



INTERNATIONAL
NUREMBERG
PRINCIPLES
ACADEMY



Rules for the Nuremberg Moot Court 2017



1. Competition

a) Introduction

The competition aims to encourage university students to become familiar with International Criminal Law by arguing a fictitious case before the „International Criminal Court“. At the same time, it promotes the fundamental heritage of the Nuremberg Trials: criminal accountability within armed conflicts in keeping with the spirit of Human Rights and governed by the principle of fair trial.

The Nuremberg Moot Court also aims at enabling students to improve their public speaking and practical legal skills. Students will come to understand the practices of the International Criminal Court through active participation in the competition. In addition, the competition seeks to advance knowledge about the International Criminal Court’s mandate, functions, and jurisprudence. The language of the Court is English.

The final round of the competition will take place in the historic Courtroom 600, the original setting of the Nuremberg Trials after World War II, thus connecting the past with the present while offering a unique and historic educational experience.

b) Timetable

Wednesday, 1 February 2017	Opening of registration
Sunday, 30 April 2017	Closing of registration
Friday, 5 May 2017	Distribution of the Nuremberg Moot Court Case to all admitted teams
Friday, 5 May 2017	Announcement of sponsored teams
Sunday, 25 June 2017	Deadline for written memoranda
Wednesday, 26 July 2017	Opening ceremony of the Nuremberg Moot Court 2017
Thursday, 27 July 2017	Preliminary Round I
Friday, 28 July 2017	Preliminary Round II
Saturday, 29 July 2017	Eighth Final, Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final Rounds and Awards Ceremony

c) Definitions

Team coordinator	The coach or team member who is responsible for the administrative tasks of the whole team, such as registration, accommodation, visa, correspondence with organizers, etc.
Coach	The individual who gives general advice to team members and designs the strategy of the pleadings, but may not participate in the moot court as a team member. This person can be a member of the institution’s staff.
Team	The team consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of five students.
Team member	The team member is a bachelor’s or master’s student.
Team number	The anonymous number of identification given to each team.
Written memorandum	The written memorandum includes two papers: one for Defense and one for Prosecution. Each written memorandum must not exceed 14 pages including front page, table of content and footnotes.
Organizers	International Nuremberg Principles Academy (Nuremberg Academy) and International Criminal Law Research Unit (ICLU) of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)



2. Organization of the Competition

a) Organizers

The Nuremberg Moot Court 2017 is organized by the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the International Criminal Law Research Unit of the Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nürnberg:

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b) Application

Teams may be composed of three to five students. The substitution of team members is not permitted after the application deadline mentioned in the official schedule; however, exceptions may be granted by the organizers in case of exceptional circumstances.

Teams may apply via their team coordinator by sending the completed form of **Application for Registration** no later than **Sunday, 30 April 2017, 24:00 h CET** to: registration@nuremberg-moot-court.de

Together with the application form, each team must submit a motivation letter of one page describing the motivation for their participation in the Nuremberg Moot Court 2017. Should the number of applications exceed the maximum number of 32 teams, the organizers will select the participating teams based on the quality of their motivation letter. The organizers will also pay attention to a well-balanced geographical representation of teams. The organizers are offering funding (travel expenses, accommodation and per diem) for three teams (3 Students + 1 Coach) from situation countries of the ICC or other conflict or post-conflict countries. Teams applying for funding must indicate their intention and reasons for doing so in their motivation letter. In this instance, the motivation letter must not exceed two pages in length. The teams awarded funding will be selected by the organizers on the basis of the motivation letter.

Each team will be assigned an anonymous identification number prior to the submission of their memoranda. This number will be emailed to each team coordinator by the organizers and will be the team's identification number for the entire duration of the competition.

c) Structure of the Competition

The competition consists of a written and an oral phase. Each team submits two memoranda in preparation of the hearings: one for Defense and one for Prosecution.

The Nuremberg Moot Court 2017 case will be sent electronically to the team coordinator on **Friday, 5 May 2017, until 24:00 h CET**. The two memoranda must be submitted electronically to registration@nuremberg-moot-court.de, no later than **Sunday, 25 June 2017, 24:00 h CET**.

The Opening Ceremony of the Nuremberg Moot Court 2017 will take place on Wednesday, 26 July 2017 at the historic Courtroom 600.

The oral phase consists of three days of Moot Court competition. The preliminary rounds will take place on **27–28 July 2017**. The eighth finals, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals will be held on **Saturday, 29 July 2017**. **The final round** will take place at the historic Courtroom 600 at the Nuremberg Palace of Justice.



3. Participation and Eligibility

Any law student at a bachelor's or master's level or equivalent from a law school, law faculty, or institution with an international law-related degree program is eligible to participate in the competition as part of a team.

Each institution is allowed to send one team only.

Each team needs an official team coordinator (*coach or team member*). The coordinator is the contact person for the organizers. Please note that the official team coordinator is the only person who will receive the Nuremberg Moot Court case on **Friday, 5 May 2017, until 24:00 h CET**.

4. Registration Fee

No registration fee is required.

5. Written Phase

a) Preparation

Each team must prepare one written prosecution memorandum and one written defense memorandum in English. Each team must research, write, edit, and develop its own legal and factual arguments without the help of persons outside the team.

The team coach may provide general advice to the team; for example, general instruction in international (criminal) law, general advice on research methods, or advice on pleading options and strategies.

b) Memorandum Format

Each team must submit its memorandum in pdf format, printable on A4-sized paper, in 12 point Times New Roman font. Each page shall have a margin of 2 cm/ 0,79 inch on either side of the page. The text of the memorandum must have 1.5 line spacing and a maximum of **14 pages**, including the front page, table of contents and footnotes.

The front page must show solely the team number, the party to the proceeding (Defense or Prosecution), title of the competition and the year 2017. The pages must be numbered.

Violations of the page limit will be sanctioned by **five penalty points** per page in the grading on written submissions.

The attached rules of citation and the list of abbreviations must be strictly observed.

c) Grading of Written Memoranda

Each team will receive an individual review of the written memorandum at the end of the competition on **Saturday, 29 July 2017**.

The maximum score for each written memorandum is 50 points.

- 40 points are awarded for **knowledge of legal principles, knowledge and analysis of the case, logic and legal reasoning**.

- 10 points are awarded for **grammar, style and appropriate legal terminology**.

d) Deadline for Submission

Written memoranda must be submitted to **registration@nuremberg-moot-court.de** electronically, no later than **Sunday, 25 June 2017, 24:00 h CET**.

e) Late Delivery and Plagiarism

Plagiarism and late submission of memoranda will be sanctioned with disqualification.

6. Oral Phase

a) Structure

The participants should arrive in Nuremberg in the afternoon of **Wednesday, 26 July 2017**. The official opening ceremony takes place in the evening when the teams will receive the schedule of the competition. Preliminary rounds will take place on **Thursday, July 27** and **Friday, July 28 2017**. Each team will plead during the preliminary rounds as both Defense and Prosecution Counsel.

In the following rounds (eighth finals, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final) pleading as either Defense or Prosecution Counsel will be determined purely by chance by drawing lots. Thus, for those teams continuing to these final rounds, it is recommended that preparation is undertaken for either possibility of pleading as Defense or Prosecution Counsel.



b) Speakers

Each team member must be present in the oral presentations, however exceptions may be granted by the organizers in case of exceptional circumstances. Each team member needs to be assigned to plead either for the Prosecution or the Defense. One person may not plead both sides. It is within the discretion of the team to decide which member shall present the rebuttal/rejoinder, provided the speaker did not present the same position in the oral pleading directly preceding the rebuttal/rejoinder.

Coaches may not sit with their team members and may not give advice during the pleadings.

c) Speaking Time

The total speaking time is 25 minutes. The pleading sides may use an extra 5 minutes for rebuttal and rejoinder.

The Prosecution always takes the floor first.

d) Raising Objections

The speakers or other team members may not raise objections.

e) Scores for Preliminary Rounds

The maximum score for oral preliminary round pleadings is 20 points.

- 15 points are awarded for knowledge of the facts of the case, legal principles, reasoning, reference to jurisprudence of International Courts and Tribunals since and including the Nuremberg Trials and analysis of the legal issue.

- 5 points are awarded for presentation.

f) Final Scores for Eighth or Quarter Final Rounds

In order to reach the eighth and quarter final rounds the scores of the teams will be calculated as follows:

[2 x winning] preliminary round points + decimal of the both written memoranda points (/10)
= high scores

[1 x winning] preliminary round points + decimal of the both written memoranda points (/10)
= high scores

[0 x winning] preliminary round points + decimal of the both written memoranda points (/10)
= high scores

For example:

1st place Team Alfa = [2x wins] 17 (PR I) + 15 (PR II) + (33[D] + 40[P])/10 = 2x wins + 39,3 Points.

2nd place Team Beta = [2x wins] 17 (PR I) + 10 (PR II) + (20[D] + 34[P])/10 = 2x wins + 32,4 Points.

3rd place Team Gamma = [1x wins] 16 (PR I) + 15 (PR II) + (34[D] + 30[P])/10 = 1x win + 37,4 Points.

The best teams will proceed into the eighth or quarter finals. Precedence will be given to teams who win two successive pleadings at the preliminary rounds. In the case that there are more teams with two wins each, the teams with the highest scores will proceed to the next stage. Conversely, if there are not enough teams with two successive wins, teams with a single win shall be given a chance to proceed, dependent on their scores. Should there be a tie in scores at this stage, the organizers may consider an additional playoff round to secure the final positions for the eighth and quarter finals.

The number of rounds of Eighth or Quarter Finals depend on the number of participating teams.

g) Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Final Rounds

Only the winning teams proceed to the next round of the competition.

h) Best overall Speaker

In each round the best speakers of each team will receive 2 points, and the second best speaker 1 point in addition to the above mentioned points.



7. Bench Composition

In the preliminary rounds the bench is composed of two judges. In the semi-finals the bench is composed of two judges and one president. The final will be heard by two eminent members of the bench and one presiding judge.

Bench members for oral sessions may differ from the bench evaluating the memoranda.

The bench will follow its Rules of Procedure within the framework of accepted norms of judicial practice.

Bench members are encouraged to intervene with appropriate questions during the oral pleadings in order to assess the knowledge of the speaker and to mark the oral arguments in accordance with the scoring criteria provided.

8. Behavior

Every team shall maintain the utmost dignity and decorum in the courtroom and during the entire competition. Inappropriate behavior may result in the disqualification of the team.

9. Awards

The following awards will be given by organizers after the final round:

1. First Place
2. Second Place
3. Best Overall Speaker
4. Second Best Overall Speaker
5. Best Memorandum – Prosecution
6. Best Memorandum – Defense

Each team and each participant will receive a certificate of participation.