

The Eugene Scassa Mock Organization of American States



An Introduction to the
ESMOAS Program

ESMOAS: Past Keynote Speakers/Guests

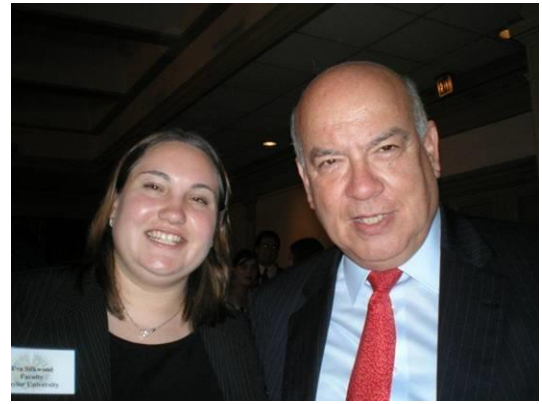
Each year, the ESMOAS Program invites special guests to give keynote speeches, provide information on careers in diplomacy, and speak directly with prospective graduates about future careers in law, political relations, and beyond. We have enjoyed great success in creating networking opportunities for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

ESMOAS: A Uniquely “Hybrid” Conference

The ESMOAS Conference in November is unique among all Latin American studies conference nationwide, in that it is actually three conferences, held concurrently, and scheduled so that students and faculty can attend and interact with others attending each of the different conference components. 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
- 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
- \$50 per undergraduate presenter or \$100 per graduate student or faculty presenter
- Publication deal for papers presented likely in 2021 (past five conferences have been published).
- In person November 5-6, 2021, online November 12-13.



ESMOOAS 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.



Before the start of the fall semester, the Steering Committee selects topics for the upcoming conference. These topics are distributed among five committees. Topics and committee names are announced, then registered delegations are 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.

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 as part of a joint declaration each committee is tasked with creating and adopting by consensus. Proposals are accompanied by a White Paper (a detailed document of research related to the committee topic and the country's position and achievements). These items are submitted before the competition, vetted, judged, and distributed just ahead of the conference to all delegations.



During the competition, delegates present their proposals on behalf of their country and debate them. On Friday 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 on Saturday 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.



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 three ways: Case research, memorial writing, and the oral rounds in November.



Before the start of the fall semester, the hypothetical case for the moot court competition is written by a team of law school faculty and graduates. The case is released during the annual Parliamentary Workshop, at which time a clarification period of 2 weeks begins. During this, each team (consisting of two students) may ask questions about the case. 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 at the parliamentary workshop (held in September) and are available online. These memorials are turned in around ten days prior to the conference, and are available for all teams to review beginning a day or two before the conference.



At the conference, teams participate in 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. Teams are then seeded according to total score and face each other in single-elimination tournament rounds on the second day, until a final round. Lower seeded teams get to choose which side they represent.



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.

Week 1	Class Receives Country Assignment, OAS/ Introduction
Week 2	Research on Country and OAS Structure Assign Team Members a Practice Country for Sessions
Week 3	Team Receives Committee Assignments, Topics to Research
Week 4	Country Research and Parliamentary Practice
Week 5	Position Paper Research and Parliamentary Practice <i>Parliamentary Workshop generally held at the end of September</i>
Week 6	Proposal Brainstorming/ Research, Position Paper Writing
Week 7	Proposal and White Paper Writing, Debate Practice
Week 8	Final Position Paper Editing <i>Position Papers are due about three weeks before the conference</i>
Week 9	Proposal Debating and Fine Tuning
Week 10	Proposal and White Paper Editing and Submission <i>Proposals & White Papers are due around 2 weeks before the competition</i>
Week 11	Review Posted White Papers, Positions, Final Debate Practice <i>ESMOAS Conference in early November</i>
Week 12	Summary Writing Assignment Final Exam (On Country, Position Paper, Procedures, etc)

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Week 1-2 **Intro to International Law & the Inter-American System**

Week 3-4 **Roadmapping, the Structure of Legal Arguments**

Week 5 **Hypothetical Case is Released at Workshop**

Week 6 **Clarification Period, Early Case Study**

Week 7-9 **Memorial Writing, Oral Argument Practice**

Week 10 **Matchups Drawn for Opening Round**

ESMOAS Conference in early November

Week 12 **Evaluations Returned to Team**

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 Proposal & White Paper

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 Proposal

- Proposals 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 proposal 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.
- All proposals must be accompanied by a White Paper, a longer and more detailed outline of the proposal and the research behind it, including laying a case for why the proposal is necessary and why it should be adopted. Delegations are provided these papers before the conference, and use them to prepare cases for or against them, which they will then present in debate.

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

The ESMOAS Academic Conference

Research Papers at ESMOAS

- Abstracts due around 2 months before conference
- Complete paper should be 20-25 pages long
- 20-30 minutes to present
- Chicago Manual of Style strongly urged for those wishing to publish
- Final copy for publisher generally due February 1
- Open to students or faculty of all levels
- In person panels will be held in conjunction with the conference. Online panels, held the following weekend, will be available for presenters unable to travel or who are competing.

ESMOAS Budget Planner

Approximate Fees & Costs	Expenses						
Registration Fee (Summit Team) \$60/ea Registration Fee (IACHR Team) \$60/ea Fees waived for up to 2 faculty sponsors	Summit Delegation: \$240-\$420 IACHR Team: \$120 Academic Conference: \$50/undergrad (\$100/grad or faculty) per presenter						
Lodging (Average 3 rooms per team, 3 nights) (in person only)	~100/night * 9 total nights \$900						
Total Cost for one Summit delegation (~5 students + 1 faculty) attending in person	<table> <tr> <td>Registration</td> <td>\$300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lodging</td> <td>\$900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fuel/Transp.</td> <td>\$60 (avg)</td> </tr> </table>	Registration	\$300	Lodging	\$900	Fuel/Transp.	\$60 (avg)
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Lodging	\$900						
Fuel/Transp.	\$60 (avg)						

Other San Antonio Information

Sales Tax Rate:	8.25%
Hotel Tax Rate:	9%
Convention & Visitors Bureau:	www.sanantonio.gov
St. Mary's University Website:	www.stmarytx.edu

What the Conference Registration Fees Cover

- One luncheon for faculty/presenters
- One informal lunch for participants
- One seated brunch and awards gala
- All Conference Materials (Name Badges, Folders, Programs, etc.)
- Additional Snacks and Refreshments
- Access to all events (Summit competition, IACHR competition, Academic Conference panels, networking events, keynote speech, and other career-building or academic-enrichment opportunities)
- Mini workshops, held online, during the month leading up to the competition, usually hosted by former participants now working in the field. Topics range from graduate school application to careers in law, diplomacy, academics, and beyond. Held online for remote participation
- 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.

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.



Scrimmage Practices

All delegates registered for the workshop will also have the opportunity to attend, 1-2 weeks after the workshop, a scrimmage practice debate with at least one other participating school. These debates will be offered both in person at select host universities and online via Zoom, and will include members of the ESMOAS Judging Committee, who will provide real-time instruction and constructive critiques to participants, to help hone their diplomatic skills. These are optional events.



The ESMOAS Academic Conference

The Academic Conference portion of the program is a traditional academic research conference format, with undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty presenting papers on the theme for the year.



The registration fee for the academic conference is \$60 per undergraduate presenter or \$100 for any graduate or postgraduate/faculty presenter. Discounts for entire panels of three papers are provided. Presenters are provided some meals during the conference as part of their fee, and are invited to include papers in publications stemming from the conference proceedings. Proceedings have recently been published through Cambridge University Scholars Press.

The conference format is unique in that the student portions of the conference (summit and IACHR proceedings) are scheduled so that at least 25-50% of participants are always free to attend each paper panel, thus ensuring a good turnout and quality discussion for each panel. Panels also include moderators/commentators from the host university, and are given extra time for informal comments and questions. The program takes pride in providing recent graduates and graduate students, as well as faculty, with an inviting conference that is based on a welcoming and warm attitude towards presenters. This makes the ESMOAS Academic Conference an ideal place for a graduate to begin a career of conference presentations.

Those wishing to present research in person are invited to attend the conference held in conjunction with the Summit and IACHR proceedings. For online participants, a Zoom-based online conference option will be available the weekend after the conference.



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 2021 General Information

Web: www.esmoas.org

Email: moascentral@gmail.com

Parliamentary Workshop Information

Web: esmoas.org/pp-workshop.html

Host 2021: Angelo State University



Individual Contacts

Program Director: Joshua Hyles
moascentral@gmail.com
(817) 797-3051

ESMOAS Hosts: Dr. Betsy Smith
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