



INTERNATIONAL
NUREMBERG
PRINCIPLES
ACADEMY



Rules for the Nuremberg Moot Court 2018



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 (ICC) through active participation in the competition. In addition, the competition seeks to advance knowledge about the ICC's mandate, functions, and jurisprudence. The language of the Moot 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

Thursday, 1 February 2018	Registration opens
Sunday, 22 April 2018	Registration closes
Friday, 4 May 2018	Distribution of the Nuremberg Moot Court Case to all admitted teams
Friday, 4 May 2018	Announcement of sponsored teams
Sunday, 24 June 2018	Deadline for written memoranda
Wednesday, 25 July 2018	Opening ceremony of the Nuremberg Moot Court 2018
Thursday, 26 July 2018	Preliminary Round I
Friday, 27 July 2018	Preliminary Round II
Saturday, 28 July 2018	Last 16, Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Final 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, visas, correspondence with organizers, etc.
Team Coach	The person who gives general advice to team members and designs the strategy of the pleadings, but may not participate 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 (plus team coach).
Team member	The team member is a bachelor's or master's student.
Team number	The anonymous identification number given to each team.
Written memorandum	The written memorandum includes two written submissions: one for Prosecution and one for Defense. Each written memorandum must not exceed 14 pages including front page, table of content and footnotes.



2. Organization of the Competition

a) Organizers

The Nuremberg Moot Court 2018 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 team members. The substitution of team members is not permitted after the application deadline as given in the official timetable; however, exceptions may be granted by the organizers in the event of exceptional circumstances.

Teams may apply via their team coordinator by submitting the online-form of [Application for Registration on the Nuremberg Moot Court website no later than Sunday, 22 April 2018, 24:00 h CET](#).

Together with the application form, each team must submit a motivation letter of two pages maximum describing the motivation for their participation in the Nuremberg Moot Court 2018.

Should the number of applications exceed the maximum number of 44 teams, the organizers will select the participating teams based on the quality of their motivation letter. The organizers will also give consideration 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 clearly indicate their intention to apply for funding and the reasons for doing so in their motivation letter. Altogether, the motivation letter should not exceed two pages in length.

Each team will be assigned an anonymous identification number (team 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 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 for the hearings: one for Prosecution and one for Defense.

The Nuremberg Moot Court 2018 case will be sent electronically to the team coordinator on **Friday, 4 May 2018, until 24:00 h CET**. The two memoranda must be submitted electronically to registration@nuremberg-moot-court.de, no later than **Sunday, 24 June 2018, 24:00 h CET**.

The Opening Ceremony of the Nuremberg Moot Court 2018 will take place in the late afternoon of Wednesday, 25 July 2018 at the historic Courtroom 600.

The oral phase consists of three days of Moot Court competition. The preliminary rounds will take place on **26–28 July 2018**. The last 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be held on **Saturday, 28 July 2018**. **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 team 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, 4 May 2018, by 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. Each team must research, write, edit, and develop its own legal and factual arguments without any help or advice from anyone outside their team.

The team coach may only 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. He or she may be a staff member of the institution but may not participate as a team member.

b) Format of the Memorandum

Each team must submit its memorandum in a pdf format, printable on A4-sized paper, in Times New Roman 12 point. 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 (Prosecution or Defense), title of the competition and the year 2018. The pages must be numbered. The names of the team members, the university or country must not appear on the front page or anywhere in the written memoranda.

Violations of these rules will be sanctioned by **five penalty points** per page in the grading of the written memoranda.

The 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 memoranda at the end of the competition on **Saturday, 28 July 2018**.

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, 24 June 2018, 24:00 h CET**.

e) Late Submission and Plagiarism

Plagiarism or late submission of written memoranda will be sanctioned with disqualification.

6. Oral Phase

a) Structure

The official opening ceremony takes place in the evening of Wednesday 25 July 2018 after the registration of all teams. During the opening ceremony the schedule of the Moot Court will be announced. Preliminary rounds will take place on **Thursday, 26 July, Friday, 27 July and Saturday, 28 July 2018**.

Each team will plead during the preliminary rounds as Prosecution and Defense Counsel.



In the following rounds (last 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final) pleading as either Prosecution or Defense Counsel will be determined simply by drawing lots.

The Prosecution always takes the floor first.

b) Pleading

All team members must be present in the oral presentations, however exceptions may be granted by the organizers in the event of exceptional circumstances. Each team member needs to be assigned to plead either for the Prosecution or the Defense. One team member may not plead both sides.

At the beginning of the hearing the team must indicate to the Bench how it wishes to allocate its pleading time in order to ensure each team member's participation.

It is within the discretion of the team to decide which team member shall present the rebuttal/rejoinder.

Team coaches may not sit with their team 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.

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 (including the Nuremberg Trials) and analysis of the legal issue.
- 5 points are awarded for overall presentation.

f) Final Scores for Last 16 or Quarter-Final Rounds

The number of rounds of last 16 or Quarter-Finals depend on the number of participating teams. In order to reach the last 16 or quarter-final rounds the scores of the teams will be calculated as follows:

[2 winnings] preliminary round points + sum of both written memoranda points divided by 10
= high scores

[1 winning] preliminary round points + sum of both written memoranda points divided by 10
= high scores

[0 winning] preliminary round points + sum of both written memoranda points divided by 10
= high scores

For example:

1st place Team Alpha = [2 wins] 17 (PR¹ I) + 15 (PR II) + (33[D²] + 40[P³])/10 = 2 wins + 39,3 Points.

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

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

The best teams will go through into the last 16 or quarter finals. Priority will be given to those teams who win two successive pleadings at the preliminary rounds. If there are more teams who won two successive pleadings, the teams with the highest scores will proceed to the next round. If there are not enough teams with two successive wins, teams with a single win shall be given a chance to go through, depending on their score. If there is a tie in scores at this stage, the organizers may consider an additional playoff round to designate the participants for the last 16 and quarter finals.

1 Preliminary Round
2 Written Submission for Defense
3 Written Submission for Prosecution



g) Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final

Only the winning teams go through to the next round of the competition.

Judges will assess the knowledge of the facts of the case, legal principles, reasoning, reference to jurisprudence of International Courts and Tribunals (including the Nuremberg Trials) and analysis of the legal issue as well as the overall presentation.

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

The bench is composed of two or more judges.

The bench will follow its Rules and Procedures in accordance with accepted judicial practice. Bench members are encouraged to ask relevant questions during the oral pleadings in order to assess the knowledge of the speaker and to mark the oral arguments.

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 member will receive a certificate of participation.