



University of Leicester
Law Society

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DEBATE TOURNAMENT

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- OVERVIEW -

The Leicester University Debating Alliance (LUDA) is a collaboration between the University of Leicester Law Society and other Student Societies at the University of Leicester.

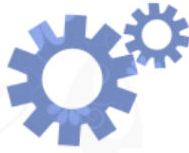


The LUDA Debate Tournament offers students an opportunity to build upon a broad range of skills such as: persuasion, research, public speaking, and the ability to think on one's feet.

Shortly prior to the start of each debate, a motion will be addressed to the competing teams.

Students in teams of two will be attributed a position: the Government or the Opposition.

The goal for the competing teams is to innovate and deliver convincing arguments in order to win the debate.



- FORMAT -



E t i q u e t t e

Professionalism is fundamental in this tournament.

It is mandatory for competitors to be dressed in business formal attire.

Non-compliance with this code will result in a **deduction of 3 points** under the 'Etiquette' criterion.



S c h e d u l i n g t h e d e b a t e

In the Preliminary Round(s) and the Quarter-finals, competitors on the side of the Government are required to contact the relevant parties in order to schedule the debate.

Once the details of the particular round have been provided, the Government must confirm with the Opposition and the judge(s) the date and location of the debate within a week.

***Or less depending on possible time constraints of the tournament.**

Failure to do so without good reason will result in disqualification.



T i m e l i m i t s

Debates will be subject to a time limit.

Each speaker has to deliver a 7 minute speech.

Speakers do not have to use all 7 minutes.

Time limits may be subject to change.

This depends on the number of participants.

+ 4 / 5 minutes for conclusion



P r e p a r a t i o n

A motion will be given to the competitors shortly before the debate.

E.g.

This House believes all nations have a right to nuclear weapons.

Use of electronics are permitted for research.

PREP TIME

Preliminary Round(s)	-	24 hrs
Quarter-finals	-	2 hrs
Semi-finals	-	30 min
Final	-	15 min

The standard BP style preparation time (15 min) will not be followed.



P o i n t s o f i n f o r m a t i o n

Speakers will be allowed to offer a maximum of two points / questions per speech made by their opposition.

The Procedure

1. The opposing speaker stands, and offers the point.
2. The speaker then either accepts or declines the point.
3. If accepted, the speaker must then respond to that point of information.

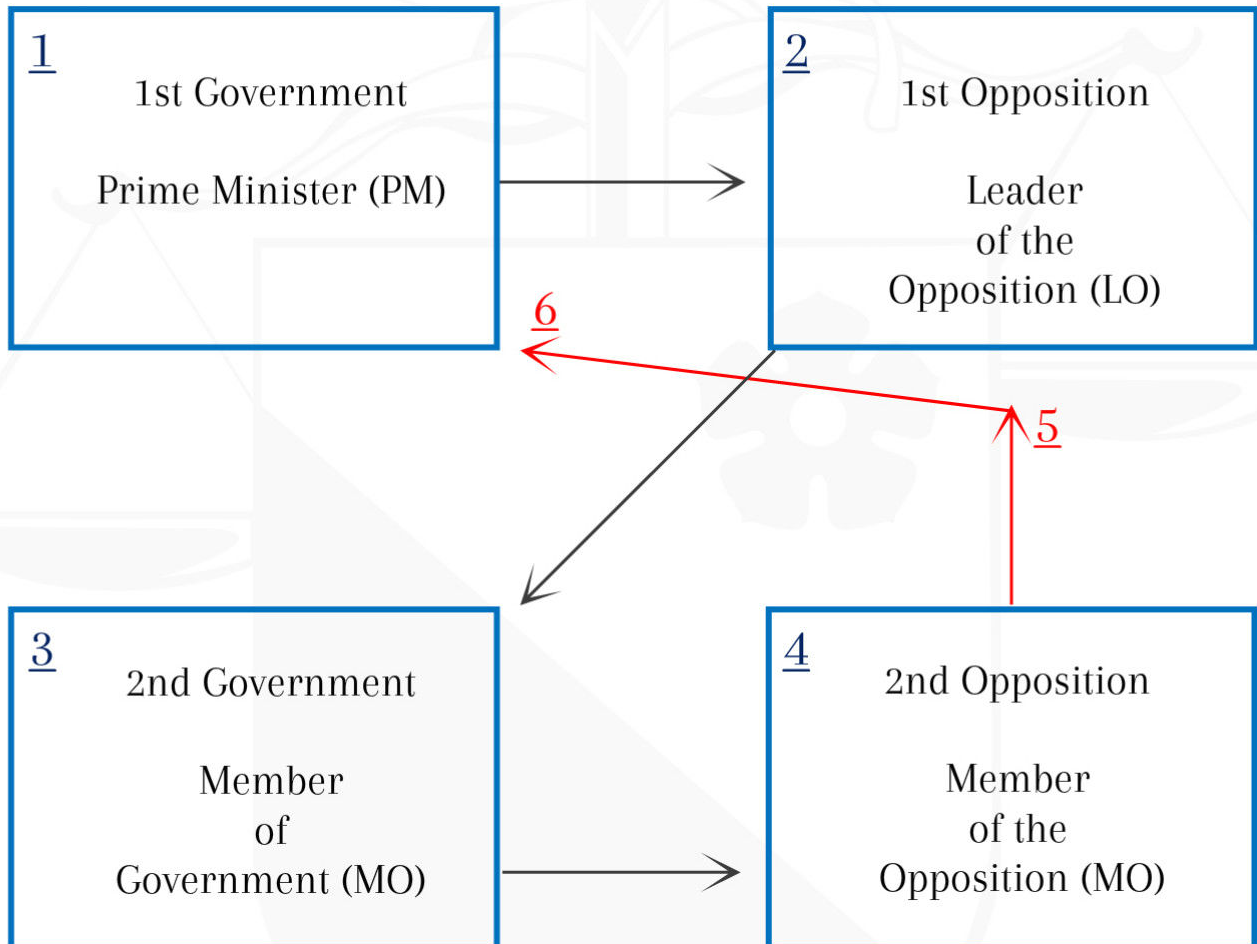
This feature gives:

- I. speakers an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to maintain control of their speech while responding to interventions and
- II. opposing speakers a way to maintain relevance in the debate.

Speakers do not have to respond to points offered by the opposition. However, this may give the judge(s) the impression that they are incapable of responding effectively!



Layout of a debate



Procedure : in order

<u>1</u>	PM	-	7 min
<u>2</u>	LO	-	7 min
<u>3</u>	MG	-	7 min
<u>4</u>	MO	-	7 min
<u>5</u>	LO	-	4 min - conclusion
<u>6</u>	PM	-	5 min - conclusion



Progression

Progression to the next stage of the tournament is solely on the basis of points for each stage.

- STAGES -



Final -- judged by academic staff members of the University of Leicester Law School.

! Spectators are welcome at this stage.

Semi-finals -- judged by an academic staff member of the University of Leicester Law School.

! Spectators are welcome at this stage.

Quarter-finals -- judged by students with prior experience in debating.

Preliminary Round(s) -- judged by students with prior experience in debating.



Exceptional Circumstances

Exceptional circumstances for the purposes of this guide are defined as any circumstances that are not consistent with normal debating circumstances.

In such circumstances, the debate will be suspended or cancelled.

This is because, due to the nature of the evaluation criteria, there must be four / eight speakers party to the debate at all times.

A standard debate cannot be properly executed in absence of one speaker, or if one of the two / four parties is absent from the debate.



Complaints

Should competitors have any complaints concerning this tournament, please contact both Competitions' Secretaries of the Law Society.



- SCORING -

! Each criterion is marked out of 5 points.

I. Content of Argument

Good arguments are ones which are structured and logical.

II. Presentation and Clarity

Good speakers deliver their arguments with confidence, rhythm and clarity.

III. Time Management

Good time keeping demonstrates that the speaker has complete control of his speech.

IV. Evidence of Teamwork

Good teamwork can be demonstrated by not having contradicting / identical arguments.

V. Etiquette

Good etiquette signifies professionalism. It demonstrates respect towards not only to the opposing team, but also to the judge(s) present in the room.

- EXTERNALS -

The Winners and the Runners-up of this tournament will
be invited to join the
2017 - 2018 LUDA Inter-Varsity Debate Team.

The External Debate Team will represent the
University of Leicester in numerous
Inter-Varsity Debate Competitions around the country.

- SECOND SEMESTER -

The LUDA Debate Tournament will take place in
Semester Two.

Sign-ups will be available in February.

Sections of the format and layout of this tournament
may be subject to change.

This Guide will be updated accordingly.

More information regarding this tournament will be
provided in due course!

D e b a t e W o r k s h o p ?

Please patiently wait while the Student Societies
gather and prepare for this significant competition!