



Berlin Global Dialogue Young Voices cohort 2026: call for applications

About Berlin Global Dialogue

The Berlin Global Dialogue unites international leaders from business, government, and academia to develop constructive solutions for the most pressing challenges of the global economy in the twenty-first century.

The annual summit convenes selected high-level participants for candid, eye-level exchanges in interactive formats that highlight diverse perspectives and facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The Berlin Global Dialogue, first held in 2023, gathers almost 1000 guests annually from more than 80 countries. Past speakers have included Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz, France's President Emmanuel Macron, European Council President Charles Michel and BlackRock's CEO Larry Fink, as well as numerous CEOs from top global companies, political leaders and world-leading academics.

Under the theme "Advancing Alliances for the New Era", this year's Berlin Global Dialogue will take place from October 21 - October 22 at ESMT Berlin. The Young Voices Program will commence with an opening reception on October 19 and a full-day workshop on October 20.

Website: <https://www.berlinglobaldialogue.org/>

About ESMT Berlin

Berlin Global Dialogue is embedded in ESMT Berlin, a leading global business school with its campus in the heart of Berlin. Founded in 2002 by 25 leading global companies, ESMT offers master's, MBA, and PhD programs, as well as executive education across its campus in Berlin, various locations around the world, online, and in an online blended format.

Focusing on leadership, innovation, and analytics, our diverse faculty publishes outstanding research in top academic journals. The international business school provides an interdisciplinary platform for discourse between politics, business, and academia. ESMT is a non-profit private institution of higher education, accredited by AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS.

We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion across all our activities and communities.

Website: <https://esmt.berlin/>



About BGD Young Voices

The #BGDYOUNGVOICES program allows 25 exceptional students from ESMT Berlin and the GNAM Network to engage with leaders from academia, business, and policy - and have a seat at the table. Young Voices participants are expected to represent the voice of the next generation of leaders.

In addition, a specifically curated pre-conference program allows students to dive deeper into Berlin Global Dialogue's thematic areas and share insights with their peers.

During the event, participants will have the opportunity to engage directly with global leaders through Young Voices Private Dialogues, as well as with alumni from previous Young Voices cohorts.

Eligibility criteria for Young Voices 2026

- Age 32 or under on April 1, 2026.
- Enrolled at a GNAM school in a Master's or MBA program in the calendar year of 2026. Students graduating in 2026 are eligible to apply.
- Proven interest in the intersection of business, politics, and society through academic pursuits or extracurricular activities.

Nomination process

- Every GNAM member school may nominate students to the selection committee. As places are strictly limited, no GNAM school is guaranteed a place.
- Nominations need to include:
 - An up-to-date CV
 - A letter of motivation (max 500 words) detailing why the applicant is interested in joining the BGD 2026. Your response should include a statement on how you could contribute to a Young Voices panel on either climate, technology, equality or geopolitics based on your professional or personal experience.
 - A short response to the following:

You have the opportunity to ask one question of any leader in business, politics or academia on the theme of "Advancing Alliances in the New Era". Who would that leader be, what would your question be, and why is this particularly relevant to you? (no more than 250 words)

All submissions should be original work by the individual applicant.



Selection process

The BGD team will choose a total of 25 students from across the GNAM network to attend the summit, with the aim of crafting a diverse and motivated cohort.

Given the number of GNAM schools, it will not be possible to guarantee each school a seat in the cohort. All nominated students will be assessed in open competition, and it is therefore also possible that more than one student from a particular school will be successful.

Students are selected based on the overall strength of their application, including proven interest in BGD topics, the letter of motivation and the application essay.

Financial support

The BGD team will provide accommodation for successful participants from the GNAM network in a nearby hotel from October 19 (arrival date) to October 23 (departure date).

In addition, we will provide the following travel stipends to successful candidates

- €350 for students nominated from schools within the EU and UK
- €500 for students nominated from schools in Turkey, Egypt, Israel
- €1500 for students nominated from schools outside the above regions

Process timeline 2026

April 30, 2026: Deadline to submit materials to <https://event-reg.som.yale.edu/signup/Berlin-Global-Dialogue-Applications-2026> .

May 15, 2026: Notification Deadline: successful applicants are notified

June-September: Virtual Workshops

Each successful applicant will be expected to attend a series of preparatory workshops (3 x 1hr) for the event. Each workshop will be held twice to accommodate different time zones.

October 19: Arrival in Berlin, opening reception for Young Voices

October 20: Full day Young Voices Workshop in Berlin

October 21-22: Berlin Global Dialogue