

# ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY CHALLENGE

*2025-2026*

Challenge Introduction Session



# Entente Cordiale Day: Honoring History, Inspiring the Future

## A Union of Heritage and Innovation

The Entente Cordiale Day takes its name from the historic series of agreements signed between France and the UK in 1904, heralding a new era in Franco-British relations and signifying a shift towards friendship between the two countries. The Entente Cordiale Day is a platform for exchange between today's and tomorrow's leaders. Each year, in response to a specific global issue, we recruit top-performing students from the best higher education institutions in France and the United Kingdom and bring them together alongside the leaders of today. Given the 2026 theme of 'Conflicts, Technologies, and World Security', the Entente Cordiale Day's partnerships with the Paris Defence Strategy Forum and the London Defence Conference our 2026 Summit will allow students and guests to interact with some of the most influential political, cultural, and business leaders shaping the future of technology and global security.

## The Sites Where History Is Made

Under the patronage of His Majesty The King, the President of the Republic, and the families of the Marquess of Salisbury and Marquis de Breteuil, Entente Cordiale Day unites 400 years of heritage with forward-looking global dialogue. It is for this reason that the Entente Cordiale Day Association is anchored in the iconic sites where history has been continuously made. The 2025 Summit, held in the United Kingdom, saw a series of high-level events across the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the House of Commons, the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, the London School of Economics, and Hatfield House. In 2026, the Entente Cordiale Day Summit will be held in France and will feature symbolic venues such as the Hôtel des Invalides, the École Militaire, the Panthéon-Sorbonne, and the Château de Breteuil.





*A brief introduction to the*

# Entente Cordiale Day Challenge

Launched in 2024 at the Château de Breteuil, the Entente Cordiale Day Challenge invites interdisciplinary and international students from UK and French institutions to research and develop innovative solutions to pressing environmental, political, economic, demographic, technological and other global issues and celebrates excellence by awarding prizes to the top-performing students. These prizes, awarded annually in April with the Entente Cordiale Prizes, are named after some of the greatest individuals and prominent figures who have shaped the Entente Cordiale over the past 120 years, such as Winston Churchill, General de Gaulle, Queen Elizabeth II, and President Chirac.

**Last year, over 300 students and more than 80 teams competed for the Entente Cordiale Prizes.**



# Why You Should Join the EC Day Challenge

## Develop Leadership & Writing Skills

The EC Day Challenge offers participants the unique opportunity to be at the forefront of creating innovative solutions that will be assessed by a Written Jury of world-renowned experts, academics, and professionals, offering the ability to develop report-writing and critical thinking skills outside the classroom.

## Join Exciting Events

All participants officially join the Entente Cordiale Day Alumni community, giving them lifetime access to a wide range of events and activities, ranging from the Entente Cordiale Day Series from October to March – a series of curated speaker events, panels, and workshops – to the annual Alumni Meeting held alternately between London and Paris.

## Participate in a Historic Initiative

Become a part of history and take part in events that showcase the deep connections between French and British relations. Finalists and alumni will have the opportunity to visit (and potentially dine!) in historic venues such as the Château de Breteuil, Hatfield House, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Hôtel des Invalides, Westminster, and more. Winners of the Entente Cordiale Day Prizes also get access to and private visits to landmark historic venues across the two countries, thanks to the participation of the families connected to the figures after whom the Prizes are named.

## Access an Exclusive Network

Our finalists have the chance to engage directly with a curated network of influential figures from diverse sectors, including finance, academia, and government. Previous opportunities for prizewinners included internships with our partner organisations and the chance to present their reports at Buckingham Palace and the Elysée Palace.



*Guests mingle at the House of Commons, London, UK*



*2025 EC Day Alumni Summit at the House of Lords, London, UK*

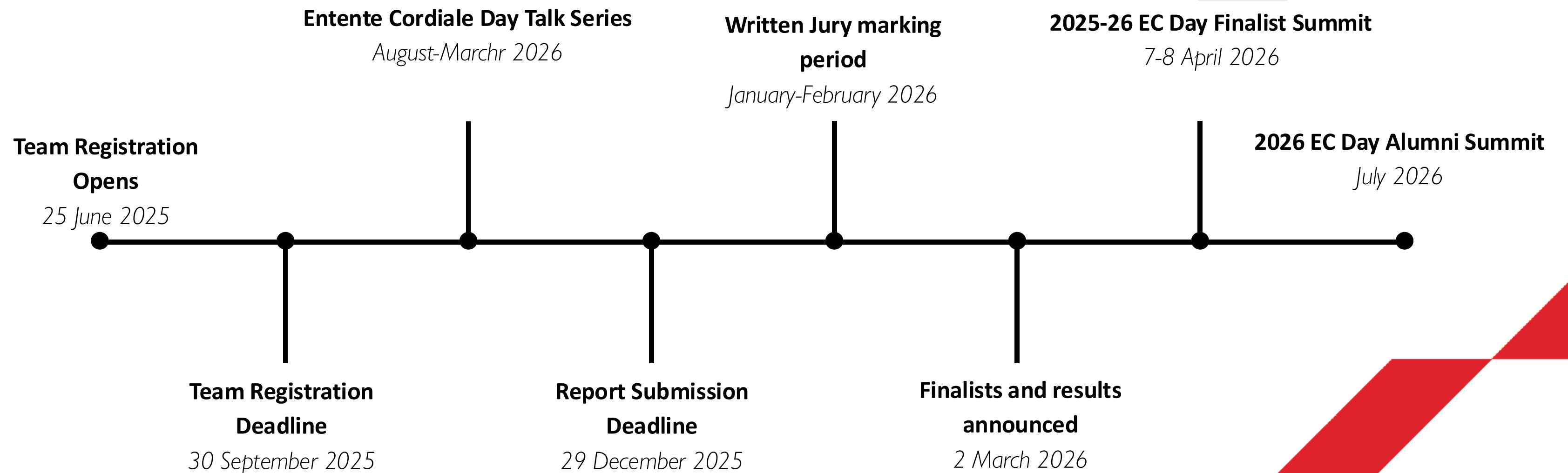


*The LSE Chamber Choir performs in the Royal Hospital Chelsea Chapel, London, UK*



# The EC Day Challenge: Overview

The EC Day Challenge consists of two parts: a **report-writing stage** marked by the Written Jury and for finalists and an **oral presentation** in front of the Grand Jury. The subject of the reports and presentations revolve around an annual theme that comprises of one of the most pressing current-day issue and/or relevant global topic.



Note: ALL DEADLINES are at **23:59 Central European Time (Paris Time)** unless otherwise noted.

## The 2025-26 EC Day Challenge Theme:

# Conflicts, Technologies and World Security

# Conflits, Nouvelles Technologies et Sécurité Mondiale

In light of current geopolitical tensions and rising concerns on new advances in fields such as artificial intelligence, it is clear that the terms 'conflicts', 'technologies', and 'world security' are closely interconnected in today's climate of political and military instability. As part of the Entente Cordiale Day Challenge, we invite students to bring new insights and reflect on the 2026 Challenge theme's three components to propose solutions to issues covered by the theme.

## 01. CONFLICTS/CONFLITS

The term 'conflict' spans political, social, and environmental struggles across both national and international settings (e.g. the Russia–Ukraine war, disputes over resources, climate justice movements, Indigenous land claims, and global trade tensions). You may choose to study conflict in its narrowest form, as the armed struggle between states or groups over territory or power. However, conflict can also refer to broader oppositions of interests, identities, and values. Participants are encouraged to reflect on both the visible and hidden dimensions of conflict, as well as the consequences for those directly or indirectly affected.

## 02. TECHNOLOGIES/NOUVELLE TECHNOLOGIES

Innovations in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and other fields are transforming the way individuals, governments, and societies interact with each other and the world around them. This theme invites you to view technology not just as neutral tools but as artificial systems that shape behaviour, power dynamics, and ethical choices. Teams can propose new technological solutions or explore how existing technologies could be applied differently, governed more effectively, or understood through new social or political frameworks. Technologies offer both challenges and opportunities: they can deepen inequalities or help resolve them, provoke conflict or foster cooperation. Your work should explore this dual potential.

## 03. WORLD SECURITY/SÉCURITÉ MONDIALE

World security is no longer limited to military defence or the prevention of war; it includes ecological stability, digital safety, public health, and the protection of vulnerable populations. Conflicts (whether armed, environmental, political, or social) can threaten both national public order and international peace. Participants should consider what a secure world might look like today and in the future. Security may mean the protection of borders, but it may also mean ensuring fair access to clean water, defending democratic values, or safeguarding digital privacy. This broad understanding of security encourages a holistic approach, one that includes both human well-being and systemic resilience.

# The EC Day Challenge: Registration

## ELIGIBILITY

- Teams must comprise of **THREE** students from the same academic institution. No solo submissions!
- All participants must be **CURRENT** students of any French or British higher education institution for the entire duration of the Challenge (from September-April). Students can be undergraduates or postgraduates of any discipline.
- Registration is limited to a maximum of 120 teams per side (United Kingdom and France). Teams will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served basis**.

Each team must complete a short application form. You will be asked to enter the details for each individual team member. These details include their full name, course name, level of study, department or college, institutional email, French visa details and a brief personal biography of no more than 100 words.

**Team's Institution \***

Choose ▾

**If 'Other', please enter your institution name**

Your answer

**What is your report's preliminary title? \***

Your answer

**What is your report's preliminary outline? (400 words maximum) \***

Your answer

A preliminary title and outline are required for the team submission! The outline should include:

- The research problem and motivation for the work
- Background and related work
- Novelty of the research
- Research approach
- Results

You can change the title, outline, and registered team names any time **by 23:59 CET on the 20th of December 2025** by emailing [academics@ententecordialeday.org](mailto:academics@ententecordialeday.org) with your revised title and/or names and outline.

**DEADLINE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 23:59 CET**

## FOUNDING INSTITUTIONS



After you register...

## Next steps for the EC Day Challenge

Please allow **up to 48 hours** to receive an update on your registration status.

If the personal data entered is all valid, and both the title and report outline are relevant to the theme at hand, you will receive confirmation of your enrollment and a unique team ID. Once you have received this unique team ID, you are officially registered to compete in the Entente Cordiale Day Challenge and **can begin work on the report**.

If any personal data entered is invalid or missing, you will receive a rejection email. You will, however, still be able to re-register as a team as long as you do so before the registration deadline.

As slots are on a first-come, first-served basis, even if the personal data entered is valid, you may instead be placed on a waitlist.

If you expect to no longer be able to participate in the competition, please notify [academics@ententecordialeday.org](mailto:academics@ententecordialeday.org) by email as soon as possible so that your spot may be given to someone else on the waiting list.



*General guidelines for the*

# Entente Cordiale Day Challenge

## REPORT

- Reports must be written in either English (for UK institutions) OR French (French institutions). Depending on your approach, you may write your report in a fully formal academic style or use a more reflective tone in the first person. You may use either footnotes or an author, date (e.g. Harvard) referencing system; just make sure it's consistent!
- Participants are encouraged to use rigorous and ethical research methods appropriate to their disciplines when developing their reports. If you are planning to collect data from human participants, you will need to obtain permission from the Academics division at [academics@ententecordialeday.org](mailto:academics@ententecordialeday.org) through a document outlining the parameters of the research and accompanying documentation.
- All reports should be no less than **3,000 words** and no more than **5,000** words. The word limit includes all text except the bibliography, appendix, and the cover page.
- Each report submitted in the research competition will be evaluated based on five key criteria, with a total possible score of 50 points. Your report will be independently marked by two Written Jurors who are experts in your field, with discrepancies sent to a third juror.

## ORAL PRESENTATION


- This stage is applicable to the top top ten teams in the UK and the top ten teams in France, who will be invited to attend the 2026 Entente Cordiale Day Summit.
- Oral presentations are not required to be delivered in the same language as the written report. While it is generally expected that French teams will present in French and UK teams in English, teams that wish to present in the alternate language may submit a request to the Academic Division no later than **16 March 2026**.
- Each finalist team will deliver a structured **ten-minute oral presentation** designed to reflect the format of a pitch presentation in front of a Grand Jury. This Grand Jury will have received your full reports, outlines, and a summary of the feedback from the Written Jury ahead of time.
- Following the conclusion of the presentation, each team will engage in a **ten-minute Q&A session**. During this period, members of the Grand Jury will pose three to five substantive questions designed to evaluate the contestants' depth of understanding, analytical reasoning, and ability to defend their research under scrutiny.
- Each team is required to prepare a set of slides to accompany their oral presentation. Slides should be visually clear, professional, and free from excessive text.

# Key Links and Contacts

**Join the Newsletter:** <http://eepurl.com/i4Kgcw>

**Academics Division (for participants and report-related queries):** [academics@ententecordialeday.org](mailto:academics@ententecordialeday.org)

**General (for all other queries):** [info@ententecordialeday.org](mailto:info@ententecordialeday.org)

 UK Team Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/7SkYYbj4Aekvjg1i8>

 French Team Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/Abb4vKzjtGqLfPz5>

**EC Day Website:** <https://www.ententecordialeday.org>

The information on this presentation is an abbreviated version of the Student Handbook. For further information on the structure of reports and more detailed guidance, please go to the Entente Cordiale Website and refer to the Student Handbook. Other links (such as the submission point for reports) can be found on the website as well!

We do our best to accommodate all accessibility needs (including extenuating circumstances). Please get in contact with the Academics Division as soon as possible after registration so that we may assist you on that front (without incurring any penalties). Otherwise, participants can request a three-day extension by 23:59 CET 29 December 2025; please note that these extensions will incur a point penalty of -1 point for every day after the 29th of December, regardless of the extenuating circumstance accepted.





Any Questions?

