

## **Athens Democracy Forum 2022**

### **A Decade of Democracy: What Now?**

### **28-30 September 2022**

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

The Athens Democracy Forum is marking its tenth anniversary. This will be the sixth year that Deree-ACG and the Alliance coordinate Forum programming for a team of student delegates from Alliance institutions to participate in the Forum. Building on our five years of experience and inspired by the Democracy and Culture Foundation's Think-Talk-Do impact chain, this year's programming will pursue two outcomes:

1. Prepare youth to be more meaningfully involved *now* in decision-making on issues that will affect their lives and push students to *act now*.
2. Give youth a *global perspective* by working with peers from other parts of the world and talking with business, community, government, and NGO leaders from around the world.

The theme for 2022, "A Decade of Democracy: What Now?", explores setbacks democracies have faced after what looked like good news from many corners of the world a decade ago. Forum sessions addressing this will include: A Decade of Democracy in China and Russia, Poland, Tunisia, and the United States; Rethinking Work: Life in the Metaverse; Rethinking Media: Truth Sayers and Nay Sayers; Rethinking the Planet: Climate Change and Gender Inequalities; Rethinking Capitalism: Finance's Big Bang. In addition, panels, tutorials, and workshops will emphasize the "Do" part of the Think-Talk-Do impact chain.

#### **Nomination of Student Delegates**

Each Global Alliance member institution may nominate up to two candidates to be considered for selection to the Alliance delegation to attend the Forum. Up to 24 students will be selected from this pool of candidates. The selection process will seek to create a delegation that offers a globally balanced and compelling set of perspectives. Alliance schools from the U.S. are strongly encouraged to consider international students in their nominations. Candidates nominated must be *undergraduates* who will be enrolled at an Alliance school in 2022-23 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 summer obligations, fall course load, and the number of days they will miss class (including travel days) into account in considering whether to apply. Students are expected to be a full participant in all preparatory work (summer and Athens), the Forum, and post-Forum reporting and action steps. Students may not arrive late or leave early (see Important Dates below).*

*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. We will monitor the situation into the fall, adjusting as needed. Everyone traveling to Athens must 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 some meals, local transportation, and manage program activities. Students will be awarded an Endeavor Fellowship to cover lodging, airfare from an airport near their home campus to Athens, a visa application (if needed), and a small meal stipend. Delegates will be responsible for incidentals while in Athens and during travel to and from Athens.

## 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 local conditions dictate). 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 a subset of the panels.

Forum Topic Panels Videos: One-minute videos created by students that respond to a prompt related to one of the sessions will be shown prior to the session.

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.

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

## Requirements of Participation

Students attending 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 readings and the Forum topics, producing short videos, and working on the post-Forum action plan.

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: By 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; through engagement around local/national elections, campus or community dialogues, or other programs of the student's design and implementation. We will provide resources to help you create your plan, and time will be allocated to work on the plan while we are in Athens with input from the ADF mentors. In Spring 2023, students will be asked to report on the status of their action plan.

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

May 30: Notification of acceptance

June 15: Visa application submitted (if needed)

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

September 24/25: Student delegates arrive in Athens

September 28: Athens Democracy Forum opens

September 30: Athens Democracy Forum ends

October 1: Workday to draft reports (plus excursion!)

October 2: Student delegates return to their campuses

### **ADF Mentors**

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