

# U-M Delegation to UNFCCC COP-22 Marrakech, Morocco — 7-18 November 2016

## Overview

This document provides course information, expectations, and application materials for students who hope to attend the UNFCCC COP Conferences as a student representative of the University of Michigan.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a non-binding international environmental treaty drafted at the Rio Earth Summit in June 1992. At the annual Conferences of the Parties (COP), the Convention's signatory nations meet to assess the effects of measures taken by the Parties and the progress made in achieving the twin goals of *mitigation* — stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent truly catastrophic climate change — and *adaptation* to those climatic changes that cannot be prevented.

Currently there are 195 Parties (or countries) to the Convention. Students who attend the COP conference will gain tangible skills and exposure to global policy-making, and expand their personal networks for research and career development.

Below, a “candidate” means a person who has *expressed interest in attending* the COP and has completed the U-M application form by **April 18, 2016**. A “delegate” means a person who has been *selected to attend* the COP and will represent the University of Michigan.

### **COP Course: Wednesdays 5-6 pm, NRE 501.158**

To pursue the goal of becoming a delegate, candidates must enroll in a one credit course (NRE 501.158, cross listed as CLIMATE 601) that is scheduled to meet on Wednesdays in the fall from 5-6 pm September 7 through October 19. Registration for the course does not guarantee being selected to attend the COP.

### **Timing**

Applications will be reviewed and prioritized before the class begins in September. The United Nations requires us to submit the names of all interested individuals by June 1, 2016. All candidates will be submitted by June 1, regardless of ranking. (**NOTE:** If your name is being submitted with another organization, you must let U-M know immediately, as duplicate passport entries could cause confusion.)

The United Nations will look through the requests of all interested organizations and inform each organization of how many delegates it is allowed to send. We hope to inform students before the start of the course whether they have been selected to represent the University of Michigan. However, this will depend entirely on when the UN informs us of how many delegates we can bring.

### **Eligibility & Application Process**

To be eligible, you must be a student in good academic standing (minimum 3.0 GPA) and must not have already participated in a UM COP delegation. Students will be selected based on potential for leadership (as demonstrated by active involvement in his/her communities), strong written and verbal communication skills, and fit with long-term career goals.

To apply, interested students must write a short essay answering the questions listed below and send the application, your most recent resumé (CV), and a copy of your transcripts (unofficial is ok) to Ashley Richardson ([ashricha@umich.edu](mailto:ashricha@umich.edu)) by **Monday, April 18 at 5pm**.

## **Expectations of Delegates**

The Conference of Parties (COP-22) will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7-18 November 2016. Delegates will attend one of these two weeks, in addition to the weekend before and after that week. Attendees must work with their other professors to create a plan for how they will make up for missed class time.

If you are selected, you will be responsible for booking your own travel, ensuring that you have the proper visa,<sup>1</sup> securing sleeping accommodations, registering with the U-M Travel Registry and obtaining Travel Abroad Insurance. Some logistics such as accommodations may be discussed and coordinated in the class.

Each student is responsible for securing his/her own funding. Financing for airfare and lodging **may** be made available through the student's program of study, but there will likely be additional expenses that will not be covered by the school.

## **Preparation**

Delegates will work with each other intensively over the months preceding the conference to craft the delegation's priorities and activities around the conference. A commitment to collaborating and working as a team is essential to have a successful and fulfilling experience with the delegation to the Conference of Parties.

- Delegates will need to be accessible by email and will continue to plan for the COP after the conclusion of the course.
- Delegates will need to spend time in the class and on their own learning about the negotiations, gaining familiarity with the framework, briefings, agendas, and deadlines, and conducting any relevant research.
- Delegates will need to pick up a country or region and familiarize themselves with the priorities and redlines of that specific country/region in the climate negotiation.
- Delegates will be required to collect information on previous COP negotiations and the strength and weaknesses of previous meetings.
- During the class, students will carefully plan detailed itineraries for the meeting, since it is a large and confusing gathering with many side events. This will help ensure a fulfilling visit.

## **Community Engagement**

Delegates will be representing both the University of Michigan and their other communities at COP. Before, during, and after the COP, students will be expected to engage both the SNRE community and their local community through education and outreach. The community engagement dimension will build awareness of the international climate negotiations before, during, and after the COP.

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<sup>1</sup> US citizens do not need a visa to travel to Morocco for short visits. Citizens of other countries should investigate the Moroccan government's visa requirements at <http://www.moroccanconsulate.com/visa.cfm>.

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As part of the team, delegates will:

- Blog before, during, and after the conference on issues relevant to the U-M community and their home community
- Complete a post-conference report
- Lead a round-table or panel presentation, delivering findings to the U-M community
- Provide policy recommendation through a short policy memo for the government of their country/region of focus

### **Time Commitment**

*In addition to the course*, delegates will need to commit approximately five hours per week on preparations through November. An additional 20 to 30 hours will be expected after the COP.

### **Application Questions**

*Please answer the following three questions. Use no more than 500 words total.*

*Submit your application, your most recent resumé (CV), and a copy of your transcripts (unofficial is ok) to Ashley Richardson by April 18, 5pm.*

I have read the expectations and understand that that this conference occurs during school time and have discussed this with my professors and am committed to attending. \_\_\_\_ Yes

<b>First Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Last Name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Program of Study</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Passport Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Email Address</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Country of Issue</b>	<input type="text"/>

  

	<b>Day</b>	<b>Month (spell out)</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Birthdate</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

1. What motivates you to study and/or work in the field of international policy and climate policy?
2. Given your background and experience, how do you see yourself contributing to the delegation at the COP?
3. What are your career goals after graduation? How would serving as a delegate to the COP contribute to your career goals?