Schedule

Many ESMOAS teams begin as an extracurricular activity or even a student organization, then grow into a for-credit course as part of an academic course of study. There are, of course, multiple ways to set up an ESMOAS academic course. The schedule below includes the due dates set by the model in italics. The weeks listed include what the average ESMOAS team is most likely working on during that week. This information has been collected from four different participants' syllabi, all of which are available from the Head Coordinator at any faculty member's request.

August 1 **Teams pay deposits, get access to website & materials**

Week One (Aug 26-Sep 1)- Introduce the OAS, ESMOAS Training Videos

September 6 **Registered teams receive country assignments**

Week Two (Sep 2-8)- Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure

Week Three (Sep 9-15) Parliamentary Procedure II, Intro to Country

Week Four (Sep 16-22) Basics of ESMOAS Debate, Political History of Country

Week Five (Sep 23-29) Basics of Debate II, Country Stance on Agenda Topics

September 29 **Parliamentary Workshop (optional, Our Lady of the Lake Univ.)**

Week Six (Sep 30-Oct 6) Advanced Debate, The OAS Budget, Trade Blocs

Week Seven (Oct 7-13) Country Agenda & Stance, Position Paper Research

October 13 **Last day to register or add teams**

Week Eight (Oct 14-20) Position Paper Polishing, The Inter-American System

October 18 **Team Position Papers and Official Rosters due**

Week Nine (Oct 21-27) ESMOAS Special Sessions, Finish Resolutions

Week Ten (Oct 28-Nov 3)- Final Check on Resolutions, Crisis Preparation

October 30 **Individual Resolutions due**

Week Eleven (Nov 4-10)- Reading of Opponent Position Papers & Resolutions

November 8-10 **Summit of the Americas 28 (Baylor University)**

Week Twelve (Nov 11-17)- Debrief and Student Feedback Session

"Dead Week" (Nov 18-25)

November 25 **Team Evaluations and press releases sent**

Finals Week (Dec 9-13)- Final paper on either country or OAS

A Sample IACHR Course Schedule

Many ESMOAS teams begin as an extracurricular activity, then grow into a for-credit course as part of an academic course of study. There are, of course, multiple ways to set up an ESMOAS academic course. The schedule below includes the due dates set by the model in italics. The weeks listed include what the average ESMOAS team is most likely working on during that week. This information has been collected from four different participants' syllabi, all of which are available from the Head Coordinator at any faculty member's request.

January 13 Registration for IACHR Opens

Week One (Jan 20-26)- Intro to IACHR & International Human Rights Law

Week Two (Jan 27-Feb 2)- Introduction to Moot Court Procedures

February 2 IACHR Instructional Workshop (Remote via Zoom)

Week Three (Feb 3-9)- "Roadmapping" and the Structure of Legal Arguments

Week Four (Feb 10-16)

February 14 Hypothetical Case Released

Week Five (Feb 17-23)- Analysis of the Hypothetical & Related Case Law

February 17 Client Interview Period Begins (2 Scheduled Interviews)

Week Six (Feb 24-Mar 2)- Structure of the Legal Memorial, Case Research

March 3 Preliminary Matchups Announced

Week Seven (Mar 3-9)- Case Research, Writing the Memorial & Statements

Week Eight (Mar 10-16): Spring Break

Week Eight (Mar 17-23)- Final Memorial Editing, Oral Argument Structure

Week Nine (Mar 24-30)- Oral Argument Practice, Studying Opposing Side

April 4 Written Memorials Due

Week Ten (Mar 31-Apr 6)- Rebuttal & Surrebuttal

Week Eleven (Apr 7-13)- Editing & Improving the Argument

April 18-19 Preliminary Oral Rounds (Remote via Zoom) & Feedback

Week Twelve (Apr 14-20)

April 25-26 IACHR Tournament Round (St. Mary's University)

Finals Week (May 9-14)- Final paper on experience or the IACHR

The Written Elements of the Summit Competition

Position Papers are required for each team; Resolutions are optional, but some should be submitted to fulfill written score requirements.

The Position Paper

Each delegation is required to submit a position paper before the competition. This paper serves several purposes. It allows the team to research its assigned country and develop an overall agenda and identity, it provides a framework under which the delegation's proposals are presented, and it provides the judging committee a document to compare delegations' actions during debate against. One of the ways delegations are judged is in how well they adhere to the agenda spelled out in their position paper.

Elements of the Position Paper

- A statement regarding each respective topic in each respective committee
- For each topic, a summary of what the country has done in the recent past to address the issue
- For each topic, a brief statement of the delegation's interest, intent, and/or agenda regarding the issue while at the conference

The Resolution

Proposals are written for each committee topic by individual delegates. These are short (1/2 page maximum) suggestions of programs, policies, or statements the OAS can enact on a hemisphere-wide basis. The individual proposals serve as the basis for debate in committees during the conference.

Elements of the Resolution

- Resolutions are formatted using a template provided in the Rules of Procedure, and include a very brief explanation of the proposal, and a basic outline of its execution (what organ of the OAS will operate/supervise it, where the funding will come from).
- Each resolution must perform within the parameters of the OAS and its mission, without violating the individual sovereignty of member states or committing the organization beyond its financial or institutional capacities.

The Written Elements of the IACHR Competition

Written Memorials

Each delegation is team submits two written memorials (one for each side of the case). Memorials must include a list of elements provided in the Rules of Procedure, and generally run around 20-40 pages. The written memorial is essentially the outline of your case.

Elements of the Memorial

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Index of Authorities
- Statement of Facts
- Legal Analysis
- Request for Relief

ESMOAS Budget Planner

Approximate Fees & Costs	Expenses
Registration Fee (Summit Team) \$60/ea Registration Fee (IACHR Team) \$100/ea Fees waived for up to 2 faculty sponsors	Summit Delegation: \$240-\$420 IACHR Team: \$200
Summit Lodging (Average 3 rooms per team, 2 nights) IACHR Lodging (Average 2 rooms for up to 2 teams)	\$130 /night, \$720 total per team \$130/night \$260 per team)
Team Non-Refundable Deposit (Either Conference)	\$100 / university

What the Conference Registration Fees Cover

- One lunch and one dinner (Summit), or opening reception/refreshments and one lunch (IACHR)
- Faculty luncheon and registration fees waived (up to 2)
- Awards (lapel pins, certificates, plaques, and/or gavels)
- All Conference Materials (Name Badges, Folders, Programs, etc.)
- Qualified judges and their written evaluations and feedback for the entirety of either conference. Summit judges are professionals with ESMOAS past award winning experience, while IACHR judges are also ESMOAS alumni with postgraduate and legal degrees.
- Membership in a vast, worldwide network of former ESMOAS participants—an active community that can help new graduates and young students establish themselves into careers and service opportunities.
- Access to the ESMOAS website and the team’s own customized Team Dashboard page, through which they can access training materials, sample documents, videos, and other preparation materials free of charge, year-round.

The Parliamentary Procedures Workshop

A valuable resource for practicing the rules of debate and beginning networking relationships with other delegations is the annual ESMOAS Parliamentary Procedures Workshop. This workshop is a one day event held at an ESMOAS participating university and broadcast online via Zoom.



Cost:

The Parliamentary Workshop costs approximately \$60 per student (this varies somewhat by location). New schools receive 2 free registration passes. With registration, teams also receive a wealth of digital materials designed to help instruct delegates in proper use of parliamentary procedure and preparation for debate of their proposals and defense of their agendas.

What the Workshop Provides:

- Individual training sessions for head delegates, advanced delegates, beginners, IACHR moot court participants, and candidates for committee chairperson or other offices.
- Sessions on proposal writing, position paper writing, topic research, fund raising, team building, diplomacy, debate strategy, online speaking, “room reading,” and all applicable parliamentary rules and procedures.
- Question and answer session with the ESMOAS coordinator and staff.
- Special session for new faculty.



Academic Recognition and Growth

ESMOAS has continued a tradition of competition and awards, and is unique in its inclusion of a competitive element to the ESMOAS conference. Recognition of quality individual and team efforts is an important component of our academic program, as awards help encourage institutional support of your team and confidence in individual students. Awards are given for multiple types of success and are assessed from different points of view, giving everyone's individual talents a chance to be rewarded.



Awards Given by Fellow Students

- Delegates vote for the best fellow delegate in each committee, and each committee gives out two awards based on these votes

Awards Given by the Vetting Committee

- Awards are given by objective third-party reviewers for the best researched and written proposals in each committee, and the best researched and written budgetary statement in the budgetary committee

Awards Given by the Judging Committee

Judges give awards for the written position paper, as well as overall team awards, awards for leadership to head delegates, awards for committee chairpersons and rapporteurs, best use of parliamentary procedures, diplomacy, awards for the best performing delegation from outside the United States, and awards for the best overall performances by individual delegates

IACHR judges award for oral presentation, written work, and overall team awards

Opportunities for students after graduation



After graduation, students who have won awards, held leadership positions on their teams, or have otherwise distinguished themselves are offered opportunities to serve as volunteers in the organization. Students first may serve on the Vetting Committee, which reads and approves proposals for inclusion on the conference agenda. Students with experience on this committee can later be added to our Judging Committee. Judges are provided lodging and meals during the ESMOAS conference and, in return, provide teams with written evaluations of their performance, along

with giving out team awards. Students can also serve as document translators, recruiters, on-site support volunteers, and as event planners. All receive letters of thanks and offers for references.

Students also can remain a part of the ESMOAS networking community through membership in the ESMOAS Facebook group, which routinely assists students in building connections with one another across borders, and often serves as an ESMOAS alumnus's first academic support network. Friends and colleagues who have met at ESMOAS events have continued their friendships and working relationships well beyond their college years.

Contact Information and ESMOAS Links



ESMOAS 2024 General Information

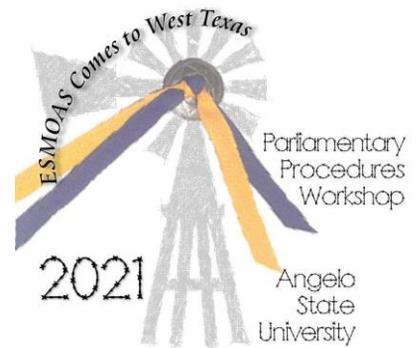
Web: www.esmoas.org/summit

Email: moascentral@gmail.com

IACHR Moot Court Competition 2025 General Information

Web: esmoas.org/iachr

Email: moascentral@gmail.com



Individual Contacts

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Assistant Director: Tyler Quebedeaux

Judging Committee Chair: Diane Draper

Special Assistance
for Latin American Universities: Gustavo Elizondo