



2021 Space for Youth Competition

Call for Essays

#Youth4Climate2021

Description

The [United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs](#) (UNOOSA) and the [Space Generation Advisory Council](#) (SGAC) are launching an essay competition for students and young professionals. The competition aims at bringing new ideas and proposals to tackle climate challenges using space, thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the United Nations level, youth development and youth engagement are cross-cutting issues in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The [UN Youth Strategy](#), launched by the Secretary General in September 2018, recognizes that the empowerment, development and engagement of youth are goals as well as a means to build a better world.

UNOOSA works to strengthen international cooperation in space activities and in the use of space science and technology for achieving sustainable development. UNOOSA is the only United Nations Office entirely dedicated to outer space activities.

SGAC in support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications is a global non-governmental, non-profit organization and network representing university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, space agencies, industry, and academia.

To further promote youth voices, UNOOSA and SGAC have launched an essay competition for students and young professionals with the aim to highlight practices and experiences on the use of space for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Context

In view of the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([COP26](#)), which will be held in Glasgow in November 2021, Italy will host in Milan from September 28th to October 2nd, the preparatory ministerial meeting ([PreCOP](#)) and "[Youth4Climate2021: Driving Ambition](#)", the international climate event dedicated to young people.

In this context, Italy has prepared the "[All4Climate - Italy2021](#)" program, which is the official calendar of events that will take place during the year with the aim of promoting 2021 as the year of the Climate Ambition.

The competition "*Youth4Climate2021 - Space as a tool to foster climate adaptation and mitigation*" is part of the official activities organized under the program *All4Climate - Italy 2021*.



Youth4Climate2021 - Space as a tool to foster climate adaptation and mitigation

Space-based technologies and space-derived data play a key role in climate knowledge, science, monitoring and early warning. Space-based information helps us understand a huge range of community vulnerabilities to climate change. It also helps monitor the effectiveness of policy interventions, from adaptation to mitigation. The role of space for climate action is well documented.

The goals of the Paris Agreement on adaptation are to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience, and to reduce vulnerability, with a view to contributing to sustainable development. Together with this, countries have committed to mitigation and agreed to reduce emissions with the aim to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C and undertake rapid reductions.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Action is needed and young people play a key role. UNOOSA and SGAC want to promote and amplify youth voices on how space can mitigate climate challenges.

The competition "*Youth4Climate2021 - Space as a tool to foster climate adaptation and mitigation*", developed under the program *All4Climate – Italy 2021*, aims at highlighting good practices and experiences in terms of experimentation, application, evaluation and dissemination of techniques, methods and innovative approaches that use space to address environmental and climatic challenges, and that can eventually be applied later on a large scale or in other contexts in line with the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement.

Participants will submit an essay on "*Space as a tool to foster climate mitigation and adaptation*". Participants will focus on how space can be used to tackle climate challenges by underlining concrete, realistic and original examples of how space science, technology and its applications can inform and, or support delivery of actions and commitments for climate change mitigation and adaptation policies at local, national, regional and, or international levels.

Guidelines

Eligibility criteria

- The competition is open to all students and young professionals from any Member State of the United Nations.
- All participants shall be of the age between 18 to 35 inclusive (up to the day of your 36th birthday) on 1 February 2021.
- The competition is open to individuals - no team submission is allowed.
- Competition organizers and judges are not eligible for the competition.

Application

To apply, please register through the [Space for Youth Competition Form](#). Once registered, please send the essay to space4youth@un.org.



Each submission should include the following:

- An essay of no more than 1000 words, bibliography and abstract excluded.
- An abstract of no more than 100 words.

Rules:

- The essay and the abstract should be submitted together in one unlocked PDF document under 5 MB. The name of the file should be "Space4Youth_Name_Surname".
- All submissions shall be made by **26 April 2021, 23:59 CET**. Any submissions after the deadline will not be considered. In case of lack of quality of submissions, the Selection Committee reserves the right to extend and, or cancel the competition.
- The font used should be Times New Roman with a 12-font size.
- For references, please use the Harvard referencing style. Failure to properly acknowledge sources may constitute plagiarism.
- If you use images or graphics, please give credit and add a title and a caption. These images and graphics should be added to the relevant section(s) of the essay.
- The essay must be written in English.
- The text may draw examples from organizations, companies or other entities, but it cannot promote or advertise them.

Prize:

- Winners will be awarded with a trip to the United States to meet with representatives of the U.S. space sector and attend an **Adult Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center**¹. Expenses will be covered by the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna.
- Winners will participate to an online event organized by the UK Space Agency where UK and US experts will provide feedback to the winners and, if feasible, support them in developing further their examples/ideas of space technologies for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Winners' essays will be uploaded on the "Space for Youth" webpage of UNOOSA.
- Winners may be invited to attend other events.

¹ Pending confirmation and satisfaction of U.S. visa approval and COVID-19 travel restrictions.



Evaluation of Essays

The competition will be evaluated by representatives of UNOOSA and SGAC. The evaluation will be made based on originality, scientific content and detail, description of concept and impact, and writing quality.

Timeline

- 19 March 2021: Call for applications opens
- 26 April 2021: Call for applications closes
- Beginning June 2021: Finalists and winners are announced
- August/September 2021²: Adult Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Other information

Copyright and Intellectual Property

- By submitting an entry, applicants agree to permit UNOOSA and SGAC to mention their names, affiliations and headshot picture in connection with the competition and the overall Space for Youth program.
- Copyright of the submitted entry shall remain with the participants. However, by submitting an entry all contestants agree that all affiliated organizers are granted non-exclusive reproduction rights regarding all submitted papers. All affiliated organizers may also present ideas and findings generated by this competition at relevant conferences.

Liability

- Organizers have the right to change the terms of the competition, including number of winners and prizes.

Contact

For any questions, please contact:

- UNOOSA space4youth@un.org
- SGAC info@spacegeneration.org

² Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, dates are not confirmed yet.