

META United Nations Summer School

The Resilience of Multilateralism in Times of Uncertainty

2–5 September 2026

In person at University of Warsaw, Poland

25 places available

About the Summer School

Multilateralism, as it has developed since 1945, is under serious threat. The emergence of great power competition, combined with the retraction of established anchors of international order, jeopardises not only the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation but the very existence of core institutions such as the United Nations. At the same time, international cooperation has never been more urgently needed — to address questions of security, economic inequality, migration, artificial intelligence, and the climate crisis.

This Summer School brings together PhD students from across the 4EU+ Alliance for an intensive, interdisciplinary engagement with the history and contemporary reality of multilateralism. Working alongside leading scholars from the fields of history, international law, and political science, participants will explore the current crisis and contribute to developing responses to it.

Programme overview

The four-day programme is structured around three thematic pillars:

- The history of multilateralism from the League of Nations (1919) to the present, including an analysis of past crises and their resolution
- Multilateral institutions today — focusing on the United Nations, states' disengagement, and alternatives such as the US-led Board of Peace
- The role of non-state actors — transnational corporations, civil society, and NGOs — in shaping and challenging the multilateral order

Each day combines expert lectures with structured debates and sessions in which participants present and discuss their own doctoral research.

Eligibility

The Summer School is open to PhD students enrolled at universities within the 4EU+ Alliance. Candidates from all relevant disciplinary backgrounds are welcome, including history, international law, political science, and related fields. Only applicants affiliated with a 4EU+ Alliance university at the time of application will be considered.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted by email MetaUN@ipr.uni-heidelberg.de and must include **a single PDF document** containing the following:

- Academic CV indicating most relevant academic achievements and experience in research activities
- A motivation letter (maximum two pages) setting out your reasons for wishing to attend the Summer School, your current stage of doctoral work, and how the programme relates to your research interests
- A short presentation of your PhD project (maximum one page), including its research question, methodology, and current state of progress
- Your institutional affiliation and the name of your doctoral supervisor

Documents should be submitted as a single PDF file, named Surname FirstName META2026.pdf.

Key dates

Application deadline: 25 June 2026

Notification of results: 5 July 2026

Selection of candidates

Selection decisions are made by the organising committee of the META United Nations project on the basis of the submitted materials. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 5 July 2026. At least 3 participants from each 4EU+ university will be selected (provided applications are submitted). The committee's decisions are final; no appeals procedure is foreseen.

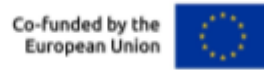
Practical information and costs

The organisers will cover the following costs for all accepted participants:

- Travel (flights or equivalent)
- Accommodation (hotel room with breakfast) for the duration of the Summer School (5 nights maximum)
- Catering during the sessions (2-5 September); welcome dinner 2 September; farewell dinner 5 September

The organisers do not cover: travel insurance, visa fees, or any other personal expenses beyond those listed above. Participants are responsible for arranging their own insurance and for any additional costs incurred before, during, or after the event.

The Summer School is held in English. Further information on the programme schedule, logistics, and preparatory reading materials will be communicated to accepted candidates following notification of results.



Organising Committee

- Professor Morten Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen
- Professor Giovanna Adinolfi, University of Milan
- Professor Anton Stefan Zimmermann, University of Heidelberg
- Professor Dorota Heidrich, University of Warsaw

Contact the organizers at: MetaUN@ipr.uni-heidelberg.de

Part of the META United Nations project within the 4EU+ Alliance, <https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1016.html>