Athens Democracy Forum 2024
A Moment of Truth
1 – 4 October 2024

We are pleased to announce that the Global Liberal Arts Alliance will once again join Deree-The American College of Greece as Educational Partners for the prestigious Athens Democracy Forum. The Forum is organized by the Democracy and Culture Foundation.

This will be the eighth year that Deree-ACG and the Alliance coordinate Forum programming for a team of student delegates from Alliance institutions to participate in the Forum. Building on our seven years of experience and inspired by the Democracy and Culture Foundation's Think-Talk-Do impact chain, our programming will pursue two outcomes:

1. Prepare youth to be more meaningfully involved *now* in decision-making on issues that will affect their lives and push students to *act now.*
2. Give youth a *global perspective* by working with peers from other parts of the world and talking with business, community, government, and NGO leaders from around the world.

The 2024 Forum will explore the question "What is truth?" at a time when AI, conspiracy theorists and unscrupulous politicians are aligned to undermine fact, science, honesty, and respectful debate. In considering these challenges, the 2024 Athens Democracy Forum will open with a *State of Democracy: Assessing the Mega Election Year* session. Other sessions will include regional case studies (*America's Moment of Truth (Again); India and the Rise of Modi; The Middle East Powder Keg*), "rethinking" sessions (*Rethinking Journalism: A Crisis of Confidence; Rethinking Climate Tech: Promise or Pipe Dream?; Rethinking Faith: Vox Dei, Vox Populi;* and*, Rethinking Citizens: Who's Listening?*), Tools for Democracy sessions, and interactive workshops.

Nomination of Student Delegates

Each Global Alliance member institution *may nominate up to two* candidates to be considered for selection to the Alliance delegation to be invited to Athens to attend the Forum. Up to 24 students will be selected from this pool of candidates. The selection process will seek to create a delegation that offers a globally balanced and compelling set of perspectives. Alliance schools from the U.S. are strongly encouraged to consider international students in their nominations. Candidates nominated must be *undergraduates* enrolled at an Alliance school in 2024-25 (graduating no sooner than the end of the 2024-25 academic year) and must be endorsed by their campus' chief academic officer. Candidates should be able to work with students from diverse backgrounds.

*********Students should take their summer obligations, fall course load, and the number of days they will miss class (including travel days) into account in considering whether to apply. Students should have a valid passport. Students needing a visa must be prepared to apply immediately upon receiving notice of being selected. Students are expected to be a full participant in all preparatory work (summer and Athens), the Forum, and post-Forum reporting and action steps. Students may not arrive late or leave early (see Important Dates below).*** ********

Expenses

The Forum will waive the registration fee. The American College of Greece will provide some meals, local transportation, and manage program activities. Students will be awarded an Endeavor Fellowship to cover lodging, airfare from an airport near their home campus to Athens,

and a visa application (if needed). Delegates will be responsible for incidental costs while in Athens and during travel to and from Athens, including airport transportation.

Scope of Student Involvement During the Forum

Students are full delegates to the Forum and are invited to attend all sessions. Student delegates are expected to make meaningful contributions, *particularly in providing a youth perspective from their part of the world*. Student involvement will include the following.

Forum Topic Panel Questions: There will be a panel for each of the Forum topics. Alliance students will be invited to ask the first question for a subset of the panels.

Forum Topic Panels Videos: One-minute videos created by students that respond to a prompt related to one of the sessions will be shown prior to the session.

The reports created for previous years can be found on the Forum Reports page and the videos can be found on the Athens Democracy Forum YouTube channel.

Requirements of Participation

Students attending the Forum are *required* to complete the work described below.

Summer Work: Students must commit to doing work over the summer and in Athens prior to the Forum. This important work prepares the student for their time at the Forum. This will include working in small groups (via email and videoconference) to discuss a few readings and the Forum topics, produce a short video, and work on the post-Forum action plan. ***The summer assignments from 2023 can be found on the Youth Democracy Forum site. The assignments for summer 2024 are in development but will be similar in workload to what was done in 2023.***

Youth Video Series: Prior to the Forum, each student must create a one-minute video in response to a prompt related to a Forum topic. Selected videos will be shown at the Forum. This is completed in stages throughout the month of August with input from the Forum mentors.

Reports: Students will co-author at least one report on a Forum session. This is usually due two weeks after the Forum concludes.

Individual Reflection: Students are required to do several reflective exercises through the summer and in their time in Athens, and to write a post-Forum reflective essay on their experience. The final essay is usually due one month after the Forum concludes.

Post-Forum Actions: By the end of the Forum, each student will create an action plan to take back to their campus/community. Actions can include sharing their experience: with peers through classroom discussion, public talks, radio interviews, or articles in the campus newspaper; via participation in campus clubs and organizations; through engagement around local/national elections, campus or community dialogues, or other programs of the student's design and implementation, which could include partnering with an organization you met at the Forum. We will provide resources to help you create your plan, and time will be allocated to work on the plan while we are in Athens with input from the ADF mentors. In spring 2025, students will be asked to report on the status of their action plan.

Liability

Institutions sending students to the Athens Democracy Forum should recognize this program as an institutionally sponsored event (from the perspective of the student's home institution) and acknowledge that the institution holds full responsibility and liability for students traveling to,

from, and during the program. The student's home institution is responsible for ensuring that their students have all the necessary travel documents (passport/visa) as well as medical and travel insurance (if applicable). A roundtrip flight will be booked for each student by the GLCA. The student's home institution will be billed for a canceled flight. By choosing to participate in the Athens Democracy Forum students and sponsoring institutions agree to assume these responsibilities and liabilities.

Since much of the pre-Forum preparation in Athens takes place on the American College of Greece campus, students must comply with their policies.

Application Materials and Process

Application to participate in the Athens Democracy Forum has two steps.

Step 1: An interested student submits the Student Delegate Application to their Chief Academic Officer (or designee). Consult your Chief Academic Officer (or designee) for your campus' application due date.

Step 2: Each Alliance campus selects up to two applications that are to be submitted by the school's Chief Academic Officer (or designee) to Simon Gray (Gray@glca.org) by March 29. A review committee will make selections to create a group that represents a globally balanced set of perspectives and experience. There are 24 openings. We do not guarantee that one student per nominating campus will be selected.

A complete application consists of the following.

1. Student Delegate Application
2. Curriculum vitae/resume
3. Academic transcript (may be an unofficial transcript)

Important Dates

March 29: Campus nominations due to the Global Alliance office (Gray@glca.org)

April 23: Notification of acceptance

May 17: Visa application submitted (if needed)

May-Sept: Groups are assigned; groups meet by video conferencing/email and complete preparatory work

September 28/29: Student delegates arrive in Athens; the program begins with a reception on the evening of September 29

October 1: Athens Democracy Forum opens

October 3: Athens Democracy Forum ends

October 4-5: Reflection, report drafting, excursion

October 6: Student delegates return to their campuses

ADF Mentors

Mary Cardaras, Demos Center Director, The American College of Greece, mcardaras@acg.edu

Simon Gray, Senior Program Director, Great Lakes Colleges Association, gray@glca.org

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