



Allied Command Transformation

Norfolk, Virginia | USA



NATO Student Challenge – Western Balkans

Given the critical role that *Youth* plays in shaping the future, NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT) in collaboration with the International Staff Political Affairs and Security Policy Division (IS-PASP), invites students from the Western Balkan region to take part in the **“NATO Student Challenge – Western Balkans”**. This challenge encourages students to explore NATO's role and strategic challenges in the region.

The organizers invite eligible students to record their answer to the following question:

“In your opinion, what are the most significant security challenges in the Western Balkans and how should NATO, Allies and Partners address it?”

The best three candidates will be invited to Sarajevo (BiH) on 22-24 October 2024 to present and discuss their ideas with NATO senior leaders.

When	The challenge will open 13 September 2024 . The deadline for video submissions is 06 October 2024 . The winners will be announced by 10 October . Presentation of winners in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 22-24 October 2024 .
Who	All active undergraduate or postgraduate students from the Western Balkans ¹ and who are currently enrolled in an academic program in the region. Proof of enrollment will be requested at a later stage.
Where	The Challenge will be published on the ACT website and social media channels.. The open call will also be distributed amongst all respective Delegations in NATO HQ by ACT. Participating students will submit their recorded answers remotely through the “Award Force” platform.
How	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students will access the “Award Force” link (https://natoact.awardsplatform.com/) to register and submit their videos.2. Each video should be no longer than three minutes.3. Answers must be recorded in one of NATO's two official languages; English or French.4. A panel consisting of staff members from ACT and IS-PASP will evaluate all video submissions after the deadline.5. The panel will evaluate content creativity and originality, audio/visual quality, presentation and relevance.6. Winners will be invited to Sarajevo (BiH) to discuss their proposals with NATO senior leadership in October 2024.7. Travel arrangements and other associated costs will be covered by ACT.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia.