



amSa
global health

IFMSA Delegation Information Booklet



Who is the IFMSA?

The IFMSA is the world's largest student-run organisation and represents over 1.3 million medical students worldwide. The IFMSA unites medical students to lead initiatives that positively impact the communities which we will one day serve. More information regarding the IFMSA can be found on their website (www.ifmsa.org), including a list of policy statements, recent activities at meetings with stakeholders, and information on the Standing Committees of the IFMSA.

What is a delegation and how do I get involved?

Some words from past delegates...

"This can be an awesome, valuable and eye-opening experience full of professional development if you go with realistic expectations, clear goals, an open-mind!"

"Meeting lots of people is really cool; I was fascinated by the interesting cultural nuances I learned. The cultural sharing activities were amazing fun (NFDP and dancing etc.) so don't miss those. Social events were good but be prepared to not sleep!!"

"I think the IFMSA is all about embracing other cultures - it really exemplifies just how diverse and yet unifying medicine is on a global scale."

"Drink more coffee and sleep less. Speak to more delegates from other countries. Make more connections. Eat more pasta."

"Exhaust yourself. It'll be a memorable experience."

What is a GA?

First and foremost, a general assembly (GA) is not a conference like GHC/Convention. The focus of a GA is on global collaboration, projects and some capacity building. We must emphasise that Australia is quite advanced in our knowledge in this area, and as such you should not feel at all intimidated coming to these events. You know more than you think you do, and you can contribute a lot without a solid understanding of how the IFMSA works. Please read on for a brief discussion of the main events at a GA.

PreGA workshops: arguably the best part of a GA. Past delegates have found this incredibly valuable both academically and socially. Topics include training new trainers, disaster medicine, mental health training etc etc. The topics will be released over the coming months on the GA website and through your team leader.

Plenaries: much like policy sessions at council except more bureaucratic. These sessions happen every night and sometimes continue well in to the morning. Your main role here will be to assist the delegation leaders to represent AMSAs views on things like policy, elections and partnerships of the IFMSA.

Standing committee sessions: each Standing Committee has its own session running first thing in the morning most days throughout the GA. They usually involve discussion surrounding the area of interest, project development and collaboration and sometimes policy development and proposal. As they are all student run, they can be a bit hit and miss. Please research these committees before you apply and indicate which one you would like to attend. SCOPH is traditionally very entry level and is really targeted at global health newbies whereas the others are more in depth. It will be our goal to have AMSA represented across each standing committee.



NMO hour: this is a chance for each delegation to get together and talk about upcoming decisions and plan for the rest of the GA. It is a one hour catchup usually around lunchtime for our team to all come together and discuss what is happening across the streams.

Theme events: these are sessions run with external speakers. These make up approximately 5 hours of the week - as stated earlier the majority of the sessions are student run.

Project Fair and Project Presentation: these are opportunities for NMOs to present projects of theirs. AMSA has some of the best projects in the world and this GA we're aiming to present at least 3 AMSA/global health group projects. AMSA won first place last year- so get creative!



Trainings: several training sessions are held by IFMSA Official Trainers. There is a strong culture of peer-to-peer training in the IFMSA, which means that some training sessions are very good and it is crucial to identify specific trainings which you would consider of most benefit.

Social Program: each night there is some form of social event. Two highlights are:

- *National Food and Drink Party (NFDP)* – Considered the best night of the GA, every country sets up national food and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages to share with delegates from around the world. Normally Australians bring Tim Tams, Bundaberg Rum, and spread vegemite onto pieces of bread and tell people it tastes like dark-chocolate-nutella to see their reaction when they eat it.
- *Cultural Show* - The OC will send a call to NMOs before the GA to sign up for the cultural show. During the show, NMOs make traditional dances and represent their country/culture. Hawaii 5-0 is a favourite.
- *Check out the timetable for Malta below*

Time	Day 1 (27/09/18)	Day 2 (28/09/18)	Day 3 (29/09/18)	Day 4 (30/09/18)	Day 5 (01/10/18)	Day 6 (02/10/18)	Day 7 (03/10/18)
7:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
7:30							
8:00							
8:30		SCNMO/Presidents Sessions	SCNMO/Presidents Sessions	SCNMO/Presidents Sessions	Regional Session	SCNMO/Presidents Sessions	
9:00							
9:30							
10:00							
10:30							
11:00	Arrival and Registration						
11:30				Exchange Fair	NMO Hour	Theme Event	
12:00							
12:30							
13:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:30							
14:00		NMO Hour	NMO Hour	EB Debate		NMO Hour	
14:30							
15:00		SRGs	Trainings (Soft skills)	Policy Statements Discussions	SCNMO/Presidents Sessions	Trainings (SC Items)	
15:30							Departure Day
16:00							
16:30	Plenary	Regional Session	Plenary	NMO Hour			
17:00							
17:30				Rac. Crossing Award Presentations	Joint Sessions	SCNMO/Presidents Sessions	
18:00							
18:30							
19:00		Theme Event	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
19:30							
20:00	Opening ceremony & Dinner						
20:30							
21:00		Dinner					Plenary
21:30							
22:00	Social Programme	Activities Fair and Scientific Poster Fair	Plenary	Plenary	Plenary		Closing Ceremony
22:30							
23:00							Social Programme
23:30							
0:00		Social Program	Social Program	Social Program	Social Programme		

How can you get the most out of the GA?

The IFMSA is huge and operates quite similarly to a number of other large international organisations (like the UN or WHO); specifically there is a large degree of bureaucracy. Delegates who have enjoyed their experiences have displayed an **open mind, flexibility, and a willingness to engage** with medical students from around the world. We also take this chance to reinforce how amazing the pre-GA workshops are. If you can get the extra few days of leave - DO IT!



Delegate Roles

Everyone in the delegation will have roles to play...

Delegation leaders: this GA your delegation leaders will be Julie Graham (AMSA GH VCI) and TBA. We're responsible for your wellbeing, as well as co-ordinating all that is AMSA at the GA. We're your primary contact points at the GA, and Julie will be your contact in the preparation phase from selection to travel!

Policy officers: the policy officers will coordinate the creation and review of policies in conjunction with the rest of the delegation. Previous policy experience is desirable, but not necessary. We encourage all applicants to have a look at the list of IFMSA policy, and consider whether they want to create a new policy, or adapt one of AMSAs policies to the international stage. Do not be discouraged by the word "policy." This is a great role and some of the IFMSA policies are only a page or two!

Cultural officer: the cultural officer will coordinate the cultural representation of the Australian Delegation. This includes events such as the national food and drink party, the cultural dance and national costumes. This is such a fun role and who wouldn't want to pick which costumes we wear!?

Project officers: the project officers are responsible for coordinating the presentation of Australian projects such as Code Green. If you have a particular project you would like to present, please mention it in your application!

Research officers: Having over 1000 medical students from 119 countries around the world offers an excellent opportunity to conduct research. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, have a think about what you could investigate. The idea doesn't have to be concrete!

Sponsorship officer: This officer would explore options for sponsorship to help reduce the financial burden on our delegates. Previous sponsorship experience would be helpful.



About the roles...

These roles will not be distinct from one another; the whole delegation will be expected to contribute to various projects in the months leading up to the GA and at the GA. Please express interest in several roles (or preference them). Delegates do not need to apply for a specific role if they have other ideas or ways they would like to contribute; creative and new ideas are welcome. Depending on the strengths and interests of selected delegates, there is flexibility in the number of positions available (e.g. having one or two research coordinators).

Standing Committees

You will also need to choose a standing committee (SC) for standing committee sessions.

Please read the info about them on <http://ifmsa.org/standing-committees-2/> and state your top three preferences in your application. To ensure we have at least one person in all SCs you may not get your first choice. Again, SCOPH is most suitable for global health novices (ie. first years!)

About the selection process...

- Selection will take into account a variety of factors including, but not limited to, motivation and ideas, past relevant experience relating to specific roles, past demonstrated interest and experience in global health, past teamwork/management skills, ability to work within the team that has applied and performance at past GAs if relevant.
- Spots will be reserved for key, relevant AMSA volunteers including, but not limited to: AMSA Global Health Chair, Vice-Chair International and the National Exchange Officer(s)

Timeline and fees

More information about the timeline...

Applications are due on the 26th of October. The final selection of delegates will be made in the following few days. If successful, chosen delegates will be requested to register with the IFMSA within the week following notification of their successful application. In the event that AMSA is unable to contact a selected delegate after reasonable efforts are made, the delegate will forfeit their place and AMSA may need to select another applicant in their place. A number of applicants will be informed that they are on the waiting list, and will be selected as a delegate in the case of another delegate having to withdraw from the conference.

Please submit your application including a 500 word statement via this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/HCCEiUmZ00Lu8Hbj2>

After selection, the preparation phase will begin. This will initially involve approximately 2 hours a week, starting in mid-December, increasing gradually as we get closer to the conference. Your responsibilities in this phase will depend on your positions.

More information about the costs...

The cost of registration will be an average for all the Australian delegates attending – please disregard the costs provided on the GA2017 website. This will include accommodation, all meals and the conference program for the duration of the GA. The price will vary depending on exchange rates and whether the delegate is attending the Pre-GA workshops. For the GA alone, an estimate of cost is approximately \$600-700 AUD. Flights are not included.

AMSA is aware that participation in a GA comes with a significant financial burden. Although AMSA will provide assistance in the form of an official letter of support, **AMSA is unable to directly subsidise the cost of attending the GA.** This means that registration, flights and all other expenses are to be covered by the delegate. Previous delegates have defrayed such costs through securing sponsorship and grants with their universities and other organisations. If the delegate position is accepted, however, the applicant must accept full responsibility of the cost associated with attending the GA. **The registration fees is expected to be paid within one month following the acceptance of a position at the GA.** However, this is contingent on the team in Montenegro sending AMSA the invoice, and as such may be delayed somewhat. For those attending the pre-GA, either for attending or running a workshop, there is an additional fee of \$300- \$400. Please also note that registration fees are non-refundable, unless a replacement delegate is able to be found.

We look forward to seeing you in Montenegro!

