



# STUDY GUIDE



## INTERNATIONAL PRESS

# INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

[Photojournalism]



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Photographers,

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to the International Press for SMUN (Sahamaanaa Model United Nations) 2025. This Photographers Guide is designed to support you in your role as a vital part of our conference. The International Press (IP) is instrumental in capturing the essence of the Model United Nations (MUN) and sharing it with a global audience. As photographers, you bridge the gap between the conference proceedings and the public, fostering engagement and awareness of critical global issues.

This guide provides clear responsibilities, ethical guidelines, and expectations to ensure a rewarding experience for all IP members. Your photographs are not just images; they are lasting memories of the conference, preserving delegates' experiences and showcasing your creative skills.

The purpose of this guide is to ensure that your efforts in capturing thousands of images are impactful and aligned with our standards. Photographs that adhere to these guidelines will serve as powerful memoirs of SMUN25.

This is a unique opportunity to refine your photography skills, experiment with new techniques, and capture the emotions and energy of the conference. Your commitment to excellence and adherence to these guidelines will significantly contribute to the success of SMUN25.

We look forward to seeing your creativity in action!

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# VISUAL STORYTELLING AND THEMATIC DIRECTION

Photography within the International Press extends far beyond documentation; it is a form of storytelling. Every frame has the power to narrate the atmosphere of diplomacy, the tension of negotiation, and the poise of leadership. Delegates' gestures, expressions, and interactions aren't just visuals; they are symbols of dialogue, persuasion, and human connection in global governance.

A compelling photograph should always answer three questions:

- What is happening?
- Why does it matter?
- What emotion does it leave behind?

When photographers approach each frame with these questions in mind, their work transforms from a simple record into a visual chronicle of SMUN itself.

## ETHICAL JOURNALISM IN PHOTOGRAPHY

As members of the International Press, we are first and foremost journalists, and our lens must reflect the same integrity.

- Maintain neutrality and respect in every frame.
- Avoid capturing images that misrepresent delegates or manipulate perception.
- Be mindful of consent and emotional sensitivity.

Above all, prioritise truth over theatrics; every photograph should be an honest portrayal of reality, not a curated illusion.

A responsible photograph informs and inspires. Never exploits.

## SHOT STRATEGY AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

Beyond the typical committee shots, aim to tell a story of the day. Each day's coverage should ideally include: Contextual Shots : Venue exteriors, signage, conference ambience.

- Action Shots : Placards raised, debates unfolding, leadership in motion.
- Candid Moments : Laughter, concentration, collaboration, emotion.
- Portrait Frames : Executive Board, delegates, and standout participants.
- Atmospheric Frames : Lighting, reflections, and small details that define SMUN's aesthetic.

When viewed together, these images should feel like chapters of the same story; a living, breathing portrait of the conference.



# COLLABORATIVE WORKFLOW WITH IP WRITERS

Great journalism thrives on collaboration. To build narrative coherence between words and visuals:

- Align daily with IP reporters on storylines and tone.
- Share image previews for accurate captioning and context.
- Maintain organised, chronological folders so the layout team can seamlessly pair visuals with articles.

When photographers and writers work in tandem, each edition feels unified; as though it were crafted by one creative heartbeat.

## AESTHETIC DIRECTION AND SUBMISSION CLARITY

Our visual identity is defined by refined diplomacy; clarity, balance, and authenticity. Good photography is, after all, about clarity of purpose.

- Avoid excessive contrast or visual clutter.
- Frame with intentionality; each composition should feel thoughtful, not accidental.
- Please ensure that you follow a consistent file naming system (e.g., CommitteeName\_DelegateName\_Date\_SerialNumber).
- Organise folders by date and committee to simplify archiving.

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# GENERAL SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- Photographers are tasked with capturing the spirit of the conference through dynamic and compelling images, including:

- Key events and moments
- Committee sessions
- Delegate interactions
- The overall conference atmosphere

- Each day, photographers must ensure they document:

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- All delegates, IP members, and Executive Board members
- Varied perspectives during moderated caucuses or procedural votes, with placards raised to reflect maximum participation
- Unmoderated caucuses and press conferences

## MARKING SCHEME

Photographs will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Exposure: Proper lighting and balance
- Quality: Clarity and sharpness
- Framing and Alignment: Effective composition and focus
- Meaning: Storytelling and emotional impact
- Composition: Aesthetic arrangement of element

## IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

### Equipment

Bring the following gear:

- DSLR camera
- Lenses (Prime and Wide-angle, optional)
- External flash (optional, at your discretion)
- Laptop for sorting and organizing images

### Preparation

Ensure batteries are fully charged and carry a spare memory card for backup.

No RAW or Edited Images

- Only live-captured, unedited images in JPG/JPEG format are accepted.
- Submitting RAW or edited images will result in negative marking or disqualification.



## **Collaboration**

Work closely with IP reporters/journalists, allowing them to use your images as standalone visuals or to complement their articles.

## **Professionalism**

- Maintain respect and courtesy toward delegates, organizing committee members, and Executive Board members.
- Avoid disruptions during committee sessions.

## **Deadlines**

Adhere strictly to submission deadlines. Late submissions may incur negative marking.



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## FINAL NOTE

A photographer's lens captures more than faces, delegates. It captures moments that become memory. The International Press thrives on this silent strength: where storytelling meets observation, and where a single image holds the weight of a thousand words.

May this guide every SMUN25 photographer not just to record the conference but to define how it will be remembered.

Delegates and photographers are encouraged to reach out to their respective Executive Board members for any creative guidance, conceptual clarity, or technical assistance they may require throughout the conference. The EB team is here to mentor, not just manage

We wish you a productive, inspiring, and enjoyable experience as part of the International Press. Let your creativity shine, and happy photographing!

The Executive Board  
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