

Athens Democracy Forum 2021
After the Storms: From Crisis to Renewal
29 September – 1 October 2021

We are pleased to announce that the [Global Liberal Arts Alliance](#) will once again join [Deree-The American College of Greece](#) as Educational Partner for the prestigious [Athens Democracy Forum](#). The Forum is organized by the [Democracy and Culture Foundation](#).

The theme for 2021 is “After the Storms: From Crisis to Renewal”. Forum sessions will address a range of topics, including: Alternative Tools of Democracy, From the Ground Up: New Economic Models, Wake Up to Climate Change, Disinformation's Black Hole, Rethinking Work, Art as Activism, and Fast-Track Democracies. Panels and workshops will emphasize the “Do” part of the Democracy and Culture Foundation’s Think-Talk-Do impact chain.

This is the fifth year that Deree-ACG and the Alliance will coordinate Forum programming for a team of student delegates from Alliance institutions to attend the Athens Democracy Forum. Each year has seen a deepening of our relationship with the Forum leading to greater involvement by our students. Building on this, we want to increase the impact on the students’ home campuses.

Nomination of Student Delegates

Each Global Alliance member institution may nominate up to two candidates to be considered for selection for the Alliance delegation to attend the Forum. From this pool of candidates, 24 students will be selected. The selection process seeks to create a delegation that offers a globally balanced and compelling set of perspectives. Alliance schools from the U.S. are encouraged to consider international students in their nominations. Candidates nominated must be *undergraduates* who will be enrolled at an Alliance school in 2021-22 and must be endorsed by their campus’ chief academic officer. Candidates should be able to work with students from diverse backgrounds.

Students should take their course load and the number of days they will miss class (including travel days) into account in considering whether to apply (see Important Dates below).

In-Person Participation: The 2021 Forum will be smaller than previous years with a limit of 100 in-person delegates. We have been invited to take up to 14 students to the Forum site each day. The details are being worked out, but we envision creating two cohorts of 12 students from the 24 invited to Athens. Each day one cohort will attend the Forum in person and the other cohort will watch the live stream together on the ACG campus. The cohorts will switch places on the next day. It is our hope that all students will attend the first half-day, including the spectacular opening reception at the Acropolis Museum.

Covid Caveat: Our plan to bring students to Athens and travel to the Forum site is contingent on the ability to do so safely. This plan could be changed by Covid restrictions, possibly on very short notice, as happened in 2020. We will monitor the situation through the summer and into the fall, adjusting as needed. Everyone traveling to Athens will be required to meet testing and vaccination requirements set by Greece, the airlines, the student’s home country/campus, and the American College of Greece.

Expenses

The Forum will provide the registration fee. The American College of Greece will provide most meals, local transportation, and manage program activities. Students will be awarded an Endeavor Fellowship to cover lodging and airfare (up to a maximum) from an airport near their home campus to Athens. Delegates will be responsible for COVID vaccination and testing (if required), visa fees, some meals, and incidentals.

Scope of Student Involvement at the Forum

Students are full delegates to the Forum and are invited to attend all sessions (in-person or virtually, as described above). Student delegates are expected to make meaningful contributions, particularly in providing a youth perspective from their part of the world. Details of involvement are being worked out but will include the following.

Forum Topic Panel Questions: There will be a panel for each of the Forum topics. Alliance students will be invited to ask the first question for each panel.

Forum Topic Panels Videos: Prior to each of the Forum Topic panels, two one-minute videos created by students will be shown that respond to a prompt related to one of the panels.

Viewpoint Essay (optional): Students may elect to write – individually or in a small group – an opinion piece (~800 words) on their views and reactions to topics discussed during the Forum. Select pieces will be published in the *Kathimerini* English Edition.

Democracy & Culture Foundation Reflections Series (optional): A student version of the short [thought pieces](#) written by some of last year's invited speakers.

The reports and videos created for the 2020 Forum can be found on the [Forum Reports page](#).

Requirements of Participation

Students invited to attend the Forum are required to participate in the following:

Summer Work: Students must commit to doing preparatory work over the summer and in Athens prior to the Forum. This will include working in small groups (via email and videoconference) to discuss a few short readings and the Forum topics.

Youth Video Series: Prior to the Forum, each student must create a one-minute video in response to a prompt related to a Forum topic. Selected videos will be shown at the Forum.

Reports: Students will be a co-author of at least one report on events at the Forum.

Individual Reflection: Students are required to write a reflective essay on their experience.

Post-Forum Actions: At the end of the Forum, each student will create an action plan to take back to their campus. Actions can include sharing their experience: with peers through classroom discussion, public talks, radio interviews, or articles in the campus newspaper; via participation in campus clubs and organizations; and/or through engagement around local/national elections, campus or community dialogues, or other programs of the student's design and implementation (we will provide a Dialogue Toolkit to facilitate this). In Spring 2022, students will be asked what they have done to bring their experience back to their campus and local community.

Liability

Institutions sending students to the Athens Democracy Forum should recognize this program as an institutionally sponsored event (from the perspective of the student's home institution) and acknowledge that the institution holds full responsibility and liability for students traveling to, from, and during the program. The student's home institution is responsible for ensuring that their students have all the necessary travel documents (passport/visa) as well as medical and travel insurance (if applicable). If a flight is booked and then cancelled by the traveler, the GLCA will not be responsible for the costs associated with the cancellation. By choosing to participate in the Athens Democracy Forum students and sponsoring institutions are agreeing to assume these responsibilities and liabilities.

Students will also need to sign an American College of Greece release and waiver agreement, and comply with COVID restrictions and requirements set by the Greek government.

Application Materials and Process

Application to participate in the Athens Democracy Forum has two steps.

Step 1: An interested student submits the [Student Delegate Application](#) to their Chief Academic Officer (or designee). Consult your Chief Academic Officer (or designee) for your campus' application due date.

Step 2: Each Alliance campus selects up to two applications that are to be submitted by the school's Chief Academic Officer (or designee) to Simon Gray (Gray@glca.org). A review committee will make selections to create a group that represents a globally balanced set of perspectives and experience. There are 24 openings. We do not guarantee that one student per nominating campus will be selected.

A complete application consists of the following.

1. [Student Delegate Application](#)
2. Curriculum vitae/resume
3. Academic transcript (may be an unofficial transcript)

Important Dates

May 10: Campus nominations due to the Global Alliance office (Gray@glca.org)

May 31: Notification of acceptance

June 16: Visa application submitted (if needed)

June-Sept: Groups are assigned; groups meet by video conferencing/email and complete preparatory research

September 25/26: Student delegates arrive in Athens

September 29: Athens Democracy Forum opens

October 1: Athens Democracy Forum ends

October 2: Workday to draft reports (plus excursion!)

October 3: Student delegates return to their campuses

Contacts

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