

# Research Guide

We've prepared this document to help guide you through the research process. This is only a suggestion of a structure and is a summary of what we have found useful. This isn't graded nor will you have to submit this anywhere, but it is just for you. Use a format or structure that works best for you. However, don't waste too much time doing general research about the country, you just need a good background about what your country is like. Instead, **most of your research time should be spent on understanding your country's opinions for each committee topic.**

Before you begin, make sure you're clear about these topics: What is the UN? How do countries interact in the UN? How are decisions made in UN committees? If you are unclear, take a look at [this article](#) on the organization.

## Country Research

Research Subtopics	Your notes:
<b>Formal Name of Country</b> This is not always the same as what the public calls it. For example, Germany is officially called the Federal Republic of Germany in the UN	
<b>Population.</b> How old are people on average? Life expectancy? Do they live in urban (city) or rural (countryside) areas?	
<b>Type of government</b> What kind of government does it have? Democracy? Dictatorship?	
<b>UN Participation</b> What committees (rooms of debate) does your country participate in? Are they part of the Security Council, or even have veto powers (ability to force a resolution paper not to pass)?	
<b>Location/topography</b> In which general geographic area is it? What kind of land does it control? Rainforests, Deserts, a mixture?	
<b>Bordering Countries</b> What is your country's relation with them? What type of history do you have with these? Do you generally agree with their stances on issues?	
<b>Allies</b> This will be essential for debate. These will be countries you'll be more likely to agree and form alliances with, both in actual debate and while writing resolutions.	
<b>Rivals</b> This will be important as countries generally don't form alliances with countries that they are economic or geopolitical rivals with. They will also be the countries	



likely to argue against you, so it's important to find information to debate <i>against</i> specific rivals.	
<b>International Involvement</b> Since you're representing this country, they for sure are in the UN however: are they part of other organizations (EU, NATO, etc.)? How active/important are they in these?	
<b>Supportiveness</b> Do they tend to support fellow nations economically or militarily? In what situations do they? Which countries or types of countries do they tend to support more?	
<b>Trade</b> What does your country export? What does it import? How big are these industries globally? How important is your country in the global economy?	
<b>GDP</b> A measure of how large an economy is, in terms of its annual output: the <b>Gross Domestic Product</b> .	
<b>GDP Per Capita</b> A measure of the economic output per person living in a country. It shows how much on average a person in your country contributes to the annual output of the country's economy.	
<b>Development Category</b> Are they LEDC, MEDC or NIC? Are they part of BRICS or similar organizations? If you don't know what these are <a href="#">take a look here</a> . What are they doing to improve their development state or are they getting worse?	
<b>Economic Sectors</b> What types of industry are particularly important for your country's economy? What current issues can affect these (does the topic that you're discussing affect the economy?) Most of the time, your aim is to protect these, as they are the backbone of your economy.	
<b>Biggest Sectors of Employment</b> Where most of your population works. Since you (most likely; in rare cases may vary based on country) want your people to work and produce money for your country's economy, these sectors are similarly important.	
<b>Natural Resources.</b> What natural resources (water, land, forests, minerals, fuels, etc.) does your country have that can be of economic use? Do they export these to other nations? If your country doesn't have a certain resource, do they rely on other countries to get these?	



<b>Corruption</b> Is there corruption within your government? In what areas is this particularly present? If yes, does the government acknowledge the fact that there is?	
<b>Freedom of Speech</b> Does your country employ censorship? Is there journalistic freedom? Are elections fair, or are they tampered with? Is there internet access, or is it restricted?	



# Topic Research

This is where it gets interesting: topic research. In MUNISS, each committee will cover three topics on three different issues currently present in our world.

For MUNISS, a good first start is always the chair reports that are or will soon be published on [our website](#). They are well-written reports on each of the issues and include important information on the issue, history, previous solutions, etc. We understand they're lengthy, but they're also packed with valuable information that'll be of great use for the basis of your research.

After looking at the reports, doing your own research will be great in ensuring you're well-prepared for those heated debates in your committees. Here are a couple of main points to consider, but feel free to deviate from them as you need.

## Stance of your country on the issue

This is **most important**. How does the issue affect your country now? Has it affected your country in the past? What type of solution will they be looking for? What national solutions have they previously implemented? Were they successful and what was the outcome?

If your country doesn't have that much of an opinion on the issue or you can't find much research about it, it is then your job to infer an opinion that the country might have, that fits its previous history in similar or related topics. For example, if a delegate can't find much about Germany's opinion on ethics frameworks in Artificial Intelligence development, they might have to look for Germany's opinions on similar topics, like data protection and hacking, to try form an opinion that seems realistic and plausible for Germany.

Your Notes:



## Stance of other countries on the issue

Along with your own country's stance, you should know what other **countries in your committee**. You can find those on [our website](#). think about the topic as well, as they're the ones who will debate with you about it.

You should focus on the most important ones: your best allies and your worst rivals. Those will be the countries who in a debate you'll come in most contact with, may it be through positive notes, or difficult questions.

Focus on the following: What is their general stance on the issue? How and why does this vary from yours? What solutions have they implemented, and how successful were these? How and how much do these vary from your country's solutions?

Your Notes:

## Stance of the whole UN

The UN doesn't have a opinion; it's member countries do. What existing resolutions (solution papers) have been published in the past on the matter? What was the outcomes of those votes? If they were against your stance, what can you say/propose that would persuade member countries to agree with you?



Your notes:

