



OLYMPIA SUMMER ACADEMY

2025 REPORT

*where the Olympic spirit of striving
meets the Delphic spirit of questioning*

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www.olympiasummeracademy.org



Since the summer of 2002, the Olympia Summer Academy (the Academy) has been offering annually a wide range of specialized courses in Politics and International Studies. During these years, the Academy has acquired a stellar reputation not only for its high academic standards but also for its distinct identity that blends effectively the scholarly exchange with the friendly atmosphere.

Each year, participants gain from:

- a faculty at the cutting edge of academic research;
- a worldwide scholarly network;
- a program with a tremendous social dynamic, where the intellectual bonds and relationships formed during its course continue long after its conclusion.

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The 2025 Olympia Summer Academy marked the 23rd consecutive year of the Academy, consistently succeeding in offering a competitive and academically intensive summer program. This year, 52 exceptional students from 18 countries participated in two engaging Cycles, totaling 17 sessions over four days. The courses and simulations were taught by 4 esteemed professors and practitioners of international standing.

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OLYMPIA SUMMER ACADEMY 2025

- **(Geo)Political Risk Analysis**
- **Global China**

July 14 – 19, 2025
Delphi, Greece

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The Context

Cycle A: (Geo)political Risk Analysis

Over the last decade, financial investors and multinational corporations have become more aware of the need to “go beyond economics” and integrate (geo)political factors into their decision-making processes. From rising populism in developed economies to increased political instability in emerging markets and geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, politics are central to the most important events shaping global markets and the world economy.

The objective of the course was to explore the ways in which political risk can be analyzed and managed in a business-relevant and forward-looking manner. The module was structured to provide participants with a theoretical understanding of (geo)political risk as well as practical frameworks and analytical tools for identifying and measuring the key political risk dynamics that can affect business and government. Case-studies and simulations involving emerging markets and developed economies were used to provide participants with “hands-on” experience for understanding and managing risk. A wide range of topics and issues were discussed during the course, including nationalization, expropriation, conflict, macro-economic (in)stability, sanctions, migration, sovereign debt crises, social unrest, and elections.

The Course Outline

15th of July

1. Introduction to (geo)political risk: History, definition, concepts
2. Analysing and communicating political risk

16th of July

3. Advanced Economies and (Geo)Political and Economic risk in a Multipolar world
4. Emerging Markets and (Geo)Political and Economic risk in a Multipolar world

17th of July

5. Global Politics – Globalization, Migration and AI, Geo-Economic Conflict
6. The Basics of Strategic Foresight and Geopolitical Scenario Building

18th of July

7. Simulation
8. Simulation, lessons learned, career in the field and discussion

The Faculty

Cycle A: (Geo) Political Risk Analysis



Kristin Fabbe

Professor of Business and Comparative Politics, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute



Wolfango Piccoli

Co-president and Director of Research, Teneo Intelligence

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Cycle B: Global China

The emergence of China as a power with global interests in the 21st century has been interpreted in different ways. Where some see peaceful intentions driven by developmental priorities, others argue that China represents a political and military threat, with each side projecting their own aspirations and insecurities about the future. The course will prompt participants to carefully examine the domestic and global dynamics that shape the rise of China and think for themselves about the challenges it entails. We will first explore the key stages of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) transformation from a revolutionary-military organization in the 1940s to a technocratic developmental regime in the 1980s and a confident autocracy with global aspirations in the 2010s. The domestic perspectives will cover the system of governance that the CCP has developed, the main characteristics of its version of capitalism, and key themes in state-society relations. Moving to the global dimension, participants will examine China's security interests and international behaviour, as well as unpack the Belt and Road Initiative as a platform for the promotion of Chinese economic and other priorities.

The Course Outline

15th of July

1. Is the Chinese system stable or in trouble?
2. Politics of Authoritarian Governance

16th of July

3. State-Society Relations
4. Ethnicity and Religion

17th of July

5. China in the World
6. The Party-State's transnational reach

18th of July

7. The Chinese economic model and its international implications
8. U.S. and European China-policy debates

The Faculty

Cycle B: Terrorism and Counter Terrorism



Jérôme Doyon

Junior Professor at the Centre for International Relations (CERI),
Sciences Po Paris



Andrew J. Nathan

Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Columbia University

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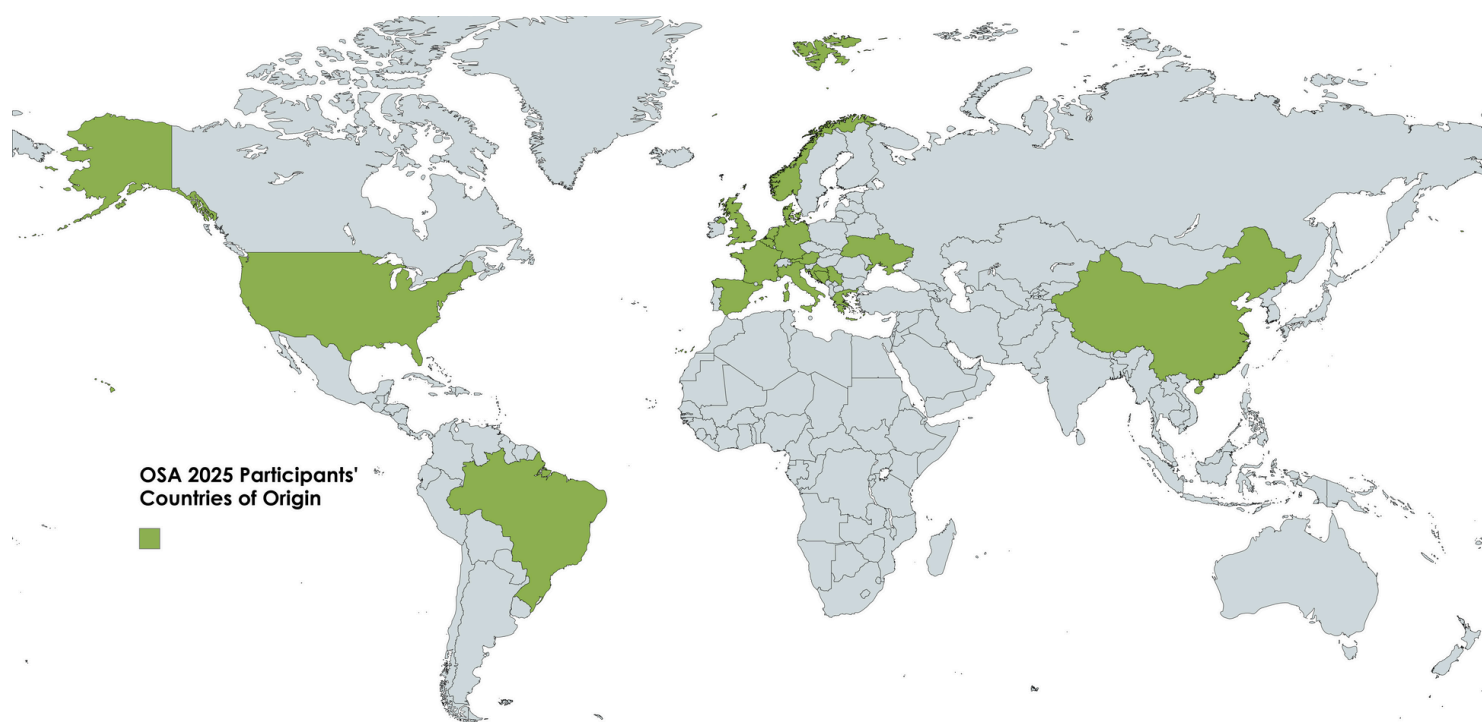


A snapshot of OSA 2025 Participants

From the 52 participants, approximately 58% of them hailed from foreign countries, such as China, Brazil, Ukraine, and the United States. Among all students, 62% were pursuing undergraduate studies, 15% were graduate students, and 12% were PhD candidates. Notably, another 12% of the participants were promising High school/International Baccalaureate students, who were exposed to demanding, high-level academic lectures.

Among the distinguished institutions represented by our international participants were the University of Amsterdam, the University of California Irvine, Tsinghua University, and the College of Europe. Greek academic institutions such as Panteion University, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, and University of Piraeus also had a strong presence.

For yet another year, the Olympia Summer Academy remained dedicated to nurturing a global and diverse community of scholars and practitioners, driven by their shared pursuit of deeper insights in Political Science and International Relations.



Student Testimonials

“OSA is the place to be if you want to travel to a beautiful place during summer, boost your knowledge about global politics and be part of a friendly community. I will certainly be joining again in Summer 26!”

Susana
Cycle A: (Geo)Political Risk Analysis

“OSA 2025 was an amazing experience which allowed us to not only evolve academically but also personally and socially. From exceeding scholar and professional organizers to truly unique and blossoming attendees from all around the world, this academy had everything and exceeded every possible expectation I might had beforehand. I will cherish every moment and I will definitely be coming back to the majestic and spiritual Delphi. I wish everyone involved in this years academy all the best.”

Konstantinos
Cycle B: Global China

“The Olympia Summer Academy was more than an academic program — it was a rare space for rigorous thinking, global connection, and meaningful conversation. The experience sharpened my understanding of geopolitical risk while reminding me why thoughtful, cross-cultural dialogue matters more than ever.”

Lazaros
Cycle B: Global China

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Student Testimonials

“Applying for the 2025 Olympia Summer Academy was initially a “why-not-decision” and quickly turned out to be the best decision I made this summer. I came mainly for the classes and to gain new interesting insights. However, in the bus I quickly realised there were so many aspects in this adventure that all carried as much impact as the class-content. Being able to see Greece for the first time in all its beauty, meeting an unlimited pool of diverse people in all directions, and, arguably the most beneficial, eat Greek food.”

Gaston

Cycle A: (Geo)Political Risk Analysis

“This experience was truly unique. I was particularly impressed by the exceptionally high level of the instructors. The program exceeded my expectations in terms of quality, and it proved to be the most suitable choice for me, as I gained precisely the knowledge I needed. Equally important was the impressively high caliber of the other participants. The discussions with them were genuinely engaging, and I had the opportunity to gain insights from peers who take their work very seriously. At the same time, the organized activities fostered a sense of camaraderie that made the entire experience even more enjoyable. I would highly recommend to other people in the field.”

Athanasia

Cycle A: (Geo)Political Risk Analysis



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Faculty Testimonials

"I had a wonderful time teaching about China at the Olympia Summer Academy this summer. The setting -nestled in the magnificent mountains of Delphi- created a tranquil yet focused atmosphere for my co-teacher, Jérôme Doyon, our students, and me.

We were fortunate to have an engaged and thoughtful group of students who responded to our presentations with serious attention and insightful questions. The presence of several distinguished visitors added an extra layer of excitement to both the formal sessions and informal discussions.

Everything ran seamlessly, as if effortlessly, thanks to the tireless behind-the-scenes work of Professor Gofas and his dedicated team."

Andrew J. Nathan

Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science at Columbia University

"I had the pleasure of teaching a course on Global China at the Olympia Summer Academy in Delphi in July 2025. The stunning location, paired with the warmth and professionalism of the organizers and the thoughtful mix of academic and cultural activities, made the experience truly rewarding. I was particularly impressed by the diverse group of students all of whom showed a deep commitment to understanding contemporary China and actively contributed to the group dynamic. It was a thoroughly enriching experience on every level."

Jérôme Doyon

Junior Professor at the Centre for International Relations (CERI) at Sciences Po Paris.

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Photo Gallery

Sessions







Workshops & Simulations





At the Delphi Museum and Archaeological Site





Plenary Session with Dimitris Kairidis





KAS Scholars Meeting



At "The Garden of Pythia," an art installation by Charles Sandison, commissioned by PCAI for their Global Center for Circular Economy and Culture



The logo consists of three horizontal bars of equal length, stacked vertically. The top bar is orange, the middle bar is blue, and the bottom bar is green. To the right of these bars, the words "OLYMPIA SUMMER ACADEMY" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines.

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