



OVERVIEW: BENEFITS OF BEING AN EC

Delegates of each ISC conference are eligible to be elected to serve as the next Executive Committee member of the following year's conference. Serving as an Executive Committee (EC) member for the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC), the Korea-America Student Conference (KASC), or the China-America Student Conference (ChASC) offers various benefits and opportunities for development. ECs are selected by their peers due to demonstrated leadership experience, global engagement, and serving as exemplary delegates of their respective conferences. This experience is unique in that the individual ECs from each conference are responsible for a year-long project of organizing a professional conference from scratch and have almost complete autonomy of decision-making throughout the planning process and during the in-person conference. In addition, the experience and skills gained are transferable and can be added to a resume as a project or internship experience. ECs also pay a reduced conference fee and have the opportunity to travel to D.C. in January for a specific and all-expenses paid trip to meet with ECs of all three conferences, receive professional development training, and participate in an academic mini-conference on US-Japan-Korea Trilateral relations!

1. Leadership Experience

ECs will be leading the internal meetings and the ISC-EC meetings and will build upon their communication skills. They have almost complete autonomy in planning and decision-making throughout the entire conference planning process. ECs will practice their strategic thinking as architects of the conference and coordinate effectively amongst themselves to achieve their goals. They also have the opportunity to lead their RoundTable groups, where they can hone their leadership skills.

2. Skill Development

Coordinating with fellow EC members to organize an international conference requires a wide range of skills that must be developed and honed. Understanding your position and what responsibilities are included is critical. Each conference has a different number of ECs and roles that can be filled. As they transfer from delegate to EC, ECs learn the basics of workplace etiquette, professionalism, program management, budgeting, leadership, and cross-cultural communication. ISC provides workshops and meetings to check in with the ECs and lend advice when necessary.



3. Professional Development and Personal Growth

Each EC develops a better understanding of their own working style, strengths, how to overcome challenges, and areas for improvement. Working with an international team also benefits ECs greatly in terms of time management and delegation of tasks across time zones, as well as hone their skills in project planning. There is also a vast alumni network that can be utilized and tapped into for ECs who plan to continue working in the same circles as those they meet through their year of planning the conference.

4. Networking Opportunities and Resume Building

ECs have various opportunities to be introduced to prominent experts in various fields either through email during the program planning period or in person during the conference. It is not an everyday opportunity to exchange business cards and have intellectual discussions with experts in international relations, business, government, and more.

Accomplishments during an ECs tenure can be included on their resume as volunteer experience or internship experience. The leadership and organizational skills taught through the experience of being an EC help resumes stand out compared to peers without similar training.

5. International Experience

Conferring with peers from different nationalities and backgrounds presents new ideas and challenges for ECs to experience. Through the various meetings, schedules, and collaborative efforts on the part of both sides to make one conference as a team, ECs can gain invaluable insight into another country. Alongside that, the ability to overcome language barriers and practice accommodating delegates in foreign language environments is an excellent experience for ECs interested in developing intercultural competency. It is a valued skill sought by employers in today's globalized world.