

**ADR ODR International and
European Institute for Conflict Resolution
International Online
Mediation Competition**

Organized in partnership with the
Thailand Arbitration Centre



*Sky's the Limit! Or is it?
Exploring the world of Space and Tech!*

14 – 15 May 2022

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1.0. Introduction

1.1. ADR ODR International and EICR

ADR ODR International (AOI) and the European Institute for Conflict Resolution (EICR) are delighted to deliver another two-day International Online Mediation Competition. This competition is delivered in partnership with the Thailand Arbitration Centre (THAC).

THAC is an institution that provides alternative dispute resolution services, comprising of arbitration and mediation, for cross-border disputes. It is established by the Act of Arbitration Center B.E. 2550 (2007). The THAC was first founded and commenced its operation in 2015, intending to promote and strengthen the alternative dispute resolution system and services in Thailand. It also offers high standard ADR services, affordable administration fees and the state-of-the-art facilities for in-person and remote hearings

It has been specially designed for law and business students from all over the world. We believe that strong negotiation and mediation skills can help people in all industries resolve conflicts in their workplace, in their home and in their personal life. The ability to negotiate can change how you perceive conflict and how you deal with it. Additionally, we believe that taking things online is the new must. Therefore, we would like to encourage and support students and professionals in taking this step.

The theme of this year's competition is: *“Sky's the Limit! Or is it? Exploring the world of Space and Tech!”*.

The competition will be held online, it will be completely paperless, the design of the competition will follow the theme and the role-plays will revolve around space and tech. #WeMediateOnline

1.2. Purpose of the International Online Mediation Competition

The purpose of the competition is to:

- equip you with basic negotiation and mediation skills;
- help you adjust your ADR skills to an online environment;
- give you the opportunity to adapt your communication skills to an online environment;
- identify key factors that must be considered by the mediator in an online mediation;
- help you establish key factors that must be considered when communicating with multiple parties, online;
- gives you the opportunity to mediate and negotiate in a specialised area;
- help you overcome potential communication barriers during an online mediation;
- give you the opportunity to work as a team;
- learn to work with someone who you have not worked with before;
- learn how to overcome potential challenges that may arise in a team;
- assist you in understanding the cross-cultural barriers that can arise;
- enable you to become more familiar with the use of online video conferencing tools in this rapidly digitalising world;
- enable you to meet law and business students from other countries;
- enable you to meet ADR specialists from different parts of the world.

1.3. Location of the Competition

The competition will be held entirely on Zoom, a video conferencing tool. It will enable you to participate from anywhere in the world. You can participate from the comfort of your own home using a laptop, computer or tablet.

1.4. Time of the Competition

The competition will run on **UK Time (BST)**. Please make sure, you prepare for this in advance.

The complete agenda will be shared closer to the competition via the e-learning platform: www.aoieicrevents.com.

2.0. Participation and Eligibility

2.1. Eligibility of Students

To be eligible to sign-up, students must be registered as full-time or part-time business or law students in the academic year of 2022/2023. Students who graduate or graduated in 2021 or 2022 before the competition but no longer than six months before the start of the competition are still eligible to participate.

The students must be able to provide ADR ODR International with a student ID number from their University to confirm their student status upon request.

You may sign-up as an individual or as a team of three. It is preferable if you sign up as a team of three-students. If you sign-up individually, we will do our very best to allocate you a group.

All students must comply with the above eligibility requirements.

2.2. Substitutions of Team Members

If one team member is unable to attend the competition, a substitute may be used (providing they fulfil the eligibility criteria). The name and contact details of the substitute must be provided to ADR ODR International as soon as possible.

2.3. Coaches

The student group may attend with one coach. The coach must be a current student, former student, tutor or ADR specialist from anywhere around the world.

The coach may be in the “main session” throughout the mediation rounds. The coach may move between competition rooms if one/two members of his/her team are in another room (in order for a coach to attend, they must have paid the coach fee see point 3.3.).

3.0. Application and Admission

3.1. Application Process

In order to book your place for International Online Mediation Competition, please complete the booking form on our [website](#).

Once we have received your booking form, we may email you to request a student letter/student ID to confirm your student status.

The deadline to complete the booking form and make payment is **2 May 2022**.

3.2. The Competition Fee for Students

The registration fee is **£85 incl. VAT** per student. The fee is payable via bank transfer, PayPal, credit or debit card upon admittance of the team.

The fee is non-refundable.

3.3. The Competition Fee for the Coach

The registration fee is **£85 incl. VAT** per coach. The fee is payable via bank transfer, PayPal, credit or debit card upon admittance of the team.

The fee is non-refundable.

4.0. The Competition Structure

4.1. Competition Rounds

There will be four competition rounds. All participants of the International Online Mediation Competition will participate in the first two rounds on Saturday, 14 May 2022.

After the second round, the Competition Committee will announce the semi-finalists. The semi-finals will take place on Sunday, 15 May 2022.

After the semi-finals the Competition Committee will announce the finalists. The final round will take place on Sunday afternoon, 15 May 2022 (depending on the time-zone).

For each round, there will be a new case study.

4.2. The Competition on Zoom

Please read our Zoom Manual found on our e-learning site. The manual will help you understand how zoom works, the procedure of the competition and the technical requirements.

Please make sure you read the manual and follow the rules carefully in advance of the competition.

4.3. Documents and Information

Any documents or information that you may need regarding the competition can be found on www.aoieicrevents.com. The Competition Committee will send you your login details to the website by **6 May 2022**. Please ensure, that you access the website as soon as possible. Should you have any difficulties please contact us immediately, so we can help you. If you do not receive your log-in details, please ensure that you contact us on competition@adrodrinternational.com.

The platform has been designed with a view to enable you to find all the relevant competition documents, zoom links and updates. Therefore, we kindly ask you to make use of this platform before and during the competition.

You will be unable to participate in the competition, if you do not access the platform.

4.4. Acting Team Members

One of three students will be mediating in one virtual room. Two of three students will be acting as client and counsel in another room.

Two different students will be given the opportunity to mediate once throughout the first two rounds. The teams may choose which team member is to act as a mediator in which round, but it may not be the same student for round one and two. If a team reaches the semi-finals or finals, the team may decide, which team member will act as a mediator/client/counsel.

The mediator will be placed with a mediator from another team to act as co-mediators. The mediators will be acting in equal capacity.

If a team does not turn up for a competition, the other teams within the room will obtain 75% of the total scores and the round will not take place. If one team member

does not show up, then one member must act as the mediator and another will take on the client and counsel role as one.

4.6. Preparation Time

Background Information

The students will be given the background information to all rounds on **Saturday 7 May 2022 at 10:00 (UK time)**. This information can only be found on www.aoieicrevents.com.

Confidential Information

The students will be given the **confidential information at 17:30 (UK time) the day before the round**. This information can only be found on www.aoieicrevents.com. For example, the students will receive the confidential information to Round 1 at 17:30 (UK time) on 13 May 2022.

How does preparation time work?

You use the Zoom link which you have been provided with on www.aoieicrevents.com. Please note, it is not the general zoom link which is used for the welcome, keynote speaker and announcements.

You enter the room 5/10-minutes beforehand to fully benefit from your preparation time. You will then move into your designated “breakout room” in order for you to have your preparation time (please refer to the Zoom Manual which explains “breakout rooms”).

The two mediators will be placed into one breakout room, client and counsel from Team A will be in another breakout room and client and counsel from Team B will be in another breakout room.

Coaches may enter the preparation room with their negotiating pair only.

You will have 1-hour to prepare for your round. Please note, if a team member is missing, the preparation time will start without them. So please make sure to be on time for every session.

After 1-hour, you will all be called into your allocated mediation room (these will have specific names) where the judges will be waiting for you.

The session supervisor will give you the go-ahead to start the mediation when everyone is ready.

4.7. Mediation

Each mediation/round will last 90 minutes.

The session supervisor will give you the go-ahead when it is time to start your mediation. From this moment onwards, you will have 90 minutes. The session supervisor will let you know, in the chat, when you have 30 minutes and 5 minutes left of the round.

In each virtual room, there will be:

- one/two session supervisor(s);
- two/three judges;
- two mediators (from two different teams);
- party A and the counsel (from one team);
- party B and the counsel (from one team); and
- coaches (where present).

The Competition Committee members and observers (with permission from the Competition Committee) may enter the virtual rooms as well. Anyone entering the room, not listed above, must enter with their video and audio turned off to avoid disturbing the mediation.

Throughout the mediation everyone should have their camera off, apart from the judges, mediators, counsels and clients to avoid any disruptions.

Everyone should be on mute apart from the person speaking.

Private Sessions

Each mediator must call one private session with either Party A or Party B (client and counsel). They may call more than one round if they wish.

Party A and/or Party B may also request one private session throughout the mediation.

Each private session may last 7 minutes. During this time, the session supervisor will place the other party into a breakout room. Please be specific, when asking for a private session i.e. please tell the session supervisor who should be moved into the private

room. The private session with the mediator will take place in the main room and the time will start, once the other side has left the room.

4.8. Scoring & Feedback

Once the 90-minute mediation is complete, the judges will be given 15-minutes to complete their score sheet. Throughout this time, the session supervisor will place the participants/judges of the mediation into a breakout room.

Once everyone is back in the room, the judges will share their feedback for a maximum of 15 minutes (5 minutes each). However, the judges will not give any indication of scores.

Each score sheet will be out of 100 points (one scoresheet for the mediator and one for the client and counsel). Eight teams will proceed to the semi-finals – the four top mediation teams and the four top negotiation teams.

Four teams will proceed to the finals. This will be based on an elimination process. Therefore, the top two mediators and the top two negotiating pairs will proceed to the finals (the top mediator from room A, the top mediator from room B, the top negotiating pair from room A and the top negotiating pair from room B).

Please note, the scoresheets will be made available before the start of the competition. These can also be found on www.aoieicrevents.com.

4.9. Semi-Finals

After the third round, the Competition Committee will announce the semi-finalists. The semi-finalists will consist of **eight teams**. These teams will proceed to the semi-finals.

The semi-finals will be streamed to give everyone the opportunity to watch the round via. [YouTube](#) or [AOI Live](#).

4.10. Finals

After the semi-finals, the Competition Committee will announce the finalists. The finalists will consist of **four teams**. Two negotiating pairs and two mediators from different teams. These teams will proceed to the final round.

The finals will be streamed to give everyone the opportunity to watch the round via. [YouTube](#) or [AOI Live](#).

5.0. Competition Details

5.1. Language

The competition will be in English. All oral or written communications in the presence of the judges must be in English.

If English is not your first language, you should have a score of 7 in ILETS (please be prepared to provide evidence if required).

5.2. Duration

As noted in rule 4.6. – 4.7., each round will last 3 hours. The 3 hours consist of:

- 60 minutes preparation time;
- 90 minutes for the mediation;
- 15 minutes for the judges to complete their scoring; and
- 15 minutes feedback from the judges.

5.3. Timekeeping

The session supervisor will keep the time of the different stages. The supervisor will give a 30-minute and 5-minute time warning and will announce when the time is up.

It is essential for the participants to listen to the session supervisor. Non-compliance may lead to penalty (deduction in points).

5.4. Materials

The participants may use any notes for the mediation. However, students should take care, that notes do not become a distraction or disruption to themselves or to others.

The mediators and the client and counsel may also use the whiteboard function, raise hand function and the chat throughout the mediation. You may not send any documents throughout the mediation.

Finally, we kindly ask for you to use the virtual backgrounds which will be provided to you. The virtual backgrounds depend on your mediation room – so please make sure to check your room in advance. The backgrounds can also be found on the e-learning platform.

5.5. Dress Code

The dress code for the competition is business/smart. We won't be seeing much of you, but please make sure you are dressed in a presentable manner.

6.0. Awards

6.1. Judges

Each round will be observed and evaluated by a minimum of two judges.

Each judge will complete a scoring sheet on which the award will be based. The judges are the sole decision-makers.

Judges will be independent, impartial and neutral of teams and/or coaches involved in the competition. Judges must declare any conflicts of interest to the Competition Committee.

6.2. Scoring

Judges will have 15 minutes to complete the scoring sheet after completion of each round. Judges will submit their scoresheets to the Competition Committee after every round.

6.3. Reasons for Point Deduction and Disqualification

If the teams do not comply with the time-limits there may be a reduction in points. It is at the judge's discretion, to deduct a maximum of 5 points i.e. if one/both teams failed to comply with timekeeping.

If one of the teams feel that the actions of their opposing team leads to a grave reduction in their performance, the team should notify the Competition Committee of this. The team will be asked to write down the specifics and the Competition Committee will speak to the judges, to seek clarification. If the judges agree that the actions may have disrupted their performance, there may be a deduction in points.

Please note, there will not be a deduction in points for not reaching an agreement to the negotiation.

Reduction of scoring points and recommendation of disqualification by the judges will be made in writing on the score sheet before the scores have been handed over to the Competition Committee. Reduction of points shall be shared with the coach upon

completion of the round. Any point reduction(s) and/or disqualification of the team are final and not subject to appeal.

6.4. Award

The award will be based solely on the points scored by each team. Each round will be scored out of 100 points. Round 1 and 2 will be added together to determine which teams proceed to the semi-finals. The top four negotiating pairs and the top four mediators will proceed to the finals.

Then the top two mediators and the top two counsel and clients will then enter the final round.

Participants will have the opportunity to win first, second and third place.

6.5. Certificates and Awards

E-certificates of participation will be issued for all participating students, coaches and judges. ADR ODR International cannot issue any additional certificates.

These e-certificates will be issued within 8 weeks of completion of the competition.

When a student team wins a prize, each team member will receive an award.

No scores or ranks (other than semi-finals and finals) will be shared with the team.

7.0. Post it!

Last but not least, ADR ODR International is a proud user of social media. We are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Please share your pictures with us and use the hashtag: **#IamMediation** and **#WeMediateOnline**.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us under competition@adrodrinternational.com. For more information and updates please visit www.adrodrinternational.com and www.aoieicrevents.com.