

MUN Reflection

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What I appreciate about Model United Nations at CSULB is that any student, from any major, is welcomed, and that it is an opportunity to learn by doing. For example, while I had the privilege of studying international law through the captivating *POSC 376: International Law* course, I got to apply the law to specific cases and country relations during committee sessions. While I learned about self-determination in the fascinating *POSC 463: Nationalism and National Identities*, I got to apply my knowledge as a delegate in the General Assembly at the 72nd Session MUN of the Far West Conference, where one of our committee topics was “Right of peoples to self-determination.” Since the committee topics cover a wide range of issues—such as environmental sustainability, cyber security, legal issues, finance, and disarmament to name a few—students from any major can contribute a valuable perspective. Model UN has not only been a special opportunity for practical learning, but also for honing my research and writing skills. Our club holds workshops and training sessions that teach our delegates how to research their country’s background and policy stance, and how to write an informed, compelling policy paper. Our club also teaches negotiation skills, committee rules and procedures, and helpful strategies to our delegates. This is to say that it is never too late to join Model UN. Furthermore, our club is incredibly welcoming. A wonderful takeaway for me has been the great friendships I’ve formed through the club. Since I am a transfer student, I appreciate how Model UN gave me the gift of community when I was new to our university. Everyone—from our Director, Dr. Ezgi Yildiz and Advisor, Professor Alex Lohman, to our board and our club members—is kind and supportive. Together we have traveled to conferences in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Riverside, and Washington, D.C. This Spring 2024 semester, we look forward to traveling to Riverside and New York City, and to hosting our very own conference, BeachMUN! All in all, I am so glad that I joined Model UN because I have truly enjoyed my time in the program whilst enriching my academic skill set and making memories with a wonderful team. I am looking forward to this semester and to serving as the Co-President alongside Grant Latour. If you are interested, please feel welcome to reach out to us!