



*World International
Studies Committee*

EIGHT GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONFERENCE 2026/7

Call for Hosts

About WISC

The goal of WISC is to develop organizational structures in such a way that the activities of our members are complemented and that international studies may prosper around the globe.

WISC stands for World International Studies Committee. It represents a network of national and regional professional associations in the academic field of International Studies. WISC includes more than 25 national or regional international studies associations worldwide and, thus, stands as the only genuinely global organization of international studies scholarship. Its declared mission is to promote scholarly cooperation and exchange at the international level and reach out in particular to those countries, regions and communities of scholarship which are still underrepresented in global international studies.

Our Global Conferences. Call for Host in 2026/7

The World International Studies Committee (WISC) is seeking a host association and institution for the Eighth Global International Studies Conference (GISC) to be held in the second half of 2026 or 2027. The previous hosts were

- the Turkish Political Science Association (SITD) and *Istanbul Bilgi University* (2005),
- the Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA) and the *University of Ljubljana*, Faculty of Social Sciences (2008),
- the Portuguese Association of the History of International Relations (APHRI) and the *University of Porto* (2011),
- the German Association of Political Science – International Relations Section (DVPW – IP) and *Goethe University Frankfurt* (2104) and
- the Taiwan Association of International Relations (TAIR) and *National Taiwan University, Taipei* (2017).

- the **Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA), Universidad de San Andrés** and **FLACSO**, *Buenos Aires* (2022).
- - the University of Warsaw and the Polish International Studies Association (PISA), Warsaw (2024)

The hosts have the primary function of **providing local facilities for the 2026/7 Conference**. The hosts are not responsible for the Program or the Registration process, although they are expected to facilitate such processes where requested. The GISC will establish a WISC-Local Organisers Committee (WLOC), which will coordinate the conference organisation process.

Timing

The conference should take place during the second half of 2026 (or the second half of 2027, if that case is not possible).

The location

Previous conferences have been in places that have good international travel connections, which are attractive, and in which there is a committed and well-connected local institution. Until now, the meetings have been held on a university campus but this is not a requirement.

Criteria for Hosting a GC

The below stated requirements represent the key criteria against which all bids to host the Conference will be evaluated.

Capacity to organize the Conference

1. Candidacy must be submitted and represented by an Association with an active WISC membership. This Association will also represent and will be responsible for forming and leading the LO team.
2. The LO team must have the legal capacity to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Preferred venues for the conference are university premises, ideally located in the city center, to increase attractiveness for delegates and to maximize the experience of the local atmosphere. The university must have the capacity to accommodate 1000 delegates (at least 800 delegates at the same time).
4. There must be clear support from the university, and it will be an official local conference partner.
5. The overall financial affordability for Congress delegates is also one of the considered aspects in the evaluation process. Especially budget-friendly options for students (accommodation, food, travel expenses etc.) are important.
6. The easy accessibility of the venue from foreign countries is also considered.

7. Capacity to secure student volunteers for GISC.
8. All logistical, technical, financial and other organizational aspects of the conference are under responsibility of LO and are supervised by the WISC Governing Board together with the Organizing Committee.

Venue

Offices

- 1 meeting room for the WISC Governing Board/General Assembly and other meetings
- 1 room for conference assistants for the duration of the event with internet access, a telephone and copying facilities

Panel & Plenary Rooms

- 25-35 panel rooms of varying sizes (20-50) available simultaneously
- Aula-Auditorium (approx. 350 or, ideally, higher capacity) for plenary sessions, 2 additional lecture halls (130-180 or higher capacity) for semi-plenary sessions.

Registration/book exhibition area

- to be in a central location, easily accessible, close to refreshments or otherwise guaranteeing good footfall.
- to be able to accommodate approximately 5 registration desks, 2 information desks and a maximum of 20 publishers with average area of presentation desks per publisher not exceeding 3x2 meters.
- to provide tables for use for display purposes and chairs for publishers attending. Any additional items required by the publishers may result in a charge incurred.

Technical Equipment and Software

- Venue shall provide a beamer and computer facilities in all panel rooms and plenary rooms. Participants will be encouraged to bring their presentation on a USB stick.
- Please specify if Wi-Fi will be provided for all participants during the conference or what technical solution is necessary to be set up to secure this service.

Additional Facilities

- Venue shall also make available a space to accommodate a 'quiet room' and, separately, childcare and creche facilities.
- Facilities for Lunch (dining room, restaurant)

Social Events

- Grand Reception – venue for prox. 700 participants. The event is held ideally on the 3rd day of the conference. Outside venue with no/low rental cost is preferred.
- Section Chairs Dinner – venue/restaurant for approximately 125 people. This event is ideally held on the 2nd day of the conference.
- Both venues should be preferably located within walking distance from the conference venue.

General Responsibilities

Local Organizer/Member Association (including funding):

- Assisting during site visits
- Liaising with University and local authorities
- Providing free venue facilities
- Administrating conference website
- Working with WISC in the provision of travel grants for scholars from Global South (esp. early career)
- Providing limited number of free hotel room and airline concessions
- Making suggestions and recommendations for social events
- Promoting and marketing of the GC locally and regionally
- Mobilizing local sponsorship and opportunities
- Printing of program
- Participating in the Organizing Committee
- Administrating Conference at the time of the event
- Securing student assistantship before and during the conference

WISC (including funding):

- Software for and Handling of Registration
- Organizing Program Committee (including calls for paper and panel proposals etc.)
- WISC pays for approved expenses but any surplus from the Conference reverts to WISC.

Timeline

The *WISC Governing Board* normally meets twice a year. The *WISC Governing Board* would like to consider detailed applications and will conduct a site visit to the selected venues. Based on the site reports, the *WISC General Assembly* will review the proposals and make the final decision.

15 December 2025	Call for Host is published
15 February 2026	Deadline for submission of the bid document, electronically in pdf via email.
1 March 2026	WISC General Assembly reviews proposals
April 2026	Site Visits to selected candidates
May 2026	WISC General Assembly selects the venue for 2026/7
June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding is signed, and the first conference planning meeting takes place.

Further information

Please address all questions and bid documents directly to:

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