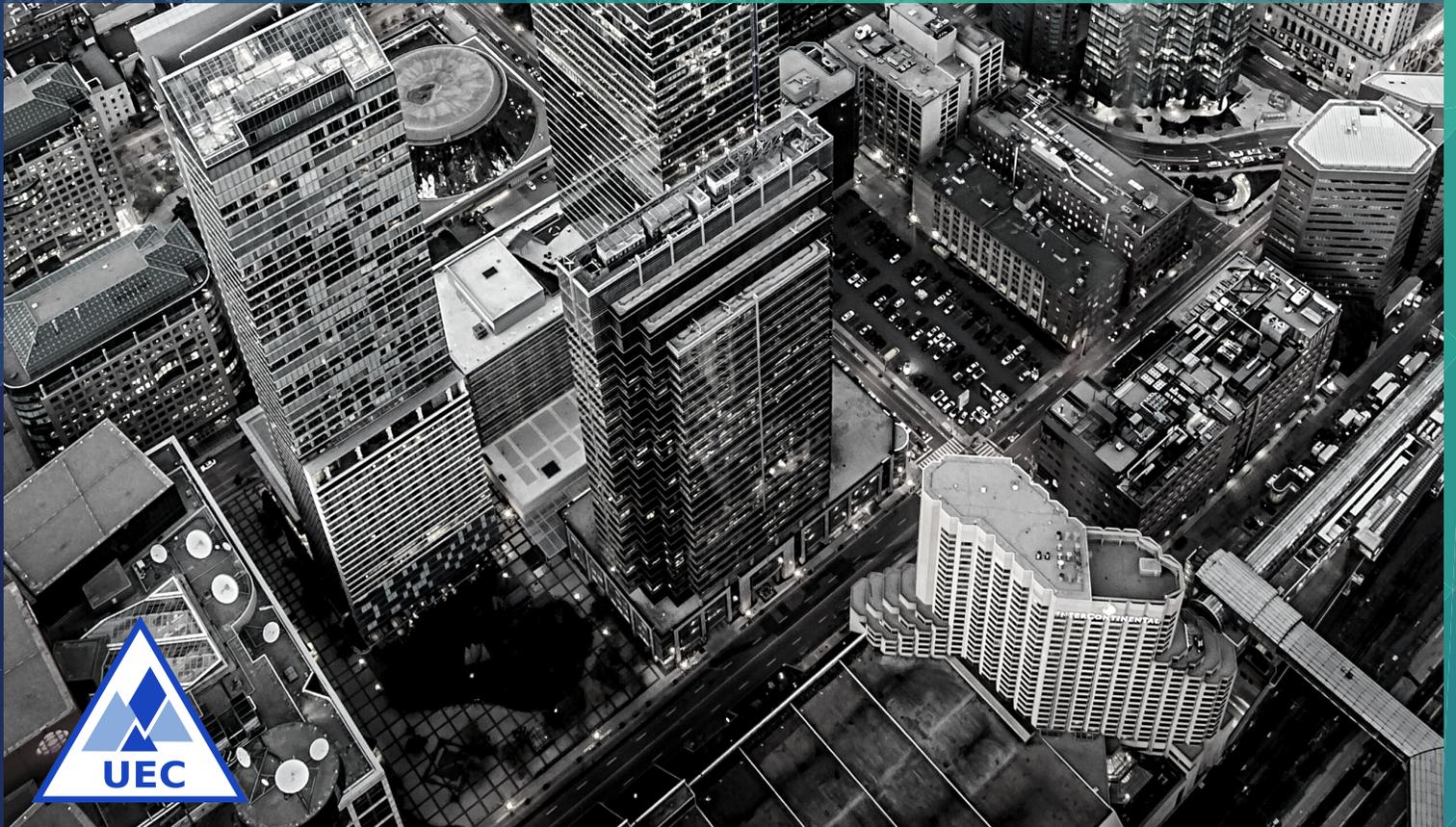




THE UNDERGRADUATE ECONOMICS
COUNCIL PRESENTS...

POLICY SUMMIT 2022

EXECUTIVE GUIDE | OCTOBER 2022



Policy Summit 2022

Undergraduate Economics Council

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What is the Case Competition About?

The Policy Summit is a UofT-wide, macroeconomics-based case competition that requires students to analyze the impact of crisis management policies on the global economy. This competition is an opportunity for undergraduate students to develop sound research skills and build themselves as diplomatic speakers. Additionally, the competition will provide students with an experiential learning experience, where participants will step into the roles of government policymakers, helping them develop a strong grasp of argumentative and decision-making skills. To enter, students will need to form a team of 3-5. Each team will be required to submit a two-side assessment document to be scored by the judges. All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of University of Toronto professors. The top 3 teams have the potential of winning gift cards worth up to \$1000!

The Challenge

As citizens, we are one of the most active players in the economy. Yet, we are usually in the passenger seats when global crises take place. We behave based on the economy's state and circumstances. Crises such as the current worrying excessive growth in inflation, climate change impacting natural resource or food producing economies, recovering from the COVID pandemic recession and political volatilities impacting trade relations of specific products all have an altering impact on the path of our economy, both domestically and internationally. The effects on the economy have an impact on our economic behaviors and economic futures. The solution to this issue throughout history has been through policies implemented by the government in the past. This competition is aimed to drive you to analyze what the process of policy-making might look like and what prospective strategies and tools are useful in responding to these crises.

It is not as simple as coming up with a policy. This challenge asks you to ask yourselves why your chosen policy is the best policy to choose for a specific crisis, why it is a suitable or the most appropriate policy, why is it important for your country to address this crisis, how can your country implement your policy and what are possible implications of your policy's implementation. These questions can be addressed with macroeconomic concepts you have learnt. These are all questions to consider when drafting your policies because a strong policy is one which can be supported with explanations.

For this competition, YOU are the governing body. With full autonomy, your team will have to respond to a set of crises through the implementation of real-world policies. On the day of the competition, two crises will be announced after which team members will have 1 hour to collaborate and create a detailed presentation for each crisis, outlining their thought process and strategies. You must discuss in-depth the efficiency of these policies: How does it affect the

country's GDP? Which industries are impacted and to what extent? How does it impact the country's foreign policy? What are the short and long-term effects of the policies? How does it impact the livelihood of the common man?

Country Research

The United States of America: The United States has the largest, most technologically advanced, and most diverse economy in the world. While the United States accounts for only about 4 percent of the world's population, its GDP is 26 percent of the world's total economic output. The American economy is a free-market, private enterprise system that has only limited government intervention in areas such as health care, transportation, and retirement. American companies are among the most productive and competitive in the world. American corporations have considerable freedom of operation and little government control over issues of product development, plant openings or closures, and employment. The United States also has a clear edge over the rest of the world in many high-tech industries, including computers, medical care, aerospace, and military equipment. The US faces an inflation rate of 8.26% as of August 2022.

Canada: The Canadian economy is largely propped up by the services sector, which makes up about 70.2% of its GDP. 28.2% is made up of manufacturing and industry, with the remaining 1.6% composed of agriculture. Canadian real GDP is projected to grow by 1.6% in 2022. Being the neighbor and close ally of the United States, Canadian economic policies typically mirror those of the US. Canada is a largely free-market economy, with exceptions such as healthcare, retirement, postal services, etc. which are publicly funded. As of August 2022, Canada's inflation was 7%.

India: India's diverse economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of services. Slightly less than half of the workforce is in agriculture, but services are the major source of economic growth, accounting for nearly two-thirds of India's output but employing less than one-third of its labor force. India has capitalized on its large educated English-speaking population to become a major exporter of information technology services, business outsourcing services, and software workers. Nevertheless, per capita income remains below the world average. India is developing into an open-market economy, yet traces of its past autarkic policies remain. Economic liberalization measures, including industrial deregulation, privatization of state-owned enterprises, and reduced controls on foreign trade and investment, began in the early 1990s and served to accelerate the country's growth, which averaged nearly 7% per year from 1997 to 2017. India faces an inflation rate of 7%.

China: China is the second-largest global economy, the largest exporter, and has the largest exchange reserves in the world. However, even though China has one of the fastest-growing GDPs in the world, its economic growth was abruptly slowed to 2.3%, against 5.8% in 2019, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2019 context was already the result of a structural slowdown, as the economy moves away from an investment-led growth model and the government implements policies to reduce financial vulnerabilities. At the time, resilient external demand and robust domestic household consumption bolstered this growth, despite rising concerns about financial risks amid an economic restructuring led by the Communist government. China, the world's top crude oil buyer, brought in 44.53 million tonnes of oil last month, equivalent to 10.49 million barrels per day (BPD), according to data from the General Administration of Customs. A notable outlier, China's inflation rate as of August 2022 was 2.5%

The United Kingdom: The UK, the leading trading power and financial center, is the second-largest economy in Europe after Germany. Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and efficient by European standards, producing about 60% of food needs with less than 2% of the labor force. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil resources, but its oil and natural gas reserves are declining; the UK has been a net importer of energy since 2005. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, are key drivers of British GDP growth. Manufacturing, meanwhile, has declined in importance but still accounts for about 10% of economic output. As of August, the UK faces an inflation rate of 9.8%.

Russia: In 2021, Russia was crowned the eleventh largest country in the world with its GDP measured at 1.78 trillion USD. Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, the Russian economy shrank by 4.1% in Q2 of 2022. Services make up an estimated 62.3% of the Russian economy. Data measured from the first quarter of 2002 to the first quarter of 2022 shows volatile movement in the CPI (Consumer Price Index), but shows a growth in CPI over the last few quarters. The Russian inflation rate as of August 2022 was measured at 14.3%.

Grading Rubric (For Participant Use)

Category	Description	Marks
Research	Use of statistics: Presentation includes appropriate economic indicators to justify a country's position on policies.	/10
	The factual basis of future predictions: Any and all predictions made must be supported by past and current information on countries.	/10
	Sources: Information must be acquired from a wide range of reliable sources (Eg. Databases, News Channels, Websites, Videos, etc)	/5
	Total /25	
Application and Analysis	Economics knowledge and understanding: Demonstrates and applies macroeconomic concepts and theories in a clear and effective manner for chosen countries.	/10
	Evaluation: Connections to real-world examples are made to support policy choices and arguments.	/10
	Diagram: Relevant, accurate, and correctly labeled diagrams with complete explanations.	/10
	Format: Aligns with the format of the Draft Summary Paper provided	/5
Total / 35		
Oral Presentation	Use of Argument: Reasons are provided to support policy decisions. Explanations are relevant and focused.	/6
	Organization of ideas and clarity: Choices and responses are outlined in a clear and concise manner. Provides a clear structure to the presentation. The presentation does not exceed the allotted time.	/6
	Language and Vocabulary: Syntax and grammar are formal and coherent.	/6
	Use of Economic Terminology: Consistently demonstrates appropriate use of economic terminology. Terms are correctly defined.	/6
	Interactions: Response to questions from judges and other teams is well formulated.	/6
Total / 30		
Judge's Favorite	Judges may award an additional ten points for their favorite assessment paper based on the use of economics and creativity.	/10
		Total Marks/ 100

Structure and Awards

Structure

Each team will be representing a country which will be allotted to them prior to the competition. Introductory research of the country is given to team members in the guide (see pp.3-4). It is the responsibility of the team to complete the remaining research which might be required for the competition. All the teams are encouraged to choose a spokesperson amongst themselves for ease of communication with the UEC team.

On the day of the event, all team members are expected to join the UEC Policy Summit opening ceremony in MN1270. The opening ceremony will begin with a short presentation explaining what the competition entails, introducing and meeting the guest speakers and finally answering any last-minute questions. The competition will start with each team being directed to their group tables in their respective rooms. Soon after, everybody will be sent a “Crisis.” It will be emailed to participants but physical copies for participants with no devices will be provided. The crisis is a problem which the country will face, for example, the great depression, natural disasters, diseases, depletion of resources, etc.

The team is expected to create a maximum of 3 policies per crisis in their presentations, keeping in mind the strength and weaknesses of their countries, so that it does not affect the GDP, standard of living, and environment of the country in a negative manner. After the 1-hour time period given for the policymaking, there will be a 15-minute break. This will be followed by the second crisis, with an identical format. Following this, teams will begin with presentations. Each team is expected to present their policies and their predicted impact on their country in 3-5 minutes. There is no fixed structure for the presentation which allows plenty of room for creativity! Presentation skills of the team members will be graded & the judge would also provide some feedback on the discussed policies. The 3-5 minute time restriction will be strictly followed for the presentation. The winning position will be decided by our judges and awards will be distributed on the same day, after the end of the competition and presentations.

Awards

The top 3 teams will have a chance to learn from industry professionals who will also be evaluating and judging their policies and distributing awards on the day of the workshop. The awards are as follows:

First Place: \$550 cash

Second Place: \$350 cash

Third Place: \$200 cash

Guiding questions for your analysis:

- Which industries does the crisis affect and in what manner?
- Which industries can benefit and improve in the long term after the crisis?
- Will the policy work or not based on economic indicators such as poverty rate, unemployment rate, changes in GDP, income/wages, currency strength, etc?
- How does it affect the GDP of the country? How can the crisis be mitigated to improve the current economic condition?
- How does it affect the livelihood of the common man? Which sections of the population does it target and who all are worse off?
- How does it affect the foreign policy of the country? What advantages can be taken by the country's existing foreign allies?
- Does the crisis/the policy made go against the opinions of the population? If so, how do you handle the uprising?
- How does the crisis impact international/domestic trade?
- Are you making policies in accordance with the international stance of the country that you are representing?

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate?

The competition is open to undergraduate students across all three campuses registered as full-time or part-time students at the University of Toronto. You will be able to participate in teams of 4. However, if you do not have a group, email us at ueccasecomps@gmail.com and you will be assigned one. Make sure to fill in the details in the registration form to participate!

How should our team approach the presentation?

After each crisis topic has been introduced, each team will have a maximum of 60 minutes to prepare an oral/visual presentation for the judges and hosts. You may ask, what do you mean by presentation? This is your chance to be as creative as possible! You could do a PowerPoint, a mock interview, a newscast, or even a simple document presentation. However, participants must provide in-depth analysis for their policies of choice and evaluate using relevant macroeconomic indicators, statistics, and considerations for future predictions. The maximum time for the presentation is 5 minutes.

What do you mean by “crisis”?

When you see the word crisis, you may instantly recall the dire Global Financial Crisis of 2008 or the current Covid-19 recession. However, crises for this competition will be unique, slightly more exciting! One of the hosts will announce a new, spontaneous crisis situation that you will have to solve on the spot. You will need to think on your feet and apply your knowledge of economics, mirroring a policy maker’s response to sudden changes in the economic environment.

Will the crises be exactly accurate to the real world?

No. While we will select crises which are realistic, they will not necessarily be entirely accurate to what happens in the real world. We want to test your thinking skills and ability to solve unique problems using economic theory. In choosing only accurate crises, there would be no creativity required for our competition, as historical data and policies are widely available for each country.

I am not able to reach out to any UEC members via email. What should I do?

You may send us a direct message via Instagram [[@uecutm](https://www.instagram.com/uecutm)] or on the UEC Discord group [<https://discord.gg/wsVd6WMkaw>]. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Can I participate in 2 teams?

No.