



7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7)  
Students' Forum: 11-14 May 2019 | Rectors' Conference: 12-14 May 2019

**Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Perspectives from Asia and Europe**



Co-organised by



In Partnership with



## ESSENTIALS

- I'm interested, what now? We are happy to see that you are interested in joining us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience to act on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asian and European higher education communities! To apply, submit your online application [here](#).
- When is the deadline to apply? We accept applications until **Thursday, 29 November 2018, 11.30 AM GMT**. Keep an eye on the confirmation email upon your successful submission; if you do not receive it, try checking if the notification might have landed into your junk/spam folder.
- When will the results be out? We will announce the application outcome **by mid-December 2018**. You will receive an email with your result. Also, don't forget to like/follow our [ASEFEdu Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#) for all the latest updates.
- Who can apply? Eligibility criteria:
- Citizens of any of the [51 ASEM partner countries](#) between the ages 18 and 30
  - University students from all levels (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral)
  - Members and leaders of student associations engaged in academic affairs, student life or sustainability matters
  - Individuals with a strong command of English (verbal and written)
- I am an ASEM country national living/studying in a non-ASEM country. Am I eligible to apply? Definitely! As long as you are an ASEM national, you may apply regardless of your country of residence. If you currently study abroad in the framework of an exchange or degree programme, you are eligible to apply.
- I am a non-ASEM country national living in an ASEM country. Am I eligible to apply? Only nationals of the 51 ASEM Partner countries are eligible to apply. See [the list of countries here](#).
- I am younger than 18 years old. Am I still eligible to apply? All the ASEF youth projects require a minimum age of 18. But no worries, we have lots of exciting projects lined up for the coming years, so you will have plenty of opportunity to apply!
- You can sign up for the ASEF [eNewsletter](#) or also follow the [#ASEFEdu Facebook](#) and [ASEF Facebook](#) pages for more Open Calls and opportunities in the future.
- I am older than 30 years old. Am I still eligible to apply? If you believe that you meet all other criteria and have a suitable profile, you may still apply, and your application might be considered on an exceptional basis. However, those who fulfil all application requirements will be prioritised.
- I am currently not enrolled to any university programme. Am I still eligible to apply? The ARC7 Students' Forum aims to convene students, who are enrolled into a study programme at a university. Therefore, students who are at the time of the application enrolled into a higher education programme at any level (undergraduate, graduate, doctorate) are eligible to apply. If you will be graduating before the start of the Students' Forum (May 2019) and are no longer a student at the time of the conference it will not affect your application. If you are planning on returning to University, you may apply and indicate your plans in your application. However, those who fulfil all application requirements will be prioritised.
- I have not been directly involved in any activities related to sustainable development goals or higher education. Can I still apply? Certainly! We always seek to gather a diverse group, including unusual profiles. From our experience, multicultural and cross-disciplinary groups learn and benefit the most from our educational projects. At ASEF, we seek people with fresh and innovative ideas, regardless of their educational, professional or social background!

**How are participants selected?**

The Open Call and the screening process adopt a non-discriminative approach ensuring a balanced geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to all. In doing so, the organisers do not discriminate any applicant or participant on the basis of his or her race, national origin (ancestry), colour, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, religion (creed), marital status, or age.

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria, will be screened by ASEF and the Organising partners. We are looking for students with a curious, analytical and reflective mind-set who has through their choices of education, profession or personal activities showcased a strong interest and potential knowledge on the key thematic areas of the project, namely: Sustainable Development, Higher Education, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), University Societal Impact, and Internationalization of higher education.

We are also looking for individuals who have the potential and interest to continue the work started through ARC7 within their own communities as spin-off activities at home, hence multiplying the outcomes of the project.

Consequently, the leading objective during the screening process is to identify a diverse group of students who have illustrated characteristics of societal interest and commitment to serve communities related to the topics of the project.

## **PRE-EVENT PHASE**

**Do I need to prepare anything before the on-site event?**

The ARC7 Students' Forum integrates an online-based preparatory phase where you will join a crash-course on policy development as well as partake in individual and group tasks. The online preparatory phase will gear you for an idea-stimulating time on-site in Bucharest, therefore it is essential that all participants commit to it.

## **ON-SITE PHASE**

**How does the programme in Romania look like?**

The Programme of the on-site phase will be published shortly on our project website. Prepare for an intensive 4-day programme filled with many activities and meetings.

Some participants from ARC7 will be selected to present the Students' Policy Recommendations to the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference, which is held back to back with the Students' Forum.

All participants will have the opportunity to participate at social events with ASEM policy makers and Ministers' of Education and their Delegations at ASEM ME7 on 15 May 2019 in Bucharest, Romania.

## **POST-EVENT PHASE**

**Are there any commitments after the project?**

There will be a plethora of opportunities to build networks with the peers, rectors, policy makers and the broader ASEF community and have synergies among different student associations across Asia and Europe. We will encourage all participant to use these networks afterwards the project and come up with initiatives at home and spread the knowledge they acquired at ARC7.

We will request participants to follow-up on their proposal submitted in the application form and organise activities that spread the knowledge acquired at ARC7. Other forms of follow up, like publishing blogs, articles are strongly encouraged.

ASEF always strive to understand the impact of its projects, therefore we may get in touch with former participants to conduct an impact assessment one year later.

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Will the #ARC7 be fully accessible?** We aim to make all our projects as accessible as possible and accommodate all needs of participants. We will therefore request all selected participants to provide us with their special requirements during the application and while registering for the forum.
- I have a disability and require a personal assistant. Can I bring my own?** Of course. If you require to be accompanied by a personal assistant, you are welcome to bring her/him to the project.
- Are the costs covered for my personal assistant?** Yes, we will cover her/his travel expenses (subject to a maximum travel subsidy) as well as provide her/him with accommodation and meals throughout the project.
- Can you provide me with a personal assistant?** We will make our best efforts to provide you with a local personal assistant in case you would request one. Nevertheless, we recommend participants to bring their own assistants.
- I have a learning disability, can I apply?** Yes, we encourage everybody to apply to ARC7: persons with learning disabilities, persons with other impairments as well as those who do not identify themselves as being disabled.
- Can I submit the application in any format other than the one provided?** To allow us to assess the applications smoothly, all applications need to be completed in English and submitted through the [online form provided](#). However, if you have an access need related to the application form which cannot be overcome, please get in touch with us and we will try to accommodate your needs.

## FEES

- Is there a participation fee?** There are no participation or registration fees. This is a fully funded project.

## LODGING & MEALS

- Do the organisers provide accommodation during the event?** The organisers will provide accommodation to ALL participants. Please be prepared to share your room with another participant (same gender).
- How about food?** Meals will be provided during the conference as indicated in the programme.
- I have special dietary requirements; will this be an issue?** The organisers will, as much as possible, plan to adjust the meals for participants who have special dietary requirements.

## TRAVEL, VISA & INSURANCE

- Who pays for the travel costs?** We will provide a travel subsidy for participants travelling from abroad, from your country of residence to Romania and back. The subsidy could also cover local transportation (home – airport – home). The travel subsidy amount will be announced to the selected participants in their confirmation letter. We will also cover the costs of transportation from Romania and back.

- How about visa fees and insurance?** Yes, insurance and visa fee (if applicable) will be covered under the offered travel subsidy. We will request each participant to issue their own travel insurance.
- Can I receive support letters for the visas?** Of course, we will issue visa support letter(s) to those who require it.
- Can I receive a support letter to submit to my university/workplace?** Yes, upon your request we can issue letter(s) to be given to your university or workplace.

## FURTHER QUERIES

- Do you have more questions?** Drop us an email at [arc@asef.org](mailto:arc@asef.org) or get in touch with our department at **+65 6874 9714** (international charges apply). If everything is clear, then you are ready to [apply](#).

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