



global learning for positive change



"The students were exhilarated by the experience offered. We have inspired the next generation of international diplomats and physicists!"
Head Teacher, Churchill Academy, letter to parents

Switzerland – Summer 2026



Why Switzerland?

Geneva is the birthplace of the Red Cross, and is now the global centre for diplomacy, science, trade, and the coordination of disaster relief, human rights, and humanitarian aid.

Many United Nations (UN) agencies have their headquarters in Geneva: over 40 UN organisations and 200 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are located here. With the Alps and Lake Geneva as a dramatic backdrop, Geneva offers a hugely educational and inspirational destination!

Experience: Access to United Nations agencies and CERN; learn how these international agencies are working to create a better world.

Learn about: Global Governance and International Development, World Trade, Scientific Research, Climate Change, Environmental Protection and Human Rights.



"The trip was truly inspiring and gave me unique insights into UN agencies. I would recommend this trip to everyone regardless of their anticipated field of study – whether international relations, science or even philosophy!"

Student, Millfield School

Useful facts

Explore: Stunning walking trails of Mont Salève in France, and the historic Old Town of Geneva.

Geography: Geneva straddles the Switzerland - France border, and is situated on the banks of Lake Geneva, with the Jura mountains to the west and the Alps to the East.

Climate: In July, Switzerland can be very warm, with average temperatures of 25-30°C.

Languages: Switzerland has 3 official languages: French, German and Italian. English and French are the main languages in Geneva. Seminars at international agencies will be conducted in English.

Physical rating: Although this is a city-based trip, students will be on their feet all day walking between agencies and undertaking a 3-hour mountain walk whilst wearing a daysack.

Accommodation: You will be staying in a comfortable hotel or hostel throughout your visit to Geneva.

Sample Itinerary

During your time in Geneva you will enjoy a mixture of agency visits and other activities, to suit your school learning aims. As such the itinerary will look different for every group we run. However, we aim to work within the following structure:

Day 1: UK – Geneva

You fly from the UK to Geneva International Airport, and will be met on arrival by our Global Action Geneva Facilitator. They will guide you by train and tram to your accommodation, located close to Geneva City Centre.

Depending on the time your flight lands you can take a walk to the **Bains de Pâquis**, with its magnificent views of Lake Geneva and the mountains beyond. It is also a popular spot for groups to enjoy a picnic lunch in the sun! From here, you will also be able to see the world-famous Jet d'Eau. Reaching 140 metres in height, the Jet d'Eau has become a real emblem of Geneva and has even made it onto a stamp!



Day 2: Introduction to the United Nations

This morning, you have a guided tour of the **United Nations Headquarters (UNOG)**, located in the *Palais des Nations*, which overlooks Lake Geneva and the Alps. This gives an excellent overview of the UN international system, before the group meets specialised UN agencies tomorrow.

The *Palais des Nations* was originally constructed for the League of Nations in 1929 and is an outstanding testimony to twentieth century architecture and aspirations. The UNOG now hosts over 9,000 international meetings annually, many of which are highly sensitive diplomatic discussions between governments.

“It was fantastic that it covered so many aspects of the curriculum – this trip also went way beyond what they learn in school!”

Deputy Head, The Lady Eleanor Holles School

“An outstanding experience – your trip offered an insight into agencies that would not be possible as an ordinary outsider.”

Teacher, Cheltenham Ladies' College

“The whole experience has been interesting, fulfilling and enriching! It has given me a perspective on global challenges and solutions faced by countries around the world.”

Student, Cheadle Hulme School



With an experienced guide, you will:

- Learn about the objectives, structure and current activities of the United Nations
- Explore the hugely impressive Assembly Hall and the Council Chamber, where many historical negotiations have taken place, with murals by famous Spanish artist José Maria Sert
- Visit the stunning Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Hall, learn about which UN Committees are meeting here

After lunch you visit the outstanding **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum**, where you can immerse yourself in the important work of the International Red Cross, which has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on three separate occasions.

Through interactive audio-visual presentations from Twelve witnesses (from a child soldier to a landmine survivor), you will learn about the vital work the Red Cross does in many countries to:

- Defend Human Dignity
- Restore Family Links
- Reduce Natural Risks

You will learn how the Red Cross Movement started, current efforts to help both civilians and prisoners of war in modern conflict, as well as how this unique organisation is meeting the challenges of climate change.



Days 3 – 5: Visits to specialist United Nations agencies

During the next three days, we organise agency visits for workshops, to suit your learning aims around: Global Governance and International Development, World Trade, Scientific Research, Climate Change and Environmental Protection, and Human Rights. Please see overleaf the profile of each International organisation we work with in Geneva.

Other activities we can include:

We travel over the border in France, taking a cable car up to **Mont Salève** (1,379m or 4,524 ft.) to appreciate the panoramic views of Geneva, the lake, the Jura Mountains, the Swiss and French Alps including Mont Blanc.

Mont Salève is a haven for walkers, climbers, or anyone who enjoys mountain flora and fauna. You can enjoy a relaxed outdoor walk through the meadows and forest to the summit, before enjoying a refreshing drink or ice-cream at the mountain restaurant and descending on the cable car.



Whilst exploring the cobbled streets of [Geneva Old Town](#), eating an ice cream or discovering some of the boutique chocolate shops, you'll also see [St Peter's Cathedral](#). Located in the centre of the Old Town, overseeing the city, the cathedral combines various architectural styles from Gothic to Ancient, as it has been rebuilt over the centuries.

Walking around Geneva, keep an eye out for some of its famous attractions, such as the [L'horloge Fleurie](#) or Geneva Flower Clock – the biggest clock in the world, made up entirely of flowers.

In the evenings, we can arrange free time for the group, and dinner will be a mix of pre-booked restaurants and free choice dinners, following consultation with your school.

On our last day, we conduct a [Global Learning Review](#), which reflects on the contribution how agencies visited are addressing global issues and working towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. You will be encouraged to consider how Global Governance, International Development, World Trade, Scientific Research, Environmental Protection, and Human Rights are interconnected and how you can make a difference to one of these issues when you return to the UK. Returning home, you can reflect on the efforts of international agencies to create a better world. You fly back to the UK with memories to last a lifetime, and the ASDAN Universities Award!



International Organisations we work with in Geneva

Global Action partners with many specialised UN agencies, a selection of which are displayed below. In the planning stage we will work with your team's profile and interests, as well as the availability of UN officials, to plan an outstanding programme for your group.

Office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

OHCHR was established in 1993 by the UN General Assembly to promote and protect human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Discussion topics here can include involuntary disappearance, torture prevention and cultural rights.



UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is mandated to lead international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. In more than six decades, the UNHCR has helped tens of millions of people restart their lives. Today, 7,685 UNHCR Staff in 125 countries continue to help 33 million uprooted people worldwide. Visiting their headquarters, you can enjoy an interactive case study on a specific refugee crisis or the broader work of UNHCR.

The World Bank

Comprised of two financing institutions the World Bank aims to end extreme poverty within a generation. Presentations here can include Health Financing, Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.



WOMEN
AND TRADE

International Trade Centre (ITC)

The ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organisation and the UN and is dedicated to supporting the internationalisation of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). Established in 1964, the International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Visits here can enjoy presentations on initiatives including Ethical Fashion, Youth Entrepreneurship and E-commerce.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. They help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.



"Geneva is a beautiful, welcoming city that provided us with so much more than a few days away in the sun. CERN and the World Bank were my highlights, and I cannot give enough credit to the Global Action UK team, our Geneva facilitators, and our pupils, for making this trip so memorable."

Teacher, Millfield School



World Health Organization

World Health Organisation (WHO)

WHO is the body responsible for directing and coordinating health agendas within the UN system. Their goal is to ensure that a billion more people have universal health coverage, to protect a billion more people from health emergencies, and provide a further billion people with better health and well-being. Presentations here can include a focus on a global pandemic e.g. Ebola or on world-wide disease eradication initiatives e.g. Polio.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

MSF is a non-governmental organization (NGO), formed by French doctors in 1971, and delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, or disasters. In 1999, MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize. Visits here can learn about the vital work and challenges faced by MSF around the globe.



UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Discussion topics here can include the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, low emissions development pathways and post conflict environmental assessments.

UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF is the leading humanitarian and development agency working globally for the rights of every child; lobbying leaders, thinkers and policy makers to advance the access of all children to their rights. Seminars here can include an overview of UNICEF's work at a global level followed by focusing on one topic area in detail.



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

CERN

The European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, is a European research organization that operates the largest particle physics laboratory in the world and famed for discovering the Higgs Boson particle. At CERN you can enjoy a spectacular film and tour of one of the experiments to learn how CERN is a world leader - not only in particle physics, but also in applying the latest technologies in everyday life.



Raising funds towards your trip

You're about to embark on a life-changing trip abroad and support communities in need. Fundraising will give you a fantastic sense of achievement. Apart from raising cash for your trip, this will give you **increased self-confidence, and develop your life-skills in: budgeting, creativity, independence and entrepreneurship** – great for university and your careers.

At Global Action we care about your success. We provide:

- ✓ Regular online fundraising webinars with our partners at easyfundraising
- ✓ A 17 page fundraising guide packed with ideas, plans and resources to get you started

Did you know?

Most students raise £600 - £1000 towards their trip - and many even earn their whole trip cost!



Here's our five step plan to getting started:

1. Set a target! Are you aiming to raise the whole amount yourself, or part of this cost?
2. Break down your target into milestones – base this around monthly or termly targets, or think about when you can dedicate the most time to it.
3. Make a mind map of your social network, and the different ways in which your contacts might be able to help you - and how you might be able to help them!
4. Put together the plan to reach your target – use the Global Action Fundraising Planner from your fundraising pack.
5. Pick your first event and get planning! Once you have your first contribution, reaching your target will feel much more achievable.

We have included some ideas for **individual fundraising** below to get you thinking...

Individual

- 🌐 Part-time work/holiday job
- 🌐 Sponsored event
- 🌐 Selling art and crafts at a community fair
- 🌐 Selling unwanted items on Vinted / eBay
- 🌐 Odd jobs in the community
- 🌐 Donations from local businesses and rotary clubs

See overleaf for a great way to get **free** money!

” Doing your own fundraising gives you a sense of achievement and means that whilst you are out on the trip you engage more in the activities as you paid for them yourself. ”

James, Saffron Walden High School, Zanzibar



easyfundraising

global action

6 easy steps to getting started with easyfundraising

Fundraising for your trip just got easier. Sign up to easyfundraising and start earning free cashback on all online purchases. easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 well-known online brands, so whenever anyone you know shops online, you receive free cashback you can use towards your trip target. The selection of brands to shop with is endless...

amazon.co.uk

ebay

JOHN LEWIS

JUST EAT

ASOS

Booking.com

M&S

SCREWFIX

moonpig

TESCO

trainline

Boots
Let's feel good

skyscanner

Argos

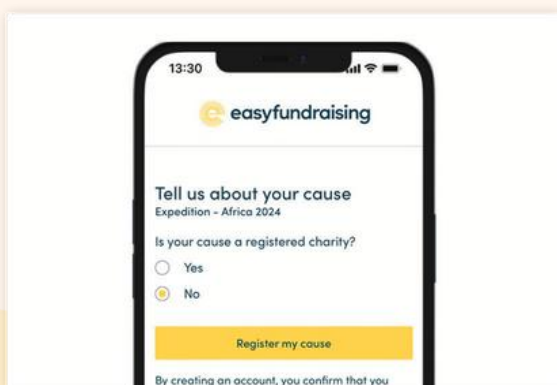
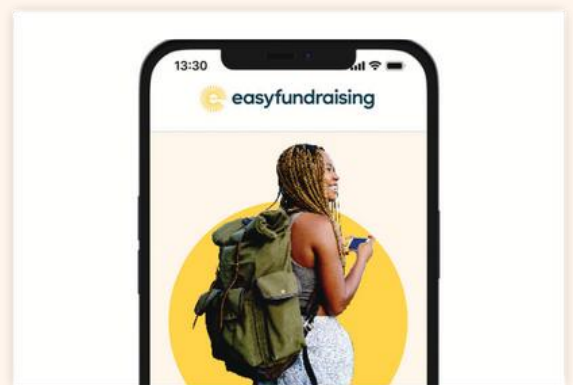
+7,500
Others

Step 1

Scan the QR code or use the link to get started. Tell us your name and where you are going to travel.



www.easyfundraising.org.uk/global-action

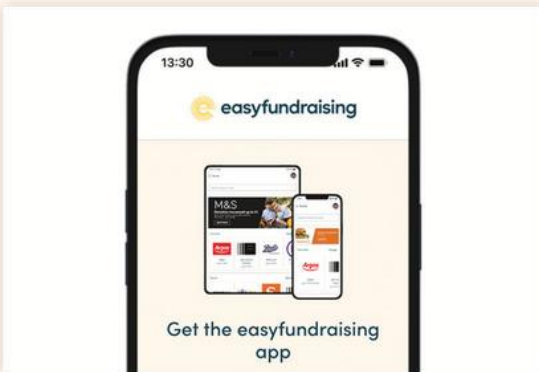
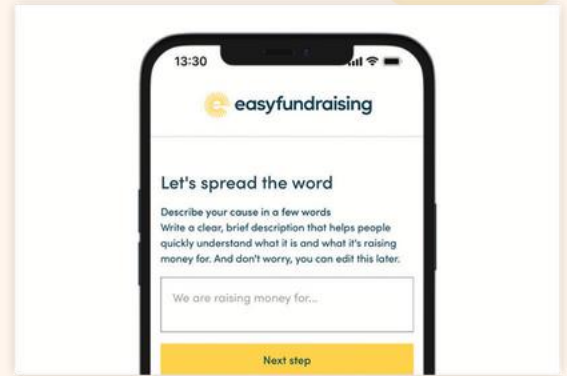


Step 2

Fill in your details and click 'Register my cause'.

Step 3

We'd love to know more about you and what you're up to; tell us a bit about your expedition.

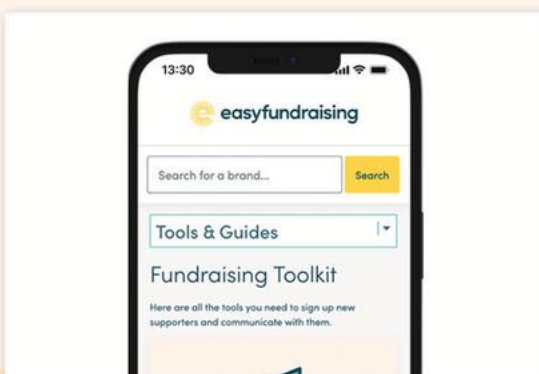


Step 4

Downloading the easyfundraising app is the easiest way to earn free cashback, do this now while you remember.

Step 5

Book a free call with one of the fundraising experts for the best advice on how to get family and friends registered and earning cashback toward your target.



Step 6

Visit 'Account' then 'Promote my Cause' for ready-made social media text, images, and WhatsApp messaging you can download and share to encourage family and friends to support you.

How to apply for this trip

1. Complete online application: see school letter for the link to your portal page
2. Send deposit to Global Action (or the school) – see your portal page



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