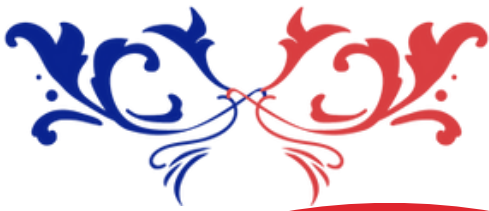




# Entente Cordiale Day

CELEBRATING OUR PAST TRANSFORMING OUR FUTURE



## ENTENTE CORDIALE PRIZES UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

### STUDENT BOOKLET

# 2024-2025

Under the High Patronage of the French  
President and with the Support of His Majesty  
King Charles III

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Hatfield House, Home of the Marquess of Salisbury, venue of the Entente Cordiale Gala Awards Ceremony in April 2025





## *A word from the Co-Chairman*

*"It is incumbent upon us all to reinvigorate our friendship to ensure it is fit for the challenges of the 21st century"*

**His Majesty Charles III, Palace of Versailles, September 2023**

Dear Sir, Madam,

Students and academic institutions are in the best position to understand that our century, at once unstable and promising, harbours an incalculable number of transformations. Climate change, artificial intelligence, the rise of the digital economy, geopolitical transformations with the new challenges of collective security are among the most complex issues that our societies and governments have and will have to deal with this century.

This is also what is driving the Marquis de Breteuil and I, as on 8 April 2024, at the initiative of a group of students and alumni from the London School of Economics (LSE) and the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), we launched an important university project that illustrates the Entente Cordiale between France and the United Kingdom, which was sealed one hundred and twenty years ago.

Let's recall here the central idea: each year, as part of a Franco-British university challenge, we aim to select the best student groups tackling these global issues in a forward-looking, innovative and in a bold way, and to award them the Entente Cordiale Prizes. We are proud to have the High Patronage of the President of the Republic, Mr Emmanuel Macron, and the personal support of His Majesty King Charles III.

The first edition of this competition will focus on the themes of climate change, biodiversity and developing countries. Launched in October, it will conclude in April with a gala dinner at my home in the Old Palace of Hatfield House. However, in addition to the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and the London School of Economics, we would like to invite other universities and grandes écoles in our two countries, and especially their students, to join us.

You will no doubt recognise from this brochure that our project is more than just a rewarding extra-curricular activity. Above all, it has the potential to offer the young students who take part in it, an extraordinary adventure, a real life experience, memorable life-time experience, membership of a network of Entente Cordiale alumni for life, and the opportunity to enhance their skills in research, innovation, oral group presentation, and the ability to think outside the box. In short, a series of very useful assets in their future lives. The core of our mission is to offer a memorable lifetime and outstanding experience for all the participating students of the Entente Cordiale Prizes University Challenge

I look forward to welcoming your academic institution and your students as partners of the Entente Cordiale Prizes

Yours sincerely

**Robert Gascoyne-Cecil**

7th Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL

## Our ambition

The Entente Cordiale Day Association organises an annual Franco-British university challenge of a multidisciplinary nature. The competition aims to tackle global issues in a forward-looking, innovative and transformative way. It runs from October to April.



About 50 to 60 study groups made up of three students per team from the same French or British academic institution can take part in the University Challenge. The annual theme of research will always be a global and general topic and therefore, there is no condition of nationality or specific courses to participate. We encourage creative thinking solutions not an expert or technical report on a specific subject.

In April, the Entente Cordiale Awards recognise the work of the 5 best study groups of each country. Each of the winning teams also receives a scholarship and a range of other benefits.

Beyond its academic aspect, the Entente Cordiale Gala Awards Ceremony's vision is to be the annual gathering between all the current and future Franco-British leaders in the world of politics, business, trade, culture and the arts that contributes to further enhance mutual exchanges between our two great nations. It is an annual celebration of the entente between our two nations.

## Our partners

Initiated by the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and the London School of Economics, the Entente Cordiale Prizes competition is in principle open to any academic institution based in France or the UK wishing to take part, provided it meets the criteria of academic excellence and prestige as set by the Entente Cordiale Day Association.

Its ambition is to bring together a wide network of economic, political and cultural players in France and the UK. These partners, both institutional and private, support our initiative. Every year, all these stakeholders are invited to the Entente Cordiale Annual Gala and to the Entente Cordiale Alumni Day.



## Our events

Our association structures its activities around two major events. Firstly, the presentation of the Entente Cordiale Awards to the best study groups around 8 April each year, at the Entente Cordiale gala dinner.

Secondly, the annual Alumni meeting, in June, of all the Entente Cordiale Prizes alumni, to be held alternately in the House of Lords in the United Kingdom and in the French Senate at the Palais du Luxembourg in France.

Our Entente Cordiale Prizes are honoured to benefit from the High Patronage of the President of the Republic, Mr Emmanuel Macron, and of the support of His Majesty, King Charles III.



Launching of the Entente Cordiale Prizes, April 2024, Chateau de Breteuil

# *Academic institutions : how to join us?*

The Entente Cordiale competition was launched in 2024 based on an idea by alumni and students of the London School of Economics (LSE) and the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). The first edition of the University Challenge will run from October 2024 to April 2025 and will ask participating students to address the themes of climate change, biodiversity and developing countries. Each year, a global theme will be chosen by the Advisory Board of the Entente Cordiale Association composed mainly of students and university representatives of each Entente Cordiale participating universities.



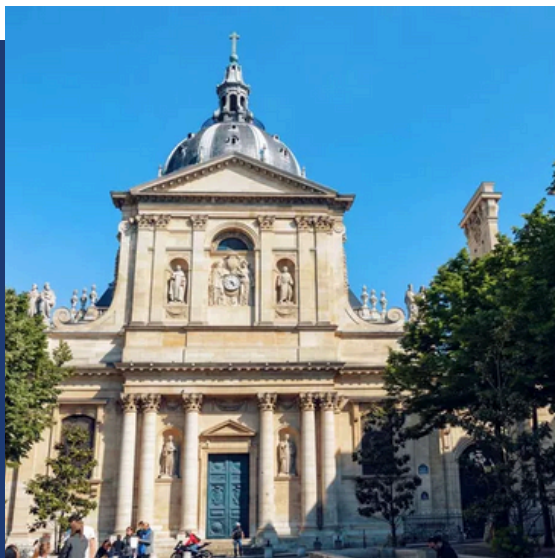
However, the organising committee of the Entente Cordiale University Challenge does not wish to limit the scope of entries to these two prestigious institutions and their students. Any academic institution in France or the UK is welcome to enter provided they meet the criteria set by the Association.

We invite your institution to join us and take part in a collective emulation exercise. All you need to do is sign a formal agreement between your institution's student life department (or equivalent), its student union and our association.

Subsequently, groups of students (limited to three people only) may register for the competition from October each year, possibly through the Student Office (or equivalent). The maximum number of groups per institution will be limited to 7 as we expect to reach 7 participating academic institutions per country.

The total number of groups competing in each year's competition will be limited to a maximum of 60.

Join us!



*Place de La Sorbonne, Paris*



*Radcliffe Camera, Oxford*

## Entering a competition challenge

Competing for the Entente Cordiale Awards means taking part in a multi-disciplinary academic challenge of international scope. Student volunteers can come from any discipline (economics, chemistry, geography, etc.), any level of study (Bachelor's, Master's, MBA, Doctorate) and any academic institution (grandes ecoles or university), provided that the latter is a French or British based institution. The diversity of profiles is a strength that the Entente Cordiale Day association intends to promote.



## Produce innovative and influential ideas

The Entente Cordiale Day competition is an opportunity for participating students to think about global issues in a forward-looking, innovative and transformative way. Following the example of the 2025 theme on "climate change, biodiversity and developing countries", each year an academic jury will be able to propose topics such as technology and artificial intelligence, the global geopolitical order and collective security, urbanisation and public health in the face of the threat of pandemics. The winning reports will be presented by the students to the Élysée Palace and Buckingham Palace.

## Keeping the Entente Cordiale alive

The Entente Cordiale, sealed between France and the United Kingdom in April 1904, has always been more than just a diplomatic agreement: it has been the foundation of cooperation and friendship between French and British civil societies for over 120 years. Students have a rightful place in it! By taking part in the Entente Cordiale Awards University Challenge, they are following in the footsteps of the illustrious families and public and civil players who have brought it to life. By taking part, they are helping to defend common interests and build a better future.

## A unique experience

Taking part in the Entente Cordiale competition is more than just an extra-curricular activity to add to your student CV. Our initiative represents a rewarding academic opportunity and a memorable lifetime human adventure. As part of their group of studies., students can also hone their skills in cooperation, research, innovation, synthesis and oral presentation. Finally, the prospect of being among the best gives them hope of discovering the places steeped in memory where our prizes will be awarded.

## Joining an influential network

All the students taking part in the Entente Cordiale Awards will join an influential network of alumni who will meet each year at the end of June, alternatively in France at the Senate and in the UK at the House of Lords. Each year, Franco-British themes will be addressed (such as English-style multiculturalism versus French-style secularism, Greater Paris versus Greater London, London and Paris as financial capital, rivalry or complementarity for Europe, British NHS vs French Social Security and many other Franco-British themes) from a comparative perspective in order to enrich mutual knowledge of our two countries and encourage the sharing of experience between them.

## Register in October

# *Students: how can you get involved?*

Students from a partner French or British academic institution who wish to take part in the Entente Cordiale Awards may apply on the association's website between 1st and 31 October each year, subject to a limit of seven study groups per partner institution and a total of 50 groups of three participating students. There are no nationality or discipline criteria for participation, but a demonstrated interest in the subject must be established.



## Written study groups submission at the end of January

Each study group must submit a report of no more than ten pages by 31 January of each year. Each report will be written in the language of the country where the academic institution is based and (will be anonymised) and sent to a first Jury responsible for correcting the written version. This Jury will judge the quality of the work by reference to four demanding and equally weighted criteria: the robustness of the research, the clarity of the style, the quality of the arguments and the innovation of the thesis presented.

## Selection of the 10 best written study by the First Jury on 21 February

Once the written reports have been corrected by a Jury responsible for the written phase, two quotas of ten study groups will be selected - and declared 'eligible' for the prizes - in France and the UK respectively, to take part in the final phase of the competition. These groups will defend their reports in front of another Jury, responsible for the orals.

## Oral Presentation before the Grand Jury on 8 April, selection of the 5 winning teams London School of Economics 2025 Entente Cordiale University Challenge (Day)

The members of the Grand Jury will judge the quality of the finalists' work according to the same criteria as those used for the written competition, with particular emphasis on the clarity of the oral presentations to be held in each Entente Cordiale participating universities rotating every year. Each presentation will last 10 minutes and will be followed by ten minutes of questions and answers. The best 5 teams will be awarded prizes at the Awards Ceremony.

## Gala Awards Ceremony 8 April, Old Palace Hatfield House (Evening)

The best 5 winning groups from each country will be rewarded and receive their distinction at the Entente Cordiale Awards ceremony during the Annual Gala Dinner. The annual dinner will be held each year alternatively at Hatfield House in England and the Château de Breteuil in France, in the homes of the two honorary presidents of the Entente Cordiale Day Association. The winners will also receive scholarships and various special gifts.

## Annual handover of the reports in June at Buckingham Palace and the Elysee Palace

The 5 French and 5 British prize-winners will have the privilege of presenting the fruits of their work to the Private Secretary to King Charles III at Buckingham Palace in London, and to the Chief of Staff to the President of the French Republic in Paris at the Elysee Palace.

## Objective

Participating students, in groups of three from the same academic institution, are invited to submit a written work of around 10 to 15 pages presenting an analysis with one or more forward-looking and bold recommendations on a global subject. There are four equally weighted assessment criteria, totalling 100 points: the convincing and robust nature of the research and recommendations; the clarity of the style and organisation of the presentation; the quality of the arguments; and the innovation of the analysis and recommendation.

## Expected report format

The structure of the expected report differs depending on whether the study groups are French or British. However, in both cases, the text must include an introduction, clear sections advocating one or more recommendations and the practical implementation of these recommendations, and a brief conclusion summarising the subject and looking to the future. Reports should be no less than 10 pages and no more than 15 pages long, in A4 format, with 12 point font and 1.5 line spacing.

## Report assessment criteria

### - Robustness of the research (25 points)

Study groups are expected to situate their analysis within relevant, varied and up-to-date research, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the subject. Information, key facts and figures should be accurate and up-to-date. Finally, the sources used should provide new perspectives on the subject.

### - Clarity of style and organisation (25 points)

The work should have an easily understandable, logical structure that supports the point being made. Ideas should be well organised and logically linked. The writing style should be clear, precise and concise.

### - Quality of the argument (25 points)

Students will be expected to present solid, well-articulated arguments in support of their statements and recommendations. At the same time, the work should demonstrate a good ability to summarise and analyse complex information and put forward new ideas.

### - Innovation of ideas (25 points)

Study groups are invited to demonstrate a new approach to the subject, from an original perspective. Innovative ideas in response to the problems raised are also expected, with a view to reform.



## Advice to participants

- Be precise and concise: The ability to summarise complex ideas clearly and succinctly is crucial.
- Promoting innovative sources: Highlighting sources that offer new and enriching perspectives
- Careful presentation: Good organisation and flowing writing will make your work easier to read and more effective.
- Innovate: come up with bold ideas and creative solutions, even if they are unconventional and off the beaten track as long as you demonstrate that they can be implemented.



## The Entente Cordiale Awards

At the end of the competition, 5 prizes will be awarded to the French winners and 5 to the UK winners.

These Awards bear singular names honouring the memory of those who have furthered Franco-British friendship for over 120 years and/or who have supported our project.

The Awards will be announced in the following order:

- 5th Prize - Entente Cordiale Friends' Prizes: Lord Williams of Elvel and George Grosz
- 4th Prize - Entente Cordiale Signatories' Prizes: Marquis of Lansdowne and Ambassador Paul Cambon
- 3rd Prize - Entente Cordiale Warriors' Prizes: Sir Winston Churchill and General de Gaulle
- 2nd Prize - Entente Cordiale Centenary's Prize: Queen Elizabeth II and President Chirac
- 1st Prize - Entente Cordiale Founders' Prize: King Edward VII and President Loubet.

## Awards for the winning teams

In addition to the prizes, the winners of the University will receive various awards:

- Certificates of participation in the competition (awarded to all participants and signed by the partner universities)
- Special private and exclusive visits in special venues with their guests
- A study grant or scholarship for each of the 5 winning groups. The value is to be determined
- Special gifts for the best three winning teams



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I was delighted to hear that a number of new prizes are to be awarded to scholars researching Anglo-French history in order to mark the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Entente Cordiale. I have no doubt that your commendable efforts to explore, describe and interpret the complex past of our two nations will serve to deepen and renew our historic relationship.

I know that so many of you will understand all too well the importance of reflecting on our shared history to guide and strengthen our firm friendship and enduring partnership. I, for one, found such research as is being celebrated today invaluable in the preparations for our memorable first State Visit to France last year.

I can only wish all those whose hard work has been recognized through these awards every possible success in your academic endeavours. Bonne continuation !

“

*I have no doubt that your **commendable efforts to explore, describe and interpret the complex past of our two nations will serve to deepen and renew our historic relationship.***

*His Majesty King Charles III, on the occasion of the launch of the Entente Cordiale Prizes, Chateau de Breteuil, April 8, 2024*



# ENTENTE

CELEBRATING THE PAST, TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

# CORDIALE

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