



Atlantic Treaty Association - Association du Traité Atlantique



Project overview

The Transatlantic Research Award is a major opportunity to extend the transatlantic security debate to other players, by involving future leaders and communicators in an exercise dedicated to facilitating the strategic thinking over XXI century security challenges and promoting shared strategies to tackle future threats to stability.

1. Participants

The competition is open to selected Masters Degree students in Journalism and Political Science coming from the best universities in Brazil, Russia, India, China, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa, Australia and Japan.

At least 20 Universities will be involved in the competition. Each university will be limited to a maximum of three participants, for a total amount of some 50 competitors.

2. The Competition

The competition is both a writing and a documentary competition, where the top students in International Relations and Journalism from a broad range of global leading Universities will compete for either of the two prizes:

- Best position paper
- Best Web documentary.

The Atlantic Treaty Association invited more than 100 universities from the abovementioned countries to join the competition and to select a maximum of three of the most qualified students to participate in the competition. Only students enrolled in Masters Degree programs from invited universities will be allowed to participate.

The students shall compete in one of the two categories and submit by December 15th one of the following two pieces:

- An original research paper, if competing for the best position paper award.
- An innovative multimedia documentary, if competing for the best multimedia documentary award.



The same student cannot compete in the two categories. Already published or distributed papers and documentaries will not be accepted.

The ten best students will be selected by an *ad hoc* Jury (see section n.6) and sponsored for a one week training and educational session at the Euro-Atlantic Institutions in Brussels. During their stay, the competition will continue and participants will be:

- Reporting, blogging or v-logging on their Brussels training session,
- Filming or interviewing people and experts on the Brussels think-tank network.

Based on the quality of their works, the Jury will select the two winners and will award them during the Closing Ceremony that will take place at the Club Prince Albert in Brussels in February 2012.

3. Topics

Students competing in one of the two categories shall follow the aforementioned guidelines and focus their paper or multimedia documentary in one of the following 7 topics:

- 1) Security of the global commons
- 2) Peace keeping and crisis management
- 3) Cyber regulation
- 4) Terrorism and organized crime
- 5) Energy security
- 6) Space policy
- 7) Food security

Students will come from different countries and will have different backgrounds. In order to guarantee the homogeneity of the competition, participants shall focus their works on their nations' contribution to the preferred topic, as well as on possible ways of enhancing cooperation between the Atlantic Alliance and their country in that specific field. The abovementioned topics serve as guidelines for students and they are not necessarily intended as exhaustive.

Students can focus on a more specific topic, if they wish, but must have the topic approved in advance by the Atlantic Treaty Association. Ground breaking thinking and ideas are encouraged, as well as inventive graphic design and animations. Creativity and innovative spirit will be crucial in winning the competition.

4. Prizes

The winner for the best paper will get his/her paper published in the NATO review and a six month paid internship at the Atlantic Treaty Association

The winner for the best multimedia documentary will get his/her work published on the NATO website and an opportunity for a training session at NATO TV Channel.

5. Participating in the Competition:

The competitors shall work independently from any supervisor or mediators. The organizers encourage innovative thinking and new approaches to the issues undertaken in the paper or documentary.



The Atlantic Treaty Association will assist the competitors in any phase of the competition, upon request.

The work load for the competition is divided into two phases:

- a) From October to December: each participant will decide - in agreement with his/her University - whether to compete for the best paper or the best documentary, and will then submit his/her work to the Jury.
- b) One week in February: the ten best participants will meet in Brussels for training and the final session of the competition.

The winners will be awarded on the occasion of an ad hoc ceremony to be held in Brussels, at the end of the training week.

6. Evaluation

A Jury formed by 5 renowned experts and politicians in transatlantic affairs has been established and will review the students work. The Jury is composed as follows:

- **Amb. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy,
- **Mr. Jean Guisnel**, writer and journalist at 'Le Point', specialist of security and defense matters,
- **Dr. Karl A. Lamers**, President of the Atlantic Treaty Association,
- **Member of European Parliament**, to be determined,
- **Mr. Christian Olsson**, lecturer at the 'Université Libre de Bruxelles', specialist in peace and security studies.

The Jury will evaluate the works based on:

- Innovative thinking and designing,
- Length (minimum 2500 words for the Best paper Award, minimum 150 seconds for the best multimedia documentary),
- Attention to details.

On January 7th the first selection results will be announced and the best 10 participants will be invited for a Study Tour and Training Session to Brussels. During the Training Session in Brussels, the Jury will commit to a selection round, after which a final decision on the two winners will be made.

7. Calendar

- December 15th Closing date for receiving papers and documentaries,
- January 7th 10 best students announced,
- Mid February Training week in Brussels and Award Ceremony,
- March Beginning of the stage at the ATA,
- March - April Session at the NATO Channel TV.