

CIVICS EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

UN Youth is looking to form a working group to explore ways to develop a comprehensive civics education programme for the organisation.

It is well established that there continues to be a gap for civics education within New Zealand, and UN Youth has been approached in the past to provide opportunities in this area.

About UN Youth

UN Youth New Zealand is a non-profit organisation that provides opportunities outside the traditional classroom context. Our goal is to inspire young New Zealanders to be global citizens in the rapidly globalising world of today. Global citizenship exists in an incredibly diverse range of forms, and UN Youth hopes to provide the opportunities for all young people to be the global citizen that they aspire to be.

Throughout Aotearoa, our work equips young people to become informed, engaged, and critical New Zealanders who understand their global context and the connections between the local and the global. Through workshops, conferences, forums, and outreach events, we engage high school and tertiary students in the most pressing affairs of their country and the international community. Our organisation provides young people with the necessary educational and social skills to excel. Annually, over 3000 young New Zealanders from Northland to Southland attend a UN Youth event.

While UN Youth is well known for 'Model UN' type programmes, we see that it is equally as important to provide opportunities in the Civics Education space. Generally we hope to continue to build our initiatives around Civics Education, working towards a work programme with three main strands:

- Model UN/International Relations and Diplomacy;
- Civics Education; and
- Global Citizenship.

We see that the first two strands are more placed to be explored in a domestic setting, while the majority of our International programmes are broadly focused on different aspects of global citizenship.

Current Civics Education Programme

Currently, UN Youth's Civics Education programme centres around [Aotearoa Youth Declaration](#), as well as a number of smaller regional events centred around policy and New Zealand Politics. For the first time in 2018, UN Youth successfully held a [NZ Model Parliament](#) for high school students around New Zealand.

The work programme is in no way comprehensive, and there has been recognition that UN Youth could provide a lot more in the space generally.

Key considerations

The key areas of consideration are:

- The development of a more comprehensive civics education programme that would not just be focused on one-off events, but promote a bigger commitment to citizenship. This

could be looked at in conjunction with the possibility of a leadership/mentoring programme,

- Providing further support for lower-scale civics events to be held around New Zealand.
 - Support includes establishing base content/the backbones for running these events so it is more accessible to hold them;
 - Some of these events could include more diverse opportunities primarily focused around community engagement;
- Looking into the creation of workshops which UN Youth could deliver within schools;
 - Exploring the possibility of digital content and resources;
- Establishing strategic relationships with groups and organisations that are already successful in this space in various local communities.

Working Group

A Working Group will be established to recommend and lead the work in furthering the Civics Education work programme of UN Youth. It is expected that the Working Group will present a report outlining recommendations by July 2019.

One of the first tasks of the Working Group will be to draft a Terms of Reference in conjunction with the National Executive, to be then approved by National Council. The Working Group will also be accountable to National Council and will be expected to report on any progress and work completed.

The Working Group will comprise of four members. We are looking for four members in total, two UN Youth Volunteers, and two external members with minimal or no previous experience in UN Youth. Being a member of the working group is a Voluntary position.

Application Process

- Written applications must be submitted via the UN Youth website [online application form](#).
- Following this, shortlisted applicants are typically required to undergo interviews conducted by members of the National Executive of UN Youth New Zealand.
- The Working Group will be appointed from the pool of applicants

Requirements:

- Your CV,
- A covering letter of no more than 750 words outlining why you would like this opportunity, and what you can bring to this working group.

Applications close Sunday 14 October, 11:59 pm.

Any questions, please get in touch with Bokyoung Mun at president@unyouth.org.nz