**UNIV―Forum**

**International Debate Tournament**

**2020 Edition**



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# Description

The UNIV―Forum International Debate Tournament (UFIDT, onwards) is a one-day debate championship based on the model of the UNAV Law School competition debate created by [Dikaios](https://www.unav.edu/web/facultad-de-derecho/dikaios) (the Faculty’s Debate Club).

The aim of UFIDT is twofold: fostering the communication abilities of its participants and opening an enriching space of dialogue in controversial issues.

## Organization

The tournament will take place in the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross headquarters (Palazzo di Sant’Apollinare) on Tuesday the 7th of April from 11:15 to 13:15.

The committee responsible for the organization is formed by the following members:

1. David Armando Urtecho, reachable at: durtecho@alumni.unav.es
2. Inscription Committee, reachable at: [comiteuniv@unav.es](mailto:comiteuniv@unav.es)
3. Josemaría Díaz Dorronsoro, reachable at: [forum.univ.rome@gmail.com](mailto:forum.univ.rome@gmail.com)
4. Guillermo A. Morales Sancho, reachable at: [gmorales.1@alumni.unav.es](mailto:gmorales.1@alumni.unav.es)

# Rules

## Tournament

1. The application and participation in this tournament imply the acceptance of these rules.
2. The tournament is a qualifying round (single elimination). If a team loses a debate, it is automatically disqualified (knockout format).
3. Punctuality is of the essence. If a team is not present when the corresponding debate takes place, it will be automatically disqualified.
4. The tournament chart will be made available on the website once the inscriptions are completed.

## Teams

1. Each team will have two or three members.
2. Participants must be between high-school and undergraduate level (Master or above and secondary school or below are excluded).
3. There will be only 16 teams allowed to compete.
   1. Once the call is opened, teams will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis if they have filled in completely the inscription form (available in the web page) in due time.
   2. No changes in the team composition after the inscription are allowed except for force majeure (such as illness or similar valid excuse which must be communicated and authorized).
   3. The identification with a personal ID of the team members can be required by the organization.
4. The inscription deadline is Thursday 21th of March at 14:00 GMT +1 time.
5. There will be a waiting list for those teams which were not able to enter.

## Debates

1. They will all be held in English.
   1. There is one exception to this rule if all the following conditions are met:
      1. Both teams agree on a different language.
      2. The judge masters that language.
      3. It is a first-round debate (neither quarter finals, nor semi-finals nor final).
2. Each debate lasts 25’.
3. The format will be ordered according to the *Structure and Timing* document available on the web.
   1. In case a timekeeper is present, he will be in charge of its observance. Otherwise, the judge will conduct such task.
   2. New arguments are not allowed in the conclusion.
4. The judge or (panel of judges) is responsible for the adjudication of disputes, evaluation and final decision. His final resolution on the winning team is not subject to appeal.

## Topics

1. For the 2020 edition these are the selected issues for debate:
   1. Energetic transition: should developed countries require only electric cars to circulate from 2030 onwards?
   2. Home-schooling: should parents be allowed to educate their children at home?
   3. EU Code of Conduct countering illegal on-line hate speech: does it unfairly curtail free speech?
2. Each group must prepare both positions. The research must be thorough and factually based.
3. Teams will be announced which topic and position (for or against) they will have to defend before starting the debate.
   1. They will be chosen by the judge.
   2. The judge can allow a settlement by the parties, if the topic chosen has not yet been debated by any of the teams.

## Evaluation

The judge or panel of judges will consider, among others, the following criteria and will punctuate according to the Performance Evaluation Chart (available online):

1. Previous preparation: reports, authorities, case-law, news and sources cited.
2. Logic: order and clarity, coherence, response to the opponents’ reasons and arguments soundness.
3. Rhetoric: correction, manners, voice modulation, attention grasp…
4. Empathy and conviction showed.
5. Timing observance.
6. Team members balance.

## Prize

The winner team will receive a Prize during the award ceremony which will be held in the University’s auditorium (Aula Magna “Giovanni Paolo II”) the same day at 17:00.

# Recommended bibliography

Apart from the corresponding literature needed to prepare every topic this book has proven especially helpful:

Leith, S., *You talkin’ to me? Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama*, Profile Books, London, 2011.