



SEMESTER 1 REVIEW



# MONASH INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SOCIETY



CONTACT

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# OVERVIEW AND WELCOMES

The Monash International Affairs Society (MIAS) aims to be a club for all students with interest & passion for international affairs, regardless of their background or degree. We do this by focusing on delivering resources, events, and opportunities in three key areas: Academics, Socials, and Model United Nations (MUN).

In 2020, we were awarded the Clubs and Societies Club of the Year Award and we believe that in 2021 we can continue to provide a safe space for like-minded students to learn and make friends and enhance their university experience.

In just Semester 1 we have been able to rebuild our membership to 300 Members, with a consistent group of students attending a majority of our events. We have consistently provided our members with opportunities through our Career Board, updates from Carer-Connect and sharing of faculty opportunities. We have already held 12 events in Semester 1, encompassing MUN, Academics and Social events.

We are just getting started. Our Semester 2 aims to provide our members larger-scale events in all three areas of MUN, Academics, and Socials, allowing them the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and industries.



HAMAH HOSEN | PRESIDENT  
PRESIDENT@MIAS.ORG.AU



BEN PETERS-WISNIAK | VICE-PRESIDENT  
VICEPRESIDENT@MIAS.ORG.AU

# MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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MIAS' overall aim for 2021 is to rebuild our Model United Nations (MUN) pillar by creating opportunities for new students to get involved in MUN.

Our MUN officers started the semester with an online session during O-Week. Since then, they have successfully run 3 MUN workshops in Semester 1, focusing on essential skills such as:

- Rules of Procedure
- Negotiation
- Public Speaking

These skills were brought together by the creation of two Mini-MUN conferences in Semester 1.

## 3

MUN  
WORKSHOPS

## 2

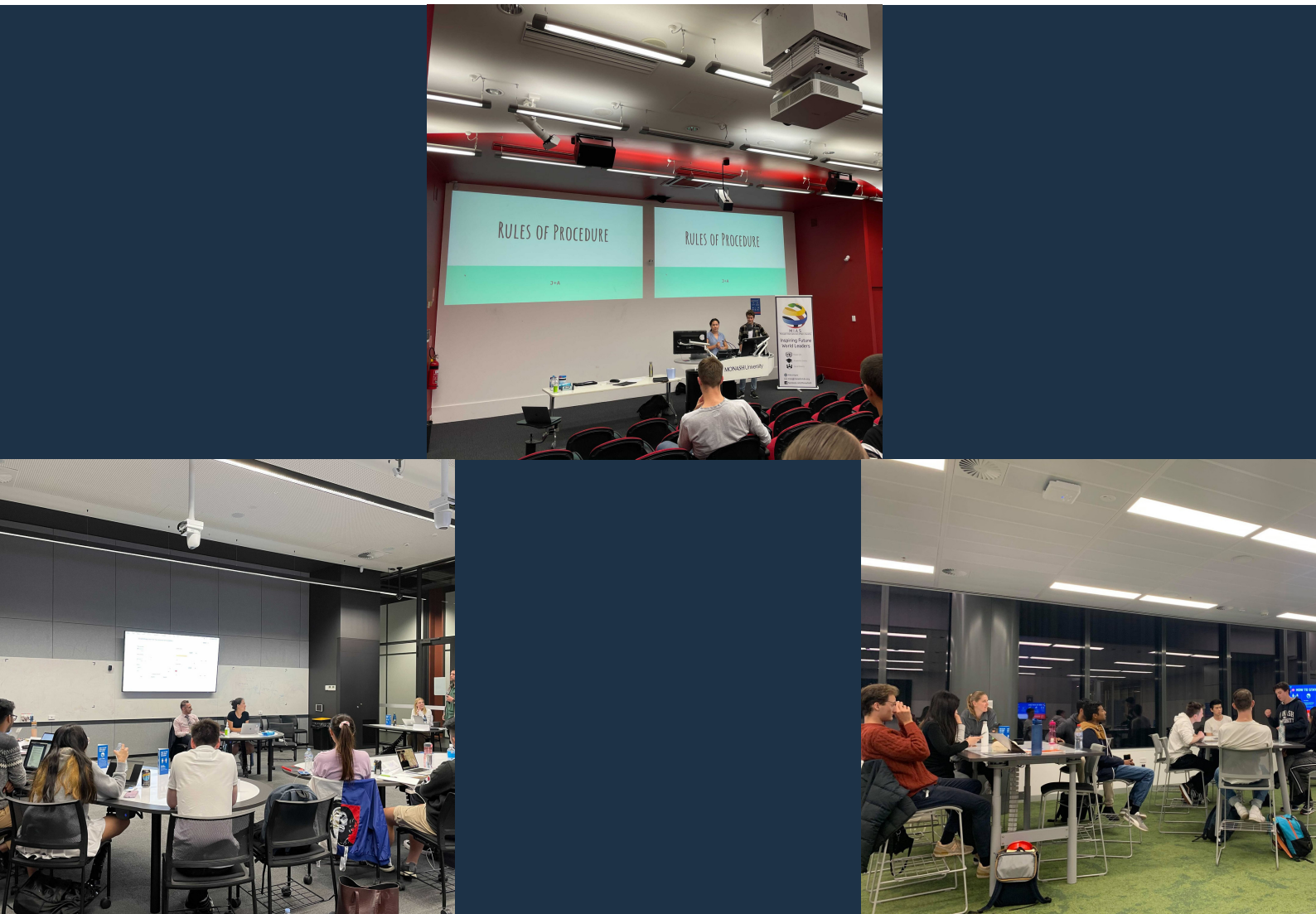
MINI-MUN  
CONFERENCES

Overall, we were able to engage with a new group of students who are interested in Model United Nations. Our attendees were 100% new students and/or new MIAS Members.

It is our hope that these students continue to be engaged in Semester 2 for MIAS' two day MUN conference MUNash, as well as for the re-launch of our GlobalMUN Program.



ADAM BRAND & JOY RAO  
MUN OFFICERS  
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# GLOBALMUN PROGRAM 2021



5 April - 9 April



Typically held in New York, MIAS sends delegates to the National Model United Nations Conference as part of our annual GlobalMUN Program, allowing our delegates to participate and gain an international experience.



This year, as a result of COVID-19, we participated in the conference in an online capacity. Our delegates participated during the mid-semester break in New York Standard Time.



In preparation for the conference, our delegates undertook a more intensive training schedule by our Head Delegates, Ryan Attard and Hamah Hosen.

**The Monash University NMUN Delegation was recognised as an Outstanding Delegation making us sit at the top 5% of all participating universities, and the only Australian University represented at the conference.**

Alongside the delegation award, some of our delegates also received individual awards as follows:

- Position Paper Awards, Malinthe Mallawa & Megha Iyer in UNAIDS
- Outstanding Delegates, Kaylah Salvini & Natasha Tiong in CSW
- Outstanding Delegates, Nan Wang & James Liang in ECOSOC
- Outstanding Delegates, Imogen Kane & Tom Yakubowski in UNHCR



**The 2021 National Model United Nations New York Conference**

presents this

**Outstanding Delegation Award**

to

**United States of America**  
(CSW, ECOSOC, NPT, SC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEA, UNHCR)  
**Monash University**

Clarissa Manning  
Secretary-General, Conf. B



Stéphanie Toschi  
Deputy SG, Conf. B

Participating Delegates: Malinthe Mallawa, Nan Wang, Imogen Kane, James Liang, Kylie Tan, Tom Yakubowski, Jemima Methorst-Moore, Phoebeanca Luong, Binari Almeida, Natasha Tiong, Jesse Dass, Michael Mahlis, Megha Iyer, Kaylah Salvini, Georgia Potter, Joy Rao

Head Delegates: Hamah Hosen and Ryan Attard

# ACADEMICS



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In 2021, MIAS has split the role of Academics Officers into two distinct roles: Careers & Internships and Events & Faculty Relations.

Our aim for Semester 1 was to continue with the previous successes of our diplomat events and aim to encourage interdisciplinary discussions through our panel events.

Alongside events, we have also bolstered our Careers & Internship section through initiatives such as:

- Careers Board
- Volunteering & Internships Virtual Guide
- Exclusive Consular Corps Internships

3

DIPLOMAT  
EVENTS

2

PANEL  
DISCUSSION  
EVENTS

3

NEW  
INITIATIVES



# AMBASSADOR AND DIPLOMAT EVENTS: US CONSULATE GENERAL

17 March 2021



On 17 March, MIAS welcomed Michael Kleine, the US Consul General in Melbourne, to speak to our delegates participating in the National Model United Nations Conference.

Part of our GlobalMUN program includes providing participants opportunities to enrich their understanding of the foreign policy they are representing. Despite the conference this year being conducted in an online format, MIAS strived to still seek these opportunities for our delegates.

MIAS is grateful to the team at the US Consulate in Melbourne for making this event possible and for taking the time to come and visit Monash University.

# AMBASSADOR AND DIPLOMAT EVENTS: Colombian Ambassador

24 March 2021



MIAS alongside the Monash Spanish Latin American Club hosted the Colombian Ambassador to Australia at Monash University.

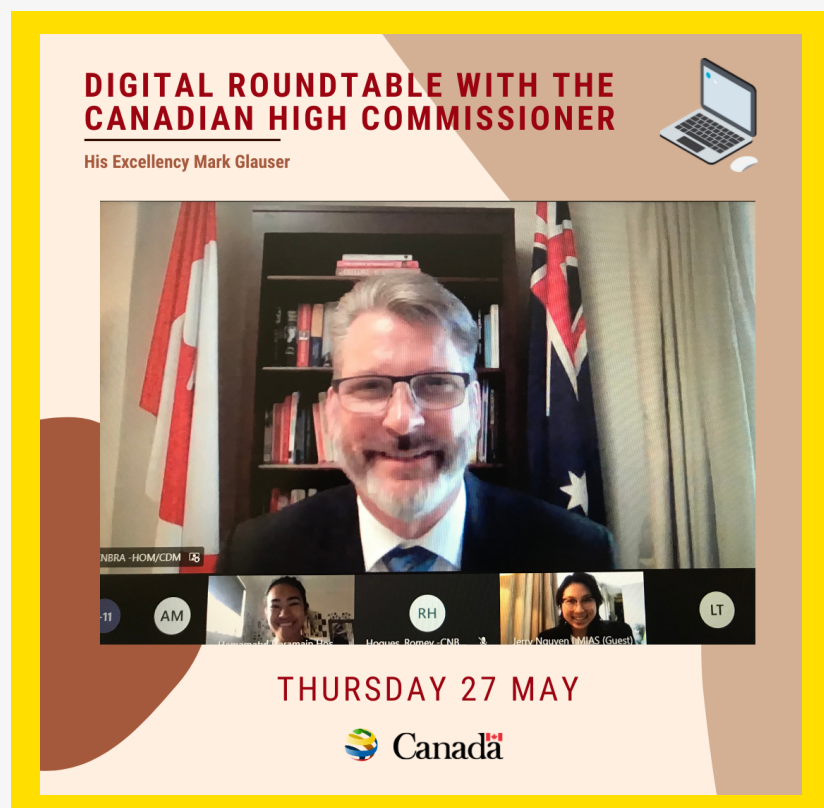
His Excellency, Alberto José Mejía Ferrero provided attendees with an engaging and informative presentation on Colombia, and Colombia-Australian relations. Our attendees were also able to participate in a Q&A at the event, with many also being able to mingle with the Ambassador at the end.

MIAS was incredibly grateful to the Colombian Embassy, the Colombian Ambassador, and the Victorian Honorary Consul of Colombia for taking the time to speak to our members and travelling to Monash University for this event.

# AMBASSADOR AND DIPLOMAT EVENTS:

## Canadian High Commissioner

27 May 2021



MIAS held an online Roundtable with the Canadian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mark Glauser.

His Excellency provided our members with insight into his role as a diplomat and discussed important topics such as climate change, the rights of indigenous peoples and gender equality.

MIAS is grateful to Canadian High Commission and His Excellency for taking the time to join us for this event, especially during unprecedented times.

# SPEAKER PANEL EVENTS:

## International Women's Day

9 March 2021



MIAS hosted an International Women's Day Panel & Morning Tea.

Our members were able to hear in-person from 3 inspiring women:

- Dr Susan Carland,
- Molina Asthana,
- Lisa Akorli



We also received a video address from the Dean of Arts, Sharon Pickering, for this event.

This year, International Women's Day and its messages are even more important for MIAS in 2021, as this is the first time that our committee is mostly made up of women.



We hope that this event and the women we have on our committee showcased to our members the importance of women in leadership.

# SPEAKER PANEL EVENTS:

## AI and Challenges in International Affairs

14 April 2021



MIAS hosted a panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its intersection with international affairs.

Our members were able to hear from three guests in the field:

- Ali Akbari: Artificial Intelligence Capability Lead in KPMG's Innovation, Solutions & Ventures Team
- Prerana Mehta: Former Chief of Ecosystem Development at AustCyber
- Jeanine Paterson: Professor of Law at the Centre of AI and Digital Ethics at Melbourne University



The subject of focus for this event was to understand the essential intersection between human rights, ethics and the practical application of AI as well as the contributions of AI in gender equity.

Discussion alluded to the importance of accountability to overcome prejudices in current AI development, promoting sustainable outcomes for the field.



Overall, we were able to engage both new and previous MIAS members who are interested in international affairs regardless of their background or their degree.

It is our hope that these students continue to be engaged in Semester 2 for our exciting events and initiatives in the Academics portfolio.



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## Volunteering & Internship Opportunities



**MIAS 2021  
CAREERS  
BOARD**

MAY



**Monash  
University  
Opportunities**

JUNE-JULY

# SOCIALS



In Semester 1, MIA S aimed to revive the social aspect of the club by providing opportunities for new and returning members to meet.

With the additional help of our First Years Liaison Officer, we were able to also create social events specifically for new students to meet each other.

Overall, our social events portfolio consisted of:

- MIA S Annual Trivia Night
- First Years in International Affairs Coffee and Chill
- MIA S Mixer



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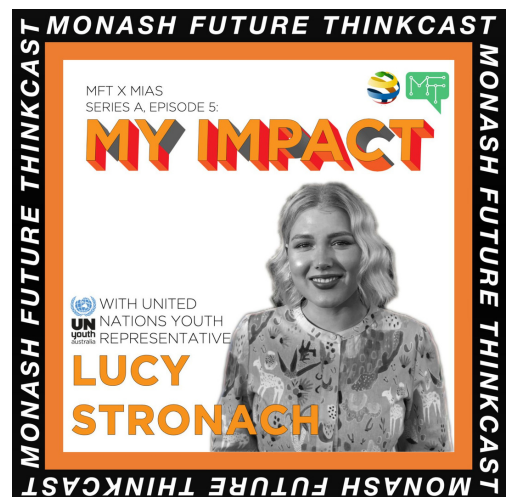


# PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS

In Semester 1, MIAS was fortunate to partake in various collaborations. These included collaborations with other student organisations at Monash University, and across Australia.

MIAS has strengthened our existing partnerships to deliver events and opportunities for our members in Semester 1. Alongside this, we have also connected with new partners that will assist us with our semester 2 plans.

We have also worked with faculties, clubs, and organisations to cross-promote activities, events, and opportunities for our members.





# AFGHAN-AUSTRALIAN INTER-COLLEGIATE DEBATE SERIES

12 April 2021



MIAS once again partnered with Monash Gender Peace and Security and Afghans for Progressive Thinking for a debate series on the role of women, human rights and gender equality issues in the Afghan peace process.

For this debate series, MIAS also collaborated with the Music Students Society to bring an informational video on the topic.

Our debaters for this round consisted of 2nd-year Monash Arts Students: Edward Lichtig, Lincoln Ingravalle, Erin Page, and Rose Russell.

We hope we can continue this series into the rest of 2021.

# US CONSULATE IN MELBOURNE

## Semester 1



MIAS has a strong relationship with the US Consulate in Melbourne, which we have continued to deepen in 2021. Besides hosting events with the US Consul General and the staff at the Consulate, MIAS has also been fortunate to be invited to events held by the Consulate.



Early in February, our President and our then-Vice President was invited to a Black History Month Pop-Up Gallery.

In April, MIAS was also extended an invitation from the Consulate to attend the opening of the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival (HRAFF).



During the month of Ramadan, our President and Communications Officer was invited to an Iftar Dinner at the US Consul General's house with various Melbourne community leaders.

MIAS is incredibly grateful for this relationship and the resulting opportunities provided to our members and committee over the years.

# ATLAS

MIAS' OFFICIAL PODCAST

CONTACT: ATLAS@MIAS.ORG.AU



In 2021, we have aimed to continue the success of Atlas during 2020. We have welcomed a new role within the MIAS team, Podcast Coordinator, to assist with the everyday running of the podcast.

In semester 1 we have taken a hybrid approach for our episodes. Episodes either invite our members as guests or we invite experts on particular topics.

Atlas has also seen room for collaboration with other clubs and student organisations in Australia. We hope to continue this in semester 2.

# 7

NEW ATLAS  
EPISODES IN  
2021



LISTEN HERE



GEORGIA POTTER  
PODCAST COORDINATOR  
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# PIVOT

MIAS' ONLINE PUBLICATION

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11

NEW PIVOT  
TEAM  
MEMBERS

15

NEW  
ARTICLES  
FROM JAN TO  
MAY

Pivot is an international relations-based online publication under MIAS. Its aim is to educate all people on global issues, encourage discussions, and facilitate debate.

In 2021, we welcomed two new Editors-in-Chief to oversee the running of the publication this year. Assisting the Editors-in-Chief are four new Sub-Editors.

So far, we have also seen growth in our writing team, with many new students in their first and second year becoming involved.



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**THANK YOU!**

**SEE YOU IN SEMESTER 2**

From the Monash International  
Affairs Society

