



LAGOS
MODEL
UNITED
NATIONS

First Impression Tips

Lagos Model United Nations



Few weeks to the Conference! Excited? Sure you are. But before the Conference, it is really important that you are ready, so you can have the best experience. From start to finish, MUNs largely involves teamwork among delegates. There are delegates that everyone wants to work with, and there are delegates, who even their teammates avoid. You do not want to be the latter. To be that delegate that everyone wants to work with, you need to make the best first impression. This document will help you make the best first impressions.



First Impression Tips

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Look Prepared

By this we mean, dress properly. MUNs require that a blazer should always be worn, to increase the formality. Wear blazers with dark/formal colours (black, navy blue, grey, etc.) Both male and female are expected to be formally dressed in Western clothing. We understand that “Agbada” might be what some states consider formal, but our definition of Formal is; Suits, Tie and Blazer for males and Skirt, Dresses and blazer for Females. To avoid unnecessary attention, follow the rules of attire.



“You are your brand, especially if you are a business owner, so making sure that your look communicates your best self is important,”

Laurel Mintz, CEO of Elevate My Brand.



If you want to show off your personality, try including one accessory that could be considered a memorable item or even a conversation piece. This could be anything from a unique piece of jewellery to a fancy tie to a pair of fun socks. Your best outfits should be worn for LMUN, trust us, this will go a long way. People are remembered from how they look; you don’t want to be remembered as the delegate with the flying hair/wig or untucked shirt or wrinkled blazer. The way you are dressed, determines how you will be addressed.

Be Prepared

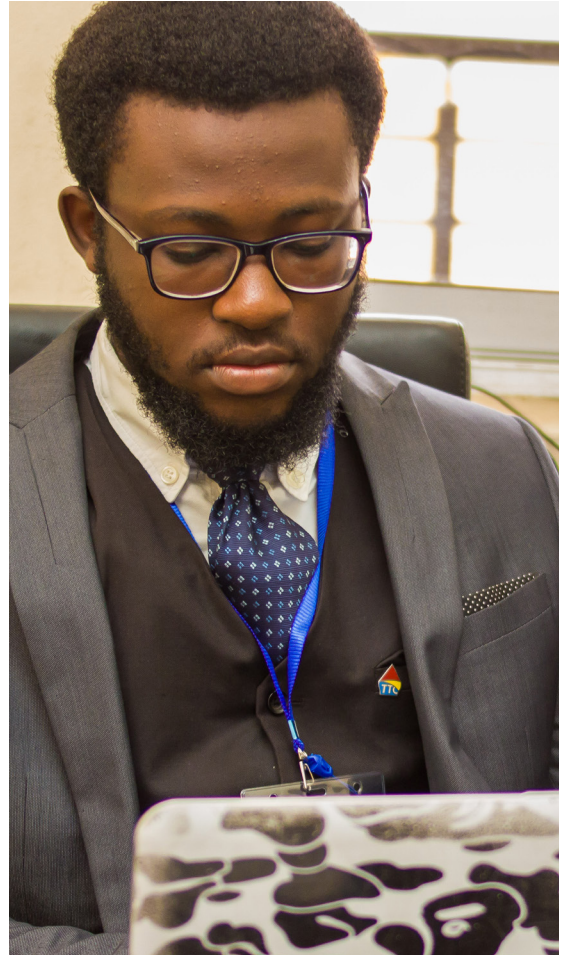
All research needed to be done, should be done prior to the conference. More information can be got during the conference. Do not overemphasise your shortcomings. It might seem shockingly simple, but avoid highlighting weaknesses; (such as your limited knowledge). While you don't want to hide any weaknesses (people will likely figure it out anyway), you do want to be honest and move on to the good stuff -- especially at the beginning of the conference.

You know you are prepared when you are familiar with, the Delegate Prep Guide and its content and you are fully practising all you read. Also, when you are knowledgeable on the contents of the rules of procedure and you properly know how to raise motions as well as being familiar with the content of the background guide as well as delegate behaviour. If all these boxes in your checklist of preparedness are checked, then you're prepared, trust us.



Know Your Research

It is one thing researching and it is another thing is knowing what you researched. If you keep having to look for a site you saw information, it will make you look unserious. When you're meeting someone for the first time, don't try to be someone you're not. If you don't know the answer to something they ask, don't fake it. The ability to lean into your weaknesses shows that you are self-aware. A way to avoid such a situation is to know your research.



Know your Country's Position on Every Topic to be Addressed

So that whatever topic is being selected in your committee you'll be able to handle it. Your country's position is what your country thinks about the topics handled in your committee. Is your country for LGBT Rights? If they aren't for it? Why? Answers such as that determine what your country position is.



Tardiness

Avoid late coming when it anything regarding the conference. always be early for all events relating to the conference. To make a great first impression, be sure that you're respectful of the scheduled time provided by the conference. Walking into committee sessions while everyone is already seated and making motions doesn't look nice. Meeting time management is a key aspect of building an engaged group of delegates. Plus, it shows respect for their schedules.

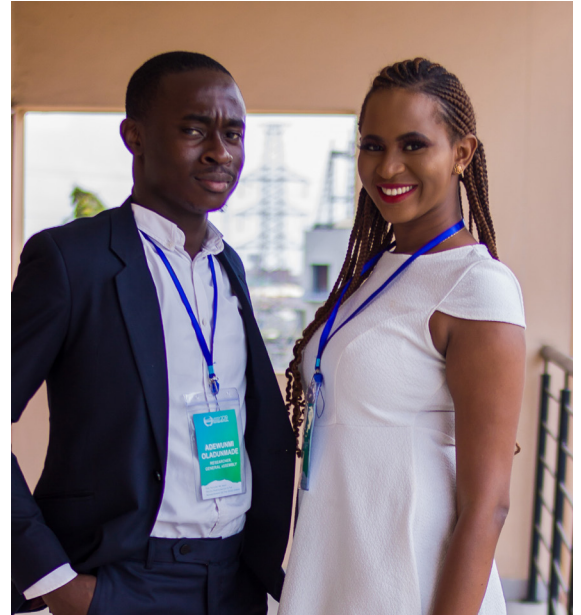
You don't want to walk into committee sessions that have already begun and all eyes will be on you. The only way to avoid such awkwardness is to come early, maybe earlier that the Dias. But in most cases, nobody is earlier than the Dias, but if you happen to be, you've given the Dias a reason to watch out for you in a positive light.



Be Welcoming

Effective body language goes beyond simply standing up straight and having a firm handshake, these are important but other things matter to promote a welcoming nature. When you're meeting someone for the first time, keep your posture open -- don't tightly cross your arms or legs, don't ball your hands into fists, and don't hunch over in your seat. Lean in when you talk to show you're actively listening and engaged in the conversation. And don't be afraid to take up some space at the table, either. If you normally use hand gestures or move around to communicate, don't hold back. These nonverbal cues can make a welcoming nature and enable people to feel at ease in approaching you.

It is important to also note that, people have a limit to how they want to be welcomed. Some people are okay with being hugged on a first meeting, while many are not. If you are a hugger, try to minimise this attribute because you will be meeting new people with different likes. So, it is better to keep things simple and offer a handshake, which if not accepted you should be taken offensive.



Choose Your Words

Words matter even more than you think. Positive and persuasive words and phrases will often open doors and make people feel comfortable in your presence, which can ultimately make them more willing to work with you. Kind, encouraging words makes you a great delegate. Words such as;



*“It’s really nice to meet you.
I hope you are doing okay.
You may have my lunch.
You may have my sit.
Are you comfortable?
Do you need anything?”*



**That's it! See you at
the conference!**