



Competing at the
2027 Asia World Schools Debating Championship
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Represent South Africa.

Introduction

In 2027 the National Debating League will field two South African teams at the Asia World Schools Debating Championship (AWSDC). The selection process will take place at the NDL's 2026 High School National Debating Championship. This will be held at St Benedict's College in Bedfordview, Gauteng, over 23-26 October 2026.

About AWSDC

The Asia World Schools Debating Championship is held at Anglo Singapore International School in Bangkok, Thailand. 2027 will be the 9th edition of the championship. The tournament has historically drawn participation from teams from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Uganda, Vietnam & Zimbabwe.

The exact details dates for AWSDC will be announced in late October 2026. It will likely be held over the final week of June 2027—possibly from 28 June to 1 July 2027. This lines up with their historical scheduling.

We will arrange accommodation at Novotel Bangkok Sukhumvit 20. This hotel has been recommended by the AWSDC organizers.

Safeguarding

The squad will travel to Thailand with two chaperones and at least one will be female. Both will be adults currently employed by a school, have international travel experience, and subject to criminal background checks and other "working with children" checks.



Find your voice.

Team Selection

We will select a Junior team (Grade 8-9) and a Senior team (Grade 10+). The Junior team will compete in the AWSDC "novice" division; the Senior team in the "Open" division.

Speakers are not automatically eligible for selection. Their teachers will need to nominate them for selection before the NDL's High School National Championship begins.

To be eligible, a student will need to be:

- A competitor at the NDL's 2026 High School National Debating Championship;
- In Grade 8 to 11 in 2026;
- Available for the final week of June and the first week of July 2027;
- A South African citizen or in South Africa with a valid visa and a valid passport;

The selected squad will be announced at the closing ceremony. The selection process will be lead by the Head Coach, and all adjudicators at the tournament will be able to nominate prospective speakers.

We will do our best to make the squad as geographically representative as possible. We hope to select at least one speaker per province.



Join a community
of passionate
educators.

Coaching

Selected speakers will engage in a long-term coaching program running from November 2026 to June 2027. Training will generally be online over weekends, keeping in mind the academic and sporting commitments of our debaters.

We will start with a series of low-frequency (monthly) sessions, progressing to fortnightly sessions after the December exam period is completed.

The squad will compete in person at the NDL's 2026 Johannesburg Open from 28 November to 1 December 2026. This championship typically draws participation from across South Africa and various African nations. This will be a valuable opportunity for in-person training and competition as a squad. We will arrange accommodation and cover all related expenses for our squad at this tournament. Participants just need to arrange their own transport to Joburg.

The Head Coach for our squad will be Rea Mmethi. Originally from Limpopo, she is an experienced school coach currently studying and working in Cape Town. Rea is an experienced member of the NDL's team and has helped us run NDL events in both the Western Cape and KZN. She has played a role in coaching several exceptional teams, including the Kenyan national team which recently ranked 4th in the World at WSDC. It is possible that other coaches will be onboarded at a later stage.

All coaches will be subject to the standard NDL working with children checks, criminal background checks, etc. For safeguarding, we will make arrangements for a professional educator to be present in all training sessions. If your student has been selected for the squad, you will *always* be welcome to join the online training sessions.



Finances

Competing at an international tournament will never be an “affordable” experience. The largest cost will be flights. We do not anticipate that external sponsorship for this trip will materialize. Prospective squad members will need to discuss the financial implications of this trip with their families.

We plan on being as transparent as possible with the finances for this trip. We hope that this will become the benchmark for other organizations offering international tours.

We anticipate the following major expenses per person:

Description	Unit	QTY	Sub Total	
Tournament Registration		1	R 6 300,00	(approx 350 USD @ R18 exchange rate)
Flights		1	R 15 000,00	(Singapore Airlines—might be lower)
Hotel	2200	3,5	R 7 700,00	(7 nights per person, each person shares)
Meals	400	5	R 2 000,00	(Inflated food budget—tournament already has food)
Socials	1500	1	R 1 500,00	
Contingency	1500	1	R 1 500,00	
Travel Insurance		1	R 1 500,00	(Likely lower in practice)
			R 35 500,00	(without Chaperones)
			R44 375,00	(Final, with chaperones)

With two chaperones to the squad, we need to increase the registration fee by 25%. This will give us a final registration fee of R44,375.00. If we ultimately spend less on the trip, we will refund the savings to parents. If we spend more, the NDL will step in to cover the difference.

The NDL will completely cover the cost of the training process and participation (except travel to Joburg) at the NDL’s Johannesburg Open in Nov/December 2026.

Build ambition
and resilience.



Explore the world.

Payment Timelines/Cost Management

For a trip of this cost, it is essential that we manage costs. Booking flights and hotels in advance will play a major role in lowering the final cost per person.

We aim to purchase flights by January 2027. We aim to cover hotel costs by February 2027. If we accomplish this, we should be in a position to offer savings to parents.

To make this possible, we will divide payments for the tour into 8 equal payments starting in November 2026. Each payment will be R5 546,88.

Payments will be by:

- 30 November 2026
- 30 December 2026
- 30 January 2027
- 28 February 2027
- 30 March 2027
- 30 April 2027
- 30 May 2027
- 23 June 2027

We are aware that this is a significant amount of money for any family to cover. For some students, this may equate to one week at their school. For others, this may represent their entire annual school fees. We therefore require students to discuss these fees with their parents in detail before they are made eligible for selection.

Once a student has been selected for the squad, each parent and the NDL will sign a contract committing to the payment timelines and amounts. We will also contractually agree to refund surplus funds at the end of the trip and share all aspects of the trip costing in detail.

We look forward to making memories with you



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