

2022 NATIONAL UNIVERSITY MODEL ARAB LEAGUE YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO BE HELD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

Model Arab League Faculty, Secretariat, and Delegates:

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations ("National Council" or "Council") is pleased to announce that the 2022 National University Model Arab League Youth Leadership Development Program Annual Conference ("NUMAL") will be held March 25-27 at the award-winning Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center ("Reagan Building"). This is the first time NUMAL has convened at this location. The National Council welcomes the return of the signature educational gathering to Washington after the 2020 NUMAL was canceled and the 2021 NUMAL met online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About the Site:

The Reagan Building is located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (on "America's Main Street") in Washington, D.C.'s Federal Triangle—a central location that is part of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. It is currently the largest structure in Washington. In addition to offering robust space for conferences and events, the Reagan Building houses both public- and private-sector offices, including the U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. It is a close walk away from the Capitol Building, White House, Smithsonian Museums, and many other well-known Washington cultural and civic institutions.

A wonderful advantage of the Reagan Building is that it is *very* accessible through public transportation. Getting to the building is simple! The Federal Triangle Metro Station (Orange/Blue/Silver lines) is located directly below the building and provides a covered passageway for individuals to access the interior. In addition, the Metro Center Metro Station (Orange/Blue/Silver/Red lines) is located just two blocks away. There is also paid underground parking at the Reagan Building available for those with vehicles (though please be aware of the cost, which many consider expensive).

Additionally, the Reagan Building hosts a popular food court on its lowest level with an array of eating options. There are also an ample amount of restaurants nearby.

About the Reagan Building:

<https://rrbitc.com/about/>

About the food court:

<https://rrbitc.com/dining/>

Reagan Building Security Logistics:

There are important considerations for entering the Ronald Reagan Building that all NUMAL participations should know about. Importantly, the building is a United States Government facility. As such, access to the building requires all individuals and guests to provide ID documents upon arrival and pass through security-designated checkpoints, which include x-ray screening and metal detection procedures. There are no exceptions available to these security requirements.

NUMAL participants are encouraged to bring *only* Model Arab League materials and supplies to the Reagan Building. Please be aware that as the building is a federal property, additional rules and laws apply than elsewhere in the District of Columbia. Guests in the building are subject to law enforcement detention and prosecution under D.C. and federal laws if they are in possession of illegal goods.

COVID-19 Policies:

There are multiple pandemic-related public health policies that NUMAL participants must be aware of before travelling to Washington.

Notably, the local Government of the District of Columbia has adopted stringent Proof of Identity and Proof of Vaccination policies. All individuals aged 12 or older are required to show proof that they have received appropriate COVID-19 vaccinations to enter many indoor D.C. businesses. All participants are encouraged to review and understand that there are only limited religious and medical exceptions to these policies (and exemptions can trigger requirements that include proof of negative COVID-19 test results). Please consult the attached materials for guidance and be aware that requirements might change in the time before NUMAL begins.

No exceptions can be made to these public health rules. The National Council is unable to make any allowances for individuals who are not in compliance with local laws.

In addition, since the Ronald Reagan Building is a federal facility, federal public health policies apply while individuals are inside. The Federal Protective Services will be onsite every day during NUMAL as part of their regular course of work in the building. They have been charged with, among other duties, verifying compliance with Proof of Identity and Proof of Vaccination requirements. Accordingly, NUMAL participants must have their required paperwork and documentation on their person at all times during the conference.

Any individuals not in compliance with these policies will be disqualified from the program and asked to leave NUMAL. No refunds will be processed for individuals unable to participate in NUMAL as a result of non-compliance with the public health related requirements.

Please remember to bring proof of vaccination status documentation to Washington. Documentation, at present, can include: a CDC issued vaccination card (original, photocopy, or digital copy/photo), record of immunization from a healthcare provider or public health authority, a COVID-19 verification app (e.g., VaxYes, Clear, Excelsior, MyIR), and identity documents (valid U.S. driver's license, valid state-issued identity card, or valid United States passport). Again, please be aware that no exceptions can be made to these rules.

Since some policies might be altered before NUMAL begins (for example, D.C. recently extended an indoor mask mandate through the end of February but has not yet indicated whether it will remain in place past that time), NUMAL participants are encouraged to repeatedly review and verify their ability to comply with D.C. and federal public health rules and requirements before travelling to D.C. for the program.

Hotel Options:

The National Council is pleased to announce that it has arranged for the Washington Marriott at Metro Center (775 12th St NW, Washington, DC 20005) to provide a special, discounted hotel option for NUMAL participants. The hotel, which is in a prime downtown location, is offering NUMAL participants a discounted group rate of \$159/night (plus state and local taxes, currently 14.95%) for either double or single room bookings. Groups will be able to book rooms directly with the hotel through a custom link, provided here: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50293532>.

Importantly, room reservations at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center must be made before Friday, March 4, 2022, to receive the discounted group rate. The discounted rate will be available for rooms booked from the night of Wednesday, March 23, through the night of Sunday, March 27 (please be aware there are only limited rooms available for Sunday night). The Washington Marriott at Metro Center is a short walk away from the Reagan Building. It is also located adjacent to the Metro Center Metro Station (Orange/Blue/Silver/Red lines) and provides easy access to explore D.C.

Metro Center Station Rider Guide:

<https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/stations/metro-center.cfm>

Questions:

We hope that the enclosed information is useful to your group. Should you have further questions, please contact the National Council Director of Student Programs, Ms. Katie Grandelli, at katie@ncusar.org or at 202-394-8000.

The National Council looks forward to welcoming the Model Arab League Youth Leadership Development Program community back to Washington, D.C., for NUMAL 2022.