

The Academic Debate Society

The Department of International Relations – UFPB is pleased to announce the launch of the **Academic Debate Society (ADS)**. The ADS is designed to promote academic debate on current international issues. It will function on a semester basis and all debates shall be conducted in English.

Who is eligible to apply in the ADS?

Membership at the ADS shall be open to students from the undergraduate course of International Relations - UFPB, though in exceptional circumstances students from other courses may be admitted to it as well.

Students who apply should have a good grasp of English, in particular to be able to express themselves orally in English.

How many students will be admitted to ADS?

The ADS shall receive no more than 15 admissions per semester.

How students may apply to the ADS?

Students shall contact Dr. Ielbo Lobo (by email, to ielbolobo@ccsa.ufpb.br, or in person) to make an appointment for an interview. Students may apply until August 15, 2017.

When the ADS will begin its works?

The first (planning) meeting will take place on August 18, 2017.

What are the aims of the ADS?

The proposed aims of the ADS are the following:

1. To establish an association between knowledge and its application, or theory and practice.
2. To encourage the development of the students' English language skills.
3. To develop debate skills, such as rhetoric, persuasion, and critical thinking, in addition to social skills needed for an effective team work.

What format will guide the debates?

Two groups will debate over a controversial motion previously agreed upon by them. One group will speak for the motion and the other, against it. Each group will receive indications of sources from which they will have to draw the arguments for or against the motion. Once each group has completed the presentation of their arguments and rebuttal, the discussion is opened up to the audience for questions, followed by a final vote on the motion. All members of the group are required to participate in the debate. There will be no cross-examination. The Professor will act as moderator.

Debates will take place every two weeks, and will involve up to 15 students, divided into three teams. While two of the teams are engaged in the debate, the third team will act as the judging audience. There will be a rotation between the teams in their respective roles.

The debates shall follow the Cambridge model, organized as follows:

Debate Format

1. First affirmative constructive speech (5 minutes)
 - Present your arguments and evidence, building a case leading to a conclusion that *supports* the motion.
2. First negative constructive speech (5 minutes)
 - Present your arguments and evidence, building a case leading to a conclusion that *undermines* the motion.
3. Second affirmative constructive speech (5 minutes)
 - Present your arguments and evidence, building a case leading to a conclusion that *supports* the motion.
4. Second negative constructive speech (5 minutes)
 - Present your arguments and evidence, building a case leading to a conclusion that *undermines* the motion.
5. Break (designed to give time for the teams to prepare for the rebuttal phase – 7 minutes)
6. First negative rebuttal (3 minutes)
 - Refute the arguments made in support of the motion, strengthen your arguments previously made, and introduce new ones which have been reserved for this moment.
7. First affirmative rebuttal (3 minutes)
 - Refute the arguments made against the motion, strengthen your arguments previously made, and introduce new ones which have been reserved for this moment.
8. Second negative rebuttal (optional) (3 minutes)
 - Refute the arguments made in support of the motion, strengthen your arguments previously made, and introduce new ones which have been reserved for this moment.
9. Second affirmative rebuttal (optional) (3 minutes)
 - Refute the arguments made against the motion, strengthen your arguments previously made, and introduce new ones which have been reserved for this moment.
10. Open discussion with the audience (7 minutes)
11. Final vote by the audience.