

# Entente Cordiale Prizes

**2026**

Under the Joint Patronage of His  
Majesty King Charles III and President  
Emmanuel Macron

*“A Divine Providence has designed that France should be our near neighbour, and I hope, always our dear friend and that in the future, as in the past, England and France may be regarded as the champions and pioneers of peaceful progress and civilisation, and as the homes of all that is best and noblest”*

**- King Edward VII (1841-1910)**



*“Inspired by Davos World Economic Forum’s mission and recognising the excellence of UK and French top-tier academic institutions in educating international leaders globally, the Entente Cordiale Day aims to become a forum where students and future leaders meet annually in April to present to today’s leaders their ideas, recommendations and innovative solutions to tackle the most pressing global challenges of our time.”*

**- Maître Yves Djimi, Founder of the Entente Cordiale Day Association**



One year ago, as we marked the 121st anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, the first Entente Cordiale Summit was held in the United Kingdom and brought together international leaders, academics, and students across some of the UK's most distinguished institutions. From the London School of Economics for the Entente Cordiale University Challenge Finals 2025, to the Houses of Parliament, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and Hatfield House, this inaugural UK Summit embodied the strength and renewal of the Anglo-French partnership and centuries-old history.

This year, we are honoured to convene the first Entente Cordiale Summit in France, hosted in some of the most emblematic and historic institutions of France: the Sorbonne for the Entente Cordiale University Challenge Finals 2026, the École Militaire for the Grand Conference, the Hôtel des Invalides for the Opening Ceremony, and the Château de Breteuil for the Closing Ceremony and Gala Dinner. It is at the Château de Breteuil that the Entente Cordiale Day initiative was launched on 8 April 2024, marking the 120th anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, and echoing the historic foundations of this relationship, first envisioned in 1881 at the Château de Breteuil between the future King Edward VII and the French statesman Léon Gambetta. Returning to this symbolic venue affirms both our attachment to history and our ambition for the future.

This year's 2026 Summit is distinguished by the celebration of two major anniversaries that profoundly shape the spirit of our initiative. The first is the centenary of the birth of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, born on 21 April 1926. For over seventy years, Queen Elizabeth II stood as one of the greatest living symbols of the Entente Cordiale, the "Golden Thread binding our Nations," embodying a steadfast commitment to friendship, diplomacy, and unity between countries. In tribute to her extraordinary legacy, the very first distinction within our initiative, created on the day of Queen Elizabeth II's passing, is the Queen Elizabeth II Entente Cordiale Prize, honouring her enduring vision of dialogue and cooperation and the great friendship between France and the UK.

The second is the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, a defining moment in world history and a cornerstone in the shared story of France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The spirit of the Entente Cordiale reminds us that nations once divided can become the closest of allies: France, the oldest ally of the United States; the United Kingdom, its closest partner over the past century; and together, a transatlantic community bound by shared values and common purpose. Guided by this spirit, we are proud to launch the US Entente Cordiale Prizes, alongside the French and British Entente Cordiale Prizes, and to expand the Entente Cordiale University Challenge beyond its Franco-British roots by welcoming, for the first time, leading American academic institutions. We are truly honoured to welcome the University of Virginia, the George Washington University, William & Mary, and Lafayette College among our first US partners. Their participation marks a new chapter, offering American students the opportunity to engage alongside their French and British peers in shaping innovative responses to the world's most pressing challenges, starting with next year's 2026–2027 Challenge, which will be focused on: "Artificial Intelligence, Power and Ethics."

Over recent months, more than 700 students from leading universities have worked on this year's 2025–2026 theme: "Conflicts, Technologies and World Security." This reflects not only academic excellence, but also a deep commitment to addressing the defining issues of our time. The top 60 finalists will present their ideas before an international Grand Jury at the Sorbonne on April 8, 2026, co-chaired by two Nobel Peace Prize laureates: Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate 2015 from Tunisia and Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate 2022 from Ukraine, continuing a tradition of intellectual rigour and cross-cultural dialogue.

The Entente Cordiale Summit is, above all, a forum—bringing together the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow. It provides a unique platform where ideas are exchanged, perspectives challenged, and solutions imagined within institutions that have shaped history and continue to influence the future. As we gather in Paris, we celebrate not only a historic alliance, but a living partnership—one driven by youth, innovation, and a shared belief that cooperation across borders remains essential in an increasingly complex world. Now and in the years to come, the Entente Cordiale Summit will stand as a beacon: honouring the past, engaging the present, and empowering the future.

Thank you, and welcome.

Maître Yves Djimi  
Founder

Charlotte Simunek  
CEO

Didier Chaudet  
Geopolitical Advisor of EC Day

Clara Chevalier  
French President

Martha Leszczynski  
UK President

Joy Wang  
VP of Communications

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# Thank you to this year's...

## Hosts

École Militaire

Hôtel National des Invalides

Université Paris-I-Panthéon-Sorbonne

Château de Breteuil

## Official Partners

MBDA

Mobility Soft AI

Champagne Pol Roger

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CMA CGM

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Champagne Pol Roger

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Conway Stewart

Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco

# Programme of Events

Day One: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

**12:00 PM**

École Militaire – Rotonde Gabriel

*Working Lunch with the Challenge Finalists*

- Conflicts, Technologies and World Security

**2:00 PM**

École Militaire – Foch Auditorium

*Conference: Introduction and Roundtables*

- Security, Diplomacy, Influence: The Shifting Fronts of the Europe-Russia Relationship

**6:30 PM**

Hôtel National des Invalides

*Official Opening Ceremony and Standing Dinner*

*Reception*

- Military Parade and Flag-Raising Ceremony
- Addresses by Dignitaries and Officials
- Cocktail and Networking in the Grand Salon

**9:00 PM**

Saint-Louis des Invalides Cathedral

*Concert by the Orchestre et Choeur des Universités de Paris*

## Day Two: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

**9:00 AM**

The Sorbonne University, Duroselle & Richelieu

Auditoriums

*Presentations by Five Finalist Student Teams*

**Oral presentations before the Grand Jury (morning session)**

**12:00 PM**

The Sorbonne University

*Lunch Break and Jury Deliberation*

**1:30 PM**

The Sorbonne University, Duroselle & Richelieu

Auditoriums

*Presentations by Five Finalist Student Teams*

**Oral presentations before the Grand Jury (afternoon session)**

**6:30 PM**

Château de Breteuil, Chevreuse Valley

Gala Dinner and Entente Cordiale Awards Ceremony

- Gala dinner in the Orangerie
- Addresses by Dignitaries and Officials
- Presentation of Prizes to Winning Student Teams

*Dress Code: Black Tie*

# Hosts of the Summit Conference:

## École Militaire

### HOST INSTITUTION:

The École Militaire in Paris was founded in 1751 under Louis XV to train young men of limited means for military service. Designed by Jacques-Ange Gabriel, the building reflects classical French architecture. Completed in 1773, it centres on a domed pavilion with Corinthian columns, a clock, and statues symbolising Victory, France, Peace, and Power. The structure is arranged around a central courtyard (cour d'honneur), framed by porticoes and colonnades, with later additions expanding the complex. It faces the Champs-de-Mars, originally used for military exercises.

Inside, the school includes courtyards named after Napoleonic figures and a notable Louis XVI-style chapel decorated with classical artwork. Over time, the École Militaire has served various military purposes and remains an important centre for French military education today.



### HOST SPEAKER:

#### Lieutenant General Hervé de Courrèges

By presidential decree of 19 June 2024, Lieutenant General Hervé de Courrèges was appointed Director of the IHEDN and Higher Military Education, with effect from 19 June 2024. A Saint-Cyrien from the General Delestraint class (1988-1991), he chose to serve in the armoured cavalry. Posted as platoon leader to the 4<sup>e</sup> Regiment of chasseurs (4<sup>e</sup> RCh) in Gap (Hautes-Alpes), he trained as a high mountain unit leader at the École militaire de haute montagne in Chamonix. He was then deployed to Lebanon in 1993. After a spell at the Saumur Cavalry School as an instructor of reserve officer cadets in 1995, he returned to the 4<sup>e</sup> RCh in 1997 to take command of a squadron with which he was deployed to Chad. In 1999, he became an inter-service instructor at the École supérieure et d'application des transmissions in Rennes.

In 2002, he obtained a specialised master's degree from the École supérieure d'électricité (SUPELEC), as well as an advanced studies diploma from the École pratique des hautes études (EPHE) in 2003. After graduating from the Collège interarmées de Défense, the same year, he returned to the 4<sup>e</sup> RCh as head of the training operations office. He was then deployed to Afghanistan as head of operations for his regiment.

He then served in the planning and finance office of the French Army Staff, before joining the military cabinet of the Minister of Defence in 2008 as deputy to the "Organisation, Human Resources" and "Land" units. In 2011, appointed to command the 4<sup>e</sup> RCh, he left for Côte d'Ivoire as head of the French Licorne battalion. He was an auditor in 2013 of the 63rd session of the Centre des hautes études militaires (CHEM) and the 66th session of the IHEDN. He also undertook studies at the Higher Command and Staff Course in Shrivenham, United Kingdom. The following year, he was seconded to the General Secretariat for National Defence and Security (SGDSN), where he was successively responsible for state security protection and then for the secretariat of the national defence and security councils.

Promoted to General in 2018, he was appointed Deputy Commander of Land Forces Intelligence in Strasbourg. Then, in June 2020, he took command of the 27<sup>e</sup> mountain infantry brigade and the Grenoble-Anncery-Chambéry defence base. Promoted to Major General in 2021, he is appointed Commandant of the Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan Military Academy.

A member of the Defence Ethics Committee, General de Courrèges is Commander of the Legion of Honour, Commander of the National Order of Merit and holder of the Military Valour Cross. He is married with five children.

# Keynote Speakers of the Summit Conference:

## École Militaire



### **General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO (2014-2017)**

General Sir Adrian Bradshaw holds degrees in Agriculture, Defence Studies, and International Relations, and has held academic roles at Balliol College, RUSI, and King's College London. He joined the 14th/20th King's Hussars in 1980 and has served globally in armoured, aviation, and command roles. His operational experience spans Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan. He commanded at every level up to General, including an Armoured Battlegroup, Brigade, Division, UK Special Forces, and UK Land Forces.

He also served as Deputy Commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan and later as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (2014–17), becoming Britain's most senior officer in NATO. He is now Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and continues to contribute to international security and policy discussions.



### **Iain Martin, Director of London Defence Conference (LDC)**

Iain Martin is director of the London Defence Conference and director of Engelsberg Ideas. During his journalistic career he was a columnist for The Times, editor of The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday, and deputy editor of the Sunday Telegraph and The Wall Street Journal Europe. He has written two books: *Making it Happen: Fred Goodwin, RBS and the Men Who Blew Up the British Economy* (2013), about the 2008 financial crash; and *Crash, Bang, Wallop: The Inside Story of London's Big Bang and a Financial Revolution that Changed the World* (2016).



### **Frédéric Petit, MP for the 7th constituency of the French abroad, Germany-Central Europe-Balkans**

Frédéric Petit is a French engineer and politician who has served as a member of the National Assembly since 2017, representing French citizens living in Germany, Central Europe, and the Balkans. A member of the Democratic Movement (MoDem), he is active in parliamentary work on foreign affairs and European cooperation. He began his career in social development, leading a community project in Metz before moving into senior roles in the energy and infrastructure sectors across Europe and North Africa. Elected to parliament in 2017 and re-elected in 2022 and 2024, he has focused on diplomacy, European relations, and international security. He has also contributed to cross-border initiatives, including the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly, reflecting his commitment to European cooperation and strategic engagement.

# Keynote Speakers of the Summit Conference:

## École Militaire



### **Benoît Pélopidas, University professor (Sciences Po - CERI), founder of the Nuclear Knowledges study programme**

Benoît Pelopidas is Full Professor and the founding director of the Nuclear Knowledges program at the Center for International Studies, Sciences Po, Paris. Nuclear Knowledges is the first scholarly research program in France on the nuclear phenomenon (Google Scholar) which refuses funding from stakeholders of the nuclear weapons enterprise or from antinuclear activists in order to problematize conflicts of interest and their effect on knowledge production. The program mobilizes interdisciplinary methods to become able to assess accepted claims about nuclear realities and explore how possible nuclear futures are scoped and connected to other existential risks. Benoît is an affiliate to CISAC at Stanford University and has been a visiting fellow at Princeton University's Program on Science and Global Security.



### **Justin Crump, Founder and CEO of Sibylline**

Justin Crump is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Sibylline, established in 2010. Based in the UK, he leads the company's strategic direction, drawing on extensive experience in intelligence and security, and has built Sibylline into a trusted partner for a wide range of clients. He began his career as an investment banker at JP Morgan Chase before transitioning to military service following 11 September 2001. As a tank commander, he served in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq, and Kosovo, and later acted as Aide-de-Camp to the 6th Duke of Westminster. He subsequently held intelligence roles in the private sector. He is a former President of AIRIP and a published author. He regularly contributes to major media outlets and is an active public speaker on security and global affairs.



### **Margaux Benn, senior reporter with Le Figaro's foreign service**

Margaux Benn is a Franco-Canadian journalist and award-winning war correspondent, born in 1988. She is best known as a senior reporter for Le Figaro, where she covers major international conflicts and geopolitical crises. Educated at the University of St Andrews and Sciences Po Paris, she began her career with Agence France-Presse before working as a freelance journalist. Benn has reported extensively from conflict zones, including Ukraine and Afghanistan, gaining recognition for her in-depth and human-focused storytelling. In 2022, she was awarded the prestigious Albert Londres Prize for her coverage of the war in Ukraine. In addition to her written work, she has co-directed documentaries on life under Taliban rule. Her reporting combines frontline experience with a strong commitment to conveying the realities of war and its impact on civilians.

# Keynote Speakers of the Summit Conference:

## École Militaire



### **Régis Genté, journalist and specialist in the former Soviet space**

Régis Genté is a French journalist based in Tbilisi since 2002, covering the former Soviet Union for Radio France Internationale (RFI), France 24 TV, Le Figaro, and other outlets. He is the author of three books, among them “Poutine et le Caucase” (“Putin and the Caucasus”, 2014).



### **Céline Bayou, Head of Russia and Continental Europe at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Centre for Analysis, Forecasting and Strategy (CAPS), and associate researcher at the Europes-Eurasia Research Centre (CREE-INALCO)**

Lecturer at INALCO (including the "Geopolitics of the Baltic Sea" course), associate researcher at CREE (Centre de recherches Europes Eurasie-INALCO), co-editor-in-chief of the Regard sur l'Est website ([www.regard-est.com](http://www.regard-est.com)) and in charge of the Baltic States at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.



### **Anna Jäderström, founder of the Gothia Defence Forum**

Anna Jäderström is the Founder of the Gothia Defence Forum, a Swedish platform connecting defence, industry, policy, and academic sectors to foster collaboration and strengthen resilience. She holds an MSc in Economic History and a BA in History from the University of Gothenburg and co-authored a chapter in Security of Supply, published by the Security of Supply Centre of Excellence. With over 15 years of experience in political leadership, including advisory roles to regional executives and chairing political and non-profit boards, Anna brings strategic insight, cross-sector expertise, and a commitment to mentoring the next generation of global leaders.

# Keynote Speakers Summit Conference:

## École Militaire



### **Émilie Canova, Research Associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge**

Émilie Canova is a political geographer specialising in Arctic–European Union relations. Her research examines region-building through critical geopolitics, focusing on maps and geopolitical imaginaries and her PhD at the University of Cambridge explores EU–Arctic relations as the interaction of overlapping supranational regions, analysing how each shapes the other’s development. Using qualitative methods, including interviews and mental mapping, her work investigates regional integration and representation. She has received multiple awards, including the Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholarship and Fitzwilliam College Senior Scholarship.



### **Nicole Grajewski, Assistant Professor, CERI/Visiting Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

Nicole Grajewski is a scholar of nuclear policy and international security, specialising in Russia and Iran. She is a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Sciences Po’s Centre de recherches internationales (CERI) and a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as an associate at Harvard’s Belfer Center. Her research focuses on nuclear strategy, escalation management, and military decision-making, with particular attention to Russia–Iran relations. She is the author of “Russia and Iran: Partners in Defiance from Syria to Ukraine” (2026) and a frequent contributor to leading publications including Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy. Grajewski holds a PhD in Politics and International Relations from the University of Oxford.



### **Charlotte Thomas, political scientist, IRIS Asia-Pacific programme**

Charlotte Thomas is a political scientist (Sciences Po Paris) affiliated with the Asia Programme at IRIS. Her research focuses on the socio-spatial dynamics of Indian Muslims, particularly in Gujarat and Kashmir. Based on her doctoral thesis, her book “Pogroms and Violence: Muslims in Contemporary India” was published in 2018 (Karthala, IISMM series). She has taught political science and urban studies at Sciences Po Lille and Sciences Po Paris, and was a Junior Visiting Fellow at the IWM in Vienna. Charlotte Thomas has also worked as a postdoctoral researcher at CERI–Sciences Po for the Observatory of Religion (DGRIS–CERI–EPHE) and the Louis Massignon Chair for the Study of Religion. She also co-led the South Asia Programme (SAProg) within the Noria research network, where she directed a South Asia Observatory (DGRIS–Noria).

# Detailed Programme of the Conference: École Militaire (April 7<sup>th</sup> 2026)

Under the Joint High Patronage of the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, and His Majesty Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## Annual Entente Cordiale Summit Conference 2026 Edition "Security, Diplomacy, Influence: the different fronts of the Europe-Russia relationship"

Seen from both London and Paris, one country in particular has been a major source of security and diplomatic concern for the future of our continent in recent years: Russia. The war in Ukraine, and in particular Russia's invasion of Ukrainian territory on 24 February 2022, led to lasting tensions between the Kremlin and many European countries, not least France and the United Kingdom.

Four years on, what is the state of play in these complex relations between Europe and Russia? This is the question that the annual conference of the Entente Cordiale 2026 Summit will seek to answer.

The analysis presented at this conference will be structured as follows:

**2:00 - 2:35pm**

### Introduction

Introduction to Entente Cordiale Day

Lieutenant General Hervé de Courrèges, President of the Defence Academy of the École Militaire and Director of IHEDN and Higher Military Education

Iain Martin, Director of the London Defence Conference.

**2:40 - 4pm**

### Round Table 1:

*"How to define the Russian "threat" and what European response?"*

*Are Russian conventional forces a threat to Europe? A British approach.*

General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO (2014-2017)

*Nuclear weapons: for Europe, a Russian threat, French protection?*

Benoît Péloupidas, university professor (Sciences Po - CERI), founder of the Nuclear Knowledges study programme

*Beyond the military: understanding Russian hybrid threats in European countries.*

Frédéric Petit, MP for the 7th constituency of the French abroad, Germany-Central Europe-Balkans

# Detailed Programme of the Conference: École Militaire (April 7<sup>th</sup> 2026)

**2:40 - 4pm**

## Round Table 1:

*"How to define the Russian "threat" and what European response?"*

*Thinking the Unthinkable: the vital role of intelligence in a complex world  
[in English]*

**Justin Crump**, Founder and CEO of Sibylline

*A response to the danger from Russia: Franco-Ukrainian military  
cooperation, an assessment of the current situation*

**Margaux Benn**, senior reporter with Le Figaro's foreign service

**4:15 - 5:35pm**

## Round Table 2:

*"Russia as an international competitor or geopolitical danger".*

*Before Ukraine, Georgia: Euro-Russian competition in the heart of the  
Caucasus?*

**Régis Genté**, Journalist, specialist in the former Soviet space

*After Ukraine, what is the perception of the Russian threat in the Baltic  
States?*

**Céline Bayou**, Head of Russia and Continental Europe at the  
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Centre for Analysis,  
Forecasting and Strategy (CAPS), associate researcher at the  
Europes-Eurasia Research Centre (CREE-INALCO)

*A Scandinavian analysis of the divisions between Europe and Russia*

**Anna Jäderström**, founder of the Gothia Defence Forum  
Europeans and Russians: rivals in the Arctic? **Émilie Canova**,  
Research Associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute,  
Cambridge

*The war in Iran: converging and diverging consequences for Russia and  
Western Europe*

**Nicole Grajewski**, Assistant Professor, CERI / Visiting Fellow,  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

*Russia-India, a troubling relationship for the French and Europeans*

**Charlotte Thomas**, political scientist, IRIS Asia-Pacific  
programme

**This annual conference will be moderated by Didier Chaudet, geopolitical adviser to  
the Entente Cordiale Day Association.**

# Partners of the Conference:

## École Militaire



### Paris Defence and Strategy Forum

The Paris Defence and Strategy Forum (PDSF) is a major international event dedicated to defence, security, and strategic thought, held annually at the École Militaire in Paris. Organised by the French Defence Academy (ACADEM), it brings together senior civilian and military leaders, policymakers, academics, and industry experts from across Europe and beyond. The forum provides a platform for high-level discussion on evolving geopolitical challenges, including shifts in global security, technological change, and the return of high-intensity conflict in Europe. Its programme features conferences, panels, and interactive formats that encourage exchange across disciplines and perspectives.



### London Defence Conference

The London Defence Conference (LDC) is a leading annual forum dedicated to global defence and security dialogue, held in London and hosted in partnership with the King's College London School of Security Studies. Established in 2022 in response to growing geopolitical instability, the conference brings together senior policymakers, military leaders, industry experts, academics, and selected media from allied nations.



### Gothia Defence Forum

Gothia Defence Forum is the Nordic region's premier platform for strategic dialogue on European security, defence innovation, and societal preparedness. By connecting business leaders, policymakers, academics, and civil society, Gothia Defence Forum works to shape the future of European defence while positioning Gothenburg as a hub for innovation in defence, logistics, and societal resilience. They aim to be the leading Nordic platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing in European and transatlantic security and defence by bringing together stakeholders from industry, academia, and the public sector.



### Institut Des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale

The Institut des hautes études de défense nationale (IHEDN) is a French public institution dedicated to education, research, and strategic dialogue on defence and security issues. Founded in 1936 and placed under the authority of the Prime Minister, it plays a key role in promoting a shared understanding of national and international security challenges. IHEDN brings together senior military officers, civil servants, and professionals from a wide range of sectors through its training programmes and high-level discussions.

# Partners of the Conference:

## École Militaire



### CMA CGM

Since its establishment in 1978, the CMA CGM Group has continued to grow, drawing its strength from its family dimension, from a long-term strategic vision and from the expertise of its teams driven by a common passion. In keeping with our history and with our culture, we are driven by the values that unite us. Today, we are reaffirming these values to continue our development and achieve our ambitions.

With a presence in 160 countries through 400 offices, 1,000 warehouses, 160,000 employees and a wide fleet of more than 650 vessels, CMA CGM serves 420 of the world's 521 commercial ports and operates more than 250 shipping lines



### HAVAS GROUP

Founded in 1835 in Paris, Havas is one of the world's largest global communications groups, with nearly 23,000 people in over 100 countries. With the ambition to help brands unlock Growth, Powered by Desire, Havas brings together creativity, media, technology and production capabilities to build strong, desirable brands that people genuinely want to engage with.

Havas is equally committed to its people, fostering inclusive, responsible and inspiring workplaces where talent can thrive, because desire also starts from within.



### SIBYLLINE

Sibylline is a global strategic intelligence and advisory firm specialising in geopolitical risk, security, and crisis management. Founded in 2010, the company supports organisations in navigating complex and uncertain environments by providing timely analysis, forward-looking insights, and practical risk mitigation strategies. With a team of analysts and regional experts, Sibylline delivers tailored intelligence on political developments, security threats, and emerging risks across the world.

# Introducing the Hosts of the Opening Ceremony:

## Hôtel National des Invalides



### HOST INSTITUTION

The Hôtel des Invalides is one of Paris's most iconic historic monuments, commissioned by Louis XIV in 1670 as a residence and hospital for wounded and retired soldiers. Conceived as a self-contained community, it housed thousands of veterans and functioned as a barracks, hospice, and religious centre.

Designed in the classical Baroque style, the complex is centred around courtyards, chapels, and the famous gilded dome, which dominates the Paris skyline. Over time, its role evolved from a military hospital to a major cultural and historical site. Today, it is home to the Musée de l'Armée, one of the world's leading military museums, and the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte.

### HOST SPEAKER

#### Lieutenant General Yann Gravêthe



Lieutenant General Yann Gravêthe was born on 15 October 1966 in Guérande. He entered the Saint-Cyr military academy in 1987, graduating with the "Lieutenant Tom Morel" class, and then chose the engineering corps. After a year's specialist training at the École Supérieure d'Application du Génie in Angers, he served as a works officer with the 5th Railway Engineer Regiment in Versailles from 1991 to 1994, then as a combat engineer officer with the 17th Parachute Engineer Regiment in Montauban from 1994 to 2003.

In 2003, he joined the Collège Interarmées de Défense (École supérieure de guerre) in Paris. The following year, he was selected as a military assistant by the General Director of Army Personnel in Paris. In 2006, he returned to Montauban to take charge of training and operations for the 17th Parachute Engineer Regiment. In 2008, he returned to headquarters, where he served on the Armed Forces General Staff. From July 2010 to July 2012, he commanded the 13th Armoured Engineer Regiment and also oversaw operations

at the Valdahon camp (Doubs). Selected to attend the Defence Policy session of the Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale, he was also an auditor at the Centre des Hautes Études Militaires in Paris from September 2012 to July 2013. In 2013, he was given command of the Mourmelon-Mailly defence base, which provides joint support for 51 formations in four departments (Aisne, Aube, Ardennes, and Marne). In 2015, the Chief of Staff of the French Army appointed him as his communications adviser, in which capacity he headed the French Army's information and public relations department. In 2017, he was put in charge of the French Army's external relations. Promoted to brigadier general in 2018, he was appointed France's military representative in southern Lebanon and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. For a year, he was the operational commander of two multinational brigades and a fleet of six frigates. Over his fifteen years in the forces, he took part in ten external operations under the aegis of France, NATO, and the UN in Africa, the Balkans, and the Middle East. In 2019, he was seconded as Deputy Commander of the 1st Division of the British Army in York, United Kingdom, where he was responsible for training, operational control, as well as steering the budget and management of the 32,000 men and women who make up the division. In 2021, he was appointed Deputy Delegate for Defence Information and Communications before becoming acting head of this delegation in March 2022. On 1 August 2023, he was appointed Military Governor of Metz, General Officer of the Eastern Defence and Security Zone, Commander of the North-Eastern Land Zone, and Commander of the French forces and civilian component stationed in Germany. In July 2024, he was appointed director of the Musée de l'Armée, effective from 14 September 2024.

Lieutenant General Yann Gravêthe holds a degree in engineering, a bachelor's degree in history, and a postgraduate diploma (DEA) in political science. He is a Commander of the Legion of Honour and the National Order of Merit.

# Keynote Speakers:

## Hôtel National des Invalides



### General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL

General Sir Adrian Bradshaw has degrees in Agriculture, Defence Studies and International Relations. He has been a Visiting Defence Fellow at Balliol College, Oxford (2011), a Distinguished Fellow at RUSI, and a Visiting Professor at King's College London.

He joined the 14th/20th King's Hussars in 1980 and has served worldwide in armour, as a helicopter pilot and in other fields, commanding troops on operations at most ranks up to General. After service in the Cold War, his operational experience has included Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan and a number of other theatres.

General Bradshaw has commanded an Armoured Battlegroup, Brigade and Division, the UK Special Forces, the UK Land Forces and was Deputy Commander of the 140,000 strong NATO-led Force in Afghanistan. He completed his Regular service as Britain's most senior officer in NATO as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe from 2014-17.

He is now Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Honorary Colonel of the Artist's Rifles. He has recently handed over as Chairman of BLESMA - the charity for limbless ex-Service members. He regularly moderates the Head of State and Government level, multinational conferences of the Aqaba Process to develop better strategy in regions of the world affected by religious extremism.



### Professor Christine Neau-Leduc, President of Pantheon-Sorbonne University

Christine Neau-Leduc has been a professor of private law at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne since 2012. She holds a Master's degree in private law (1991) from the University of Montpellier and a PhD (1998) from the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas; she was awarded her Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (HDR) in 2002 and her agrégation in private law and criminal sciences in 2003.

Affiliated with the Sorbonne Law School (EDS) and a member of the Sorbonne Institute for Legal Research (IRJS), she specialises in labour law, collective bargaining, collective representation and CSR. Active within the EDS, she is head of the private law department of the doctoral school of law, director of the Master's programme in corporate law, and co-director of the Sorbonne Centre for Labour Law. Between 2016 and 2019, she served as first vice-president in charge of institutional affairs on the board of directors. Elected President of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University in January 2021, she began her second term at the helm of the institution in April 2025.

# Main Keynote Speaker:

## Hôtel National des Invalides



### **Alice Rufo, Minister Delegate to the Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs.**

Alice Rufo was born on 9 April 1980 in Toulon (Var). A former student of the École normale supérieure on Rue d'Ulm (which she joined in 2001) and the École Nationale d'Administration (Emile Zola cohort, 2010), she graduated from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (2004) and the University of Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne. She began her career in the North Africa and Middle East Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before joining the General Secretariat for Defence and National Security (SGDSN) in 2011 as a rapporteur on the task force updating the White Paper on National Security and Defence. During this period (2010–2011), she was also a lecturer in public law and general culture at Sciences Po Paris.

After returning to the Strategic Affairs Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she joined the Presidency of the Republic in 2012 as Technical Adviser for Strategic Affairs and the Asia-Pacific, before becoming Adviser responsible for international summits, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific. Appointed Referendary Adviser to the Court of Auditors, she was recalled to the diplomatic division of the Élysée Palace in 2017. Initially an Adviser on Asia, Russia, Turkey, the Caucasus, the Balkans and Refugees, she was appointed Deputy Diplomatic Adviser in 2019 and added strategic affairs and disarmament to her portfolio in 2020.

On 5 October 2022, she was appointed by the Council of Ministers as Director-General for International Relations and Strategy at the Ministry of the Armed Forces, with effect from 1 November 2022.

On 12 October 2025, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, she was appointed by the President of the Republic as Minister Delegate to the Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs.

Ms Alice Rufo is a Knight of the National Order of Merit (2023).

She is married and has one child.

# Detailed Programme of the Opening Ceremony: Hôtel National des Invalides

**6:00pm**

**Official Welcome - Cour du Dôme**

6:00pm: Napoleon's Grenadiers take their place in the Cour du Dôme.

6:10pm- 6.30pm: Arrival of the guests.

**6:30pm**

**Military Review**

6:30pm - 6:40pm: Military review of Emperor's Napoleon's Grenadiers by General Gravethe and General Bradshaw.

Music: Au Champ - La Garde des Consuls.

**6:45pm**

**Memorial sequence - Dôme des Invalides (Napoleon's Tomb)**

6:45pm: Official photo on the steps of the Dôme church.

6:50pm: Solemn entry into the Dome on the Austerlitz Battery.

- Memorial address around Napoleon's tomb and moment of remembrance.

6:55pm: Photographic sequence in front of Napoleon's Tomb.

**7:00pm**

**Procession to the Grand Salon**

7:00 pm: Exit from the Dome and procession to the Grand Salon.

- Music: Turenne March, followed by traditional music by the Grenadiers of the Empire.

7:10pm: Official photo of the finalists in front of the Grand Salon

# Detailed Programme of the Opening Ceremony: Hôtel National des Invalides

**7:15pm**

## Official speeches – Grand Salon

- Général Gravêthe, Director of the Army Museum
- General Bradshaw, Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Professor Christine Neau-Leduc President of Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Madame Alice Rufo, Minister Delegate to the Minister for the Armed Forces and the Veterans
- Thank you message from Maître Yves Djimi, Co-Founder of the Entente Cordiale Day
- Moment of Remembrance

**7:45pm**

## Cocktail and concert

7:45pm - 8.50pm: Cocktail reception in the Grand Salon.

9:00 pm: Solemn entrance to the concert at the Cathédrale Saint-Louis des Invalides.

9:05 pm: Welcome speech from Général Gravêthe to the audience.

9:10 pm: Entrance of the Conductor of the Choeur and Choir and Orchestra of the Universities of Paris

9:15: National Anthems: God Save The King; The Marseillaise sung by the Choir and Orchestra of the Universities of Paris.

9:20pm: Symphony No. 8 by Beethoven - Choir and Orchestra of the Universities of Paris.

**9:50pm**

## Closing

9:50 pm - 10:00 pm: Official exit of the guests, escorted by Emperor's Napoleon Grenadiers on the rue de Grenelle side.

# Opening Ceremony Concert Programme



Conductor: Carlos Dourthé  
Administrator: Anne-Sophie Kassubeck

OCUP President: Jean-Marie Le Gall  
OCUP Choir Master: Guillaume Connesson

Website: <https://www.ocup.fr/>

## National Anthems:

*God Save The King*  
*La Marseillaise*

## Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93

The Symphony No. 8 is a symphony in four movements composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in 1812 and his penultimate and shortest symphony. Beethoven fondly referred to it as "my little Symphony in F", distinguishing it from his Sixth Symphony, a longer work also in F.

*Allegro vivace e con brio (F major)*  
*Allegretto scherzando (B $\flat$  major)*  
*Tempo di menuetto (F major)*  
*Allegro vivace (F major)*

# Partners of the Opening Ceremony:

## Hôtel National des Invalides

### Orchestre et Choeur des Universités de Paris

The purpose of the Orchestre et Choeur des Universités de Paris (O.C.U.P.) is to promote instrumental and vocal music by students in higher education and to enable them to perform in Parisian and European universities, and in prestigious venues such as the Saint-Louis des Invalides cathedral, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Radio France Auditorium, etc. Founded in 1993 on the initiative of Colette Jégouzo, the association has been chaired successively by André Hervier, and since 2012 by Jean-Marie Le Gall. The association is open to all students at universities, colleges and conservatoires in Paris and the Ile-de-France region.

As well as providing an opportunity for students from different backgrounds to practice their music, it promotes multidisciplinary encounters and encourages exchanges with European universities and with students taking part in the Erasmus programme. This has made it possible to organise exchanges with prestigious universities (Cambridge, Heidelberg, Madrid, Munich, Berlin etc). As part of the optional subjects, students who so wish can take a 'music' UE by participating in the O.C.U.P. at several Paris universities.

The two ensembles bring together French and foreign students of around thirty nationalities, all of whom have studied for many years at conservatoires or music schools. The numbers vary between 200 and 300 student choristers and instrumentalists, some of whom change every year.

In all, more than 6,000 students have come together over the years to enjoy music as amateurs. The orchestra has been conducted since 2008 by Carlos Dourthé, supersolo cellist with the Orchestre National de France for many years and assistant to Kurt Masur. The choir has been conducted since 2007 by Guillaume Connesson, an internationally renowned composer.



### Les Grenadiers d'Île-de-France

Our association has forty members, all passionate about history and military uniform studies; it strives to bring to life a chapter of French history during the First Empire, from 1804 to 1815. It is by showcasing the uniforms, equipment and daily life of the 1st Foot Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard that our group, by taking part in prestigious events, gatherings at historic sites, re-enactments and commemorations of battles, and various festivities linked to the First Empire, brings this glorious regiment back to life.

All our uniforms and equipment are made to exact specifications using the materials, cuts and styles of the period represented as well as the drills, manoeuvres and exercises; the regimental music complies with the 1791 infantry regulations.

# Introducing the Host of the Finals:

## University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne



### HOST INSTITUTION

Sorbonne University traces its origins to the medieval University of Paris, founded in the early 12th century as a community of scholars and students from the Ecole Notre-Dame that became the first Europe's leading centres of learning and excellence. The institution gained its name from the Collège de Sorbonne, established in 1257 by theologian Robert de Sorbon to educate theology students, particularly those of modest means.

Over centuries, the Sorbonne developed a global reputation for intellectual excellence, shaping European education and attracting scholars from across the world. Despite major transformations—including the French Revolution and later institutional reforms—the university maintained its central role in French academic life.

In its modern form, Pantheon- Sorbonne University combines traditions in the humanities, law and business as a single world-class institution.

### HOST SPEAKER

#### Professor Christine Neau-Leduc, President of Pantheon Sorbonne

Christine Neau-Leduc has been a professor of private law at Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne since 2012. She holds a Master's degree in private law (1991) from the University of Montpellier and a PhD (1998) from the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas; she was awarded her Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (HDR) in 2002 and her agrégation in private law and criminal sciences in 2003.

Affiliated with the Sorbonne Law School (EDS) and a member of the Sorbonne Institute for Legal Research (IRJS), she specialises in labour law, collective bargaining, collective representation and CSR. Active within the EDS, she is head of the private law department of the doctoral school of law, director of the Master's programme in corporate law, and co-director of the Sorbonne Centre for Labour Law. Between 2016 and 2019, she served as first vice-president in charge of institutional affairs on the board of directors. Elected President of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University in January 2021, she began her second term at the helm of the institution in April 2025.



# Keynote Speakers:

## University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne

### Morning: The Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford

#### Professor Irene Tracey, CBE, FRS, FMedSci



Professor Irene Tracey, CBE, FRS, FMedSci, became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford on 1 January 2023. She was previously Warden of Merton College, Oxford, her alma mater. She is also Professor of Anaesthetic Neuroscience in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences. Irene Tracey completed her undergraduate and graduate studies in biochemistry at University of Oxford under the supervision of George Radda, focusing on early applications of magnetic resonance imaging to investigate human disease. She subsequently held a postdoctoral position at Harvard Medical School, working at the MGH-NMR imaging centre.

In 1997, she returned to Oxford as a founding member of the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain (FMRIB), now the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging, and later served as its director. She was appointed professor in 2001 and went on to hold the Nuffield Chair in Anaesthetic Sciences, alongside senior leadership roles including Head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences. She later became Warden of Merton College, Oxford.

Tracey has contributed extensively to international neuroscience organisations, including the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies, where she served as President until 2024. Her research has transformed understanding of pain as a complex brain-based experience, supported by advanced neuroimaging methods.

She has received numerous honours, including election as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2023, and was appointed CBE in 2022 for services to medical research.

### Afternoon: The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge

#### Professor Deborah Prentice



Professor Deborah Prentice became the University of Cambridge's 347th Vice-Chancellor on 1 July 2023. An eminent psychologist, Professor Prentice carried out her academic and administrative career at Princeton University, which she first joined in 1988. At Princeton, she served for twelve years as Head of the Department of Psychology, three years as Dean of the Faculty, and six years as Provost, with primary responsibility for all academic, budgetary, and long-term planning issues. She was also the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs and taught in both the psychology department and the policy school. Her academic expertise is in the study of social norms and specifically how norms function as inhibitors and facilitators of behaviour change. She continues to lecture on this topic in Cambridge and elsewhere.

As Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prentice serves on the boards of Cambridge University Health Partners, Cambridge Ahead, and the Russell Group, among others. She chairs the University Council, and represents the University on several international bodies, including the League of European Research Universities and the International Alliance of Research Universities. Professor Prentice did her first degree in Human Biology and Music at Stanford University and her PhD in Psychology at Yale University.

The University Council nominated Professor Prentice for appointment as Vice-Chancellor in September 2022, and her appointment was subsequently approved by the Regent House.

# Co-Presidents of the Jury

## French Universities



### Maître Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh, Co-Laureate Nobel Peace Prize 2015

Speaker Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh, a former president of the Tunisian Order of Lawyers and a renowned lawyer for the Court of Cassation since 2001, has played a pivotal role in Tunisia's legal and democratic advancements. Internationally acclaimed as a key member of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, his contributions were integral to Tunisia's transition to a pluralist democracy post-Arab Spring, efforts that were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015. Mahfoudh's career is marked by his dedication to justice, democracy, and human rights.

Born in December 21st, 1965 in Gafsa (Tunisia), Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh is a Former Minister, and was also President of the Tunisian Bar Association. He is married with two children. Speaker Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh, is a renowned lawyer for the Court of Cassation since 2001, has played a pivotal role in Tunisia's legal and democratic advancements. Internationally acclaimed as a key member of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, his contributions were integral to Tunisia's transition to a pluralist democracy post-Arab Spring, efforts that were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015. Mahfoudh's career is marked by his dedication to justice, democracy, and human rights.

#### Professional experience:

##### Statute:

Attorney-at-law before the Supreme court (Avocat près la Cour de Cassation) since 2001.

2013: Elected President of the Tunisian Bar.

2010-2013: Président of the Régional Section of Lawyers in Sfax.

2007-2010: General Secretary of the Régional Section of Lawyers in Sfax.

2006-2007: University lecturer for the Bar exam subjects.

##### Activities:

2013-2015: Participation to the democratic transition and to the National Dialogue.

2011: Member of ISIE (Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Elections) in charge of Tunisian residents abroad.

2001-2004: Member of the Régional Section of Lawyers in Sfax.

##### Honours:

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet in 2015



*Maitre Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh from The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet receiving the Nobel Peace Prize at the Ceremony in the City Hall of Oslo on December 10, 2015.*

# Co-Presidents of the Jury

## UK Universities



### Oleksandra Matviichuk, Co-Laureate Nobel Peace Prize 2022

Oleksandra Matviichuk is a human rights lawyer, head of the Center for Civil Liberties that works to defend freedom and human dignity in Ukraine and the OSCE region. She has experience in creating horizontal structures for massive involvement of people in human rights activities against attacks on rights and freedoms, as well as a multi-year practice of documenting violations during armed conflict. She is the author of a number of reports to various UN bodies, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE and the International Criminal Court.

After the beginning of Russian full-scale invasion, Matviichuk together with other partners created the ‘Tribunal for Putin’ initiative in order to document international crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in all regions of Ukraine, including the occupied territories.

In 2016 she received the Democracy Defender Award for “Exclusive Contribution to Promoting Democracy and Human Rights” from OSCE. In 2017 she became the first woman to participate in the Ukrainian Emerging Leaders Program of Stanford University. In 2022 Oleksandra Matviichuk was awarded with the Right Livelihood Award, the Sakharov Prize from the European Parliament and recognized as one of the 25th influential women in the world by Financial Times. In 2022 she received the Nobel Peace Prize for the work of her organization the Center for Civil Liberties. In 2025 she received the Dutch Auschwitz Award.



In 2026, she was named a Honourable Member of European Order of Merit by European Parliament, an honor recognizing her significant contribution to European integration and the protection of European values.

*Ms Oleksandra Matviichuk from the Center of Civil Liberties receiving the Nobel Peace Prize at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in the City Hall of Oslo on December 10, 2022.*

# Presentation of the French Grand Jury



## **Dr Océane Zubeldia, Director of the Armaments and Defence Economics Division, Institute for Strategic Research of the Military School (IRSEM)**

Dr Océane Zubeldia is Director of the Armaments and Defence Economics (AED) division and holds a PhD from Paris-Sorbonne University. Her work focuses on innovation in the political economy of European defence, including cybersecurity, climate-related challenges, and technological foresight.

Her research interests include the transformation of innovation, the use of drones in operational theatres, green technologies, and the strategic implications of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, connectivity, and autonomous systems.

She has published extensively on these topics, including work on EU–NATO cooperation in the context of climate change, the Taiwanese technological model, bacteriological warfare, the American technological rivalry, the geopolitical impact of armed drones, and the evolution of China’s technological model. She is also the author of *The Art of War in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Adapt or Be Replaced?*

She has further contributed to several IRSEM research reports on China’s power strategy (AI, drones, and space), environmental innovation in defence, the development of a European drone ecosystem, and the transformation of Japan’s defence industry.



## **General Didier Oustric, Officer for International Relations, Directorate of Higher Military Education at the Ministry of Armed Forces and Veterans**

General Didier Oustric is a Brigadier General in the French Air Force and a senior expert in international military relations and strategic affairs. He has held key leadership roles, including serving as Head of International Relations at the French Directorate of Higher Military Education, where he contributes to the development of cooperation between international defence institutions and academic networks. His career reflects extensive experience in defence strategy, global security, and military diplomacy, with a particular focus on strengthening international partnerships and professional military education.

Over the course of his career, he has been involved in high-level strategic initiatives and has contributed to defence research and publications, notably within the framework of the French Ministry of Armed Forces and institutions such as IRSEM. His work supports dialogue on security challenges, international cooperation, and the evolution of military education systems in a global context.

# Presentation of the French Grand Jury



## **Stéphanie Ledoux, Founder & CEO at Alcyconie, Member of Cockpit French Tech**

Stéphanie Ledoux is a crisis governance and communication expert and Founder & CEO of Alcyconie, a consultancy specialising in crisis prevention and management, particularly in cybersecurity and organisational resilience. She advises public and private organisations on anticipating and managing complex crises in high-risk environments.

Her work focuses on cyber crisis management, strategic communication, and resilience-building. Trained at the École de Guerre Économique, she brings a strong combination of strategic analysis and operational expertise, contributing to discussions on cybersecurity and crisis preparedness at both national and European levels.



## **Joffrey Célestin-Urbain, President of Campus Cyber**

Joffrey Célestin-Urbain is a senior French civil servant and President of Campus Cyber, a leading national initiative dedicated to strengthening cybersecurity collaboration between public institutions, industry, and academia. A graduate of the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), he has over 15 years of experience in public service, including roles within the French Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Directorate General of the Treasury, and the Ministry for Energy and Climate, as well as international experience with the Inter-American Development Bank.

He notably served as Head of the Strategic Information and Economic Security Service (SISSE), where he was responsible for protecting France's economic interests and addressing issues related to economic security and strategic intelligence. His work focuses on cybersecurity, economic sovereignty, and the protection of critical national assets, contributing to the development of France's strategic approach to digital and economic resilience.

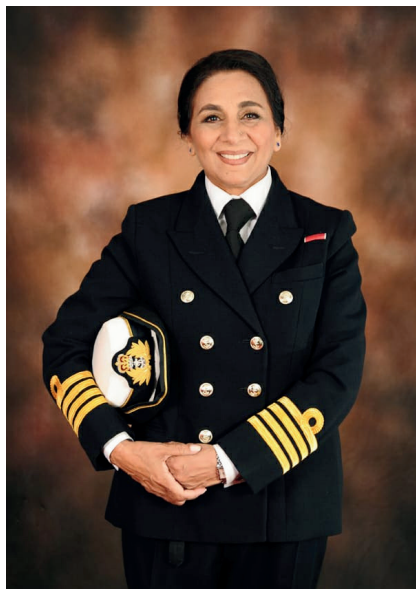
# Presentation of the British Grand Jury



## **Anna Jäderström, Strategic Advisor in Defence, Diplomacy & International Business**

Anna Jäderström is the Founder of the Gothia Defence Forum and a Strategic Advisor in Defence, Diplomacy, and International Business. She leads a Swedish platform connecting defence, industry, policy, and academic sectors to foster collaboration and strengthen resilience. She holds an MSc in Economic History and a BA in History from the University of Gothenburg and co-authored a chapter in Security of Supply, published by the Security of Supply Centre of Excellence.

With over 15 years of experience in political leadership, she has held advisory roles to regional executives and chaired political and non-profit boards. Anna brings strategic insight and cross-sector expertise, with a strong focus on international cooperation, security policy, and resilience-building. She is also committed to mentoring the next generation of global leaders and strengthening dialogue between public, private, and academic stakeholders.



## **Dr Durdana Ansari OBE, Honorary President, Royal Air Force Cadets | Honorary Captain, Royal Navy**

Dr Durdana Ansari OBE is a British entrepreneur, public speaker, and advocate for women's empowerment, with a distinguished career spanning media, defence, and community engagement. She spent over two decades at the BBC World Service as a journalist, presenter, and producer, contributing to major international programmes. She was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2012 for her work supporting the economic empowerment of Muslim women.

She is the first Muslim to be appointed Honorary Captain in the Royal Navy and currently serves as Honorary President of the Royal Air Force Cadets. Her work focuses on leadership, mentorship, and strengthening diversity and inclusion within defence and wider society. She is also the founder of The Pearl Foundation, promoting education and skills development for women, and continues to play an active role in fostering international dialogue and youth engagement.

# Presentation of the British Grand Jury



## **Dr. Eveline Beer, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Women in Defense Tech**

Dr. Eveline Beer is a defence technology and infrastructure expert, as well as Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Women in Defense Tech and Co-Organizer of the European Defense Tech Hub. With over 16 years of experience in global infrastructure investment, she began her career in investment banking and asset management, focusing on infrastructure across Europe and the United States.

She holds two Master's degrees and a PhD, with research exploring the impact of technological innovation on transport infrastructure. Her work now focuses on the intersection of defence technology, critical infrastructure, and European resilience, particularly in the context of hybrid warfare and emerging security challenges.

She is also actively engaged in promoting inclusion and innovation in the defence sector, supporting talent development and fostering collaboration across the European defence and technology ecosystem.



## **Yuliya Maltseva, STARK, Co-Founder Women in Defense Tech**

Yuliya Maltseva is a defence sector professional and entrepreneur, currently working at STARK and co-founding Women in Defense Tech, an initiative dedicated to promoting inclusion and innovation within the defence and security ecosystem. Based in Germany, she is affiliated with Humboldt University of Berlin and actively engaged in the European defence landscape.

Her work focuses on the intersection of defence innovation, start-up development, and strategic collaboration. She has developed expertise in areas including bid preparation, qualitative research, and leadership within emerging defence technologies, contributing to the growth of new ventures and cross-sector partnerships.

Yuliya is particularly committed to strengthening diversity in defence and fostering networks that connect industry, academia, and policy communities. Through her initiatives, she supports the development of talent and the advancement of innovation within the European security and defence sector.

# Presentation of the Written Jury Members

## British Written Jury

Lord Peter Alexander Maximilian Bohuš (Independent)  
Dr Anastasiia Vasylychenkova (Nature Portfolio)  
Prof. Sebastian Eves-van den Akker (University of Cambridge)  
Dr. Tonny Raymond Kirabira (University of East London)  
Dr. Zhipeng Wang (The University of Manchester)  
Moritz Schubert, PhD (LSE)  
Maryam Rokhideh, Ph.D. ( University College London)  
Luca Taschini (University of Edinburgh Business School)  
Matthew Fecteau (King's College London)  
Dr Adriana Ford (Imperial College London)  
Bradley A. Mortin (King's College London)  
Dr Larysa Karachevtseva (H.S. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of the NAS of Ukraine; University of Cambridge)  
Dr Filip Mandys (University College London)  
Dr Shivani Taneja (University of Kent)  
Dr. Hanadi Samhan (University College London)  
Dr Hafizha Mulyasih (Imperial College London)  
Dr Dilip Jena (University of Dundee)

## French Written Jury

Clément Larrauri (TRACFIN - Ministère de l'Economie)  
Pr Nicolas Moinet (IAE Poitiers - Université de Poitiers ; Commandement du Combat du Futur - Armée de Terre)  
Al Jean Louis LOZIER (DIMENFIX / IFRI)  
Dr Gabriel Vernhes (ENSTA)  
Dr David Filliat (AMIAD - Ministère des Armées)  
Pr Linda Gardelle (ENSTA / FoAP - CNAM)  
Dr Maud Quessard (IRSEM - Ministère des Armées)  
Pr Charles-Albert Lehalle (CMAP - Ecole polytechnique)  
Gal Olivier Kempf (Truchements Consultants / La Vigie Stratégie)  
Dr Renaud Bellais (MBDA)  
Pr Sahana Udupa (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)  
Dr Emmanuel Goffi (ISEP Ecole d'ingénieurs du numérique)

Dr Julien Nocetti (CAPS - Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères / GEODE / IFRI)  
Dr. Pierre-Christophe Pantz (Université de la Nouvelle Calédonie)  
Ecole des drones (Ecole des drones - 19e Brigade d'Artillerie - Armée de Terre)  
ICA Chantal Caudron de Coquereumont (AID - Ministère des Armées)  
Paula Gori (EDMO - European University Institute)  
Dr Paul Wohrer (IFRI)  
Chloé Debiève (Agenda Stratégique / Focus Influence)  
Pierre-Henri d'Argenson (Cercle Fontenoy - Armée de Terre)  
Pr Philippe Barbet (IRIS / Université Sorbonne Paris Nord)  
Pr Joëlle Toledano (Chaire Gouvernance & Régulation - Université Paris Dauphine PSL)  
Bernard Barbier (BB Cyber)  
Guillaume Lagane (Etat Major de l'Armée de Terre - Armée de Terre / SciencesPo)  
Dr Alice Pannier (Direction générale des Entreprises - Ministère de l'Economie)  
Dr Nancy W. Collins (Yale University)  
Pr François Pernot (CY Cergy Paris Université)  
W. Eberhard Falck (INTRAW International Raw Materials Observatory)  
Vitor Coreia (INTRAW International Raw Materials Observatory)  
Gérard de BOISBOISSEL (Académie militaire de Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan - Armée de Terre)  
Paul la Combe (Contrôle général des Armées - Ministères des Armées)  
Me Romain DE CALBIAC (Fidelis et Associés / C&V Consulting / SciencesPo)  
Dr Julien Guinand (UCL)  
Dr Benoist Bihan (CAPRI / Areion Group)  
Dr Marine de GUGLIELMO WEBER (IRSEM - Ministère des Armées)  
Dr Sayed Mahdi MUNADI (SciencesPo)  
Dr Alexandre Ferrer (ORANO / SciencesPo)  
Pr Jane Freedman (Université Paris VIII Vincennes-Saint Denis)  
COL Vincent Minguet (CHEM - Etat Major des Armées)  
Jean-Christophe Zerbini (Agence du numérique en Santé)  
Dr Imade Koutiri (ENSAM)  
Me Florent Vigny (BREMENS Avocats)  
Dr Mathilde Velliet (IFRI / German Marshall Fund of the United States)  
Carly Stanway (Solvd Group)  
Dr Etienne Nouguez (SciencesPo / CNRS)  
Franck Debane (Forward Partner)

# Introducing the Hosts:

## Château de Breteuil



### HOST INSTITUTION

The main part of the current château was built in 1612 on the site of a medieval castle.

The Château de Breteuil has been in the Breteuil family for over 400 years. It has been the favourite French Chateau of the King of England. King George V wrote to the Marquis de Breteuil: “ My dear Breteuil, you have known me since I was a child and my Father was so fond of you, that I am indeed most grateful to you for your friendship” The château stands as a living testament to the French art de vivre. Renowned for its preservation and storytelling, it offers a unique immersion into French history through its collections, archives, and curated scenes.

Set in the heart of the Chevreuse Valley, the estate combines architectural harmony, landscaped gardens, and a deep sense of heritage, making it both a place of memory and a venue of inspiration.

Today, it continues to embody the spirit of the Entente Cordiale—where history, culture, and dialogue between nations converge in an exceptional setting.

### HOST SPEAKER

#### The Count of Breteuil

Born in 1975, François is a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and ESSEC, holds a Master’s degree in Business Law, and an MBA from Northwestern University (Kellogg School of Management). After starting his career as a lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell in Paris, François joined Rothschild & Co in 2003, where he is now a Global Partner. He works with companies and investment funds, particularly in the hospitality, leisure and business services sectors.

Alongside his work as an investment banker, François and his wife Pauline have been the owner-managers of the Château de Breteuil since 2025. The château welcomed over 140,000 visitors in 2025, as well as hosting prestigious events (weddings, corporate dinners, film shoots, photo shoots, seminars, etc.).

Breteuil is associated with the Entente Cordiale because François’s great-grandfather, Henri de Breteuil, organised a secret meeting there on 12 March 1881 between the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, and Léon Gambetta, laying the foundations for Franco-British rapprochement. This special relationship was subsequently strengthened, notably through several visits by King Edward VII, George V, and the future Edward VIII in 1912. Today, the château commemorates this heritage, notably through a historical re-enactment of the scene from 12 March 1881 featuring wax figures from the Musée Grévin.



# Keynote Speakers:

## Château de Breteuil



### M. Jean-Noël Barrot

Jean-Noël Barrot is the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. He served as Minister of State for European Affairs in the French government between February and September 2024. He served as Minister of State for Digital Affairs from 2022 to 2024. Before joining the government, Mr Barrot served, from 2017 to 2022, as Member of Parliament for the 2nd constituency of Yvelines in the National Assembly, where he also served as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. He is an economist.

From 2013 to 2017, he taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), before being appointed professor at HEC Paris. His research focuses on finance, production networks and the evaluation of public policies supporting businesses. He is a graduate of HEC Paris and holds master's degrees from the Paris School of Economics, HEC and Sciences Po, as well as a PhD from HEC. Jean-Noël Barrot is a member of the Democratic Movement (MoDem), for which he served as national spokesperson (in 2018) and then secretary-general (from 2018 to 2022), before becoming its vice-president (since July 2022).

Born on 13 May 1983 in Paris, Mr Barrot is a graduate (class of 2020) of the French-American Foundation's 'Young Leaders' programme. His work has been published in leading international journals, such as the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *Journal of Financial Economics* and *Management Science*.



### Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 7th Marquess of Salisbury

The current and 7th Marquess of Salisbury, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, was Leader of the House of Lords under John Major. He was summoned as Baron Cecil to the House of Lords by a Writ of Acceleration in 1992, the last in British History. Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Thames Celebrations in 2012, the Marquess of Salisbury was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and became a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO).

In 2019, he was appointed Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Marquess of Salisbury was educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford.



### Andrew Dalglish LLB

Andrew Dalglish took up the position of Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Paris in January 2025. Prior to that, he was Deputy High Commissioner in the British High Commission in Pakistan in July 2022. He spent a year in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office in London working on Gibraltar's relationship with the European Union.

From 2016 to 2021 he served as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Croatia. Before that, he was the Deputy Head of Mission in Seoul, South Korea. Mr Dalglish is married with two children.

# Programme of Event:

## Château de Breteuil

**6:00-6:25pm**

### Guest Arrivals

- Guests arriving by car are invited to park at the Visitor's Parking of the Chateau de Breteuil.

**6:30-7:00pm**

### Part One: Opening Speeches

**Location: The Grande Galerie, Chateau de Breteuil**

The evening will commence with welcoming remarks from key dignitaries, reflecting on the significance of the Entente Cordiale Day and the Entente Cordiale University Challenge, its mission statement and vision and the impact of this year's events.

#### Speakers:

1. Welcome Address by the Host & French Honorary President of Entente Cordiale Day and the Count of Breteuil, owner and Vice-Honorary President of the Entente Cordiale Day ( 5 minutes)
2. Speech from the The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL, UK Honorary President & Co-Host Entente Cordiale Day Ceremony (5 minutes)
3. Speech from the Minister and UK Deputy Ambassador, Andrew Dalglish (5 minutes)
4. Speech from the President of the French Grand Jury, Co-Laureate Nobel Peace Prize 2015, Maître Fadhel Mafoudh (5 minutes)
5. Speech from the Minister Delegate from Europe, Mr Benjamin Haddad (5 minutes)

**7:00-7:35pm**

### Part Two: Pol Roger Drinks & Canapé Reception

**Location: The Salon Dore, the Grande Gallerie and the Salon Empire, Chateau de Breteuil**

- An opportunity for guests to engage in discussions and reflections over a selection of fine canapés and a glass of Pol Roger before transitioning to the Orangerie for the Gala Dinner.

**7:40pm**

### Part One: Entente Cordiale Day Oak Tree Planting Ceremony

**Location: Chateau de Breteuil Park**

- All guests and students will participate in a symbolic Tree Planting Ceremony, with the planting of the Entente Cordiale Oak Tree in the Chateau de Breteuil to mark the 1st Edition of the Entente Cordiale Prizes Award Ceremony in France.

**8:00pm**

### Part Four: Entente Cordiale Day Gala Awards Dinner & Prize Announcements

**Location: The Old Palace, Hatfield House**

Prior to the Starter

1. Master of Ceremonies Introduction and Ceremony of Prizes Awards for Prize no5 and Prize no4
2. *Dinner from 8:15pm to 9:45 pm*
3. After Dinner from 9.30pm to 10pm
4. Entente Cordiale Prize No. 3 Awards
5. Entente Cordiale Prize No. 2
6. Entente Cordiale Prize No.1
7. Presentation of the launch of the US Entente Cordiale Prize Closing Remarks and Presentation for next year's summit and 10-year vision of the Entente Cordiale Prizes

National Anthems  
Ceremony ends at 10:00 PM

# Partner of the Closing Ceremony

## Château de Breteuil

### Rallye des Trompes du Parc aux Cerfs de Versailles

The Rally brings together some fifteen horn players in one of the oldest ensembles in the Île-de-France region, dressed in frock coats with red and brown trim. Playing the hunting horn in D, an instrument associated with hunting and the traditions of France, the RTPC is deeply rooted in a commitment to our country's history and culture. The instrument used is the so-called Orléans horn, coiled in three and a half turns, which came into its own during the reign of Louis-Philippe.

During the reign of the King of the French, the Anglophilia that would lay the foundations for the Entente Cordiale was reflected in the choice of red for many of the hunting frock coats, including those of the Parc aux Cerfs. Through its colours, the Rallye thus fits naturally into the context of the event we are celebrating.



The ensemble is based in the beating heart of Versailles: Saint-Louis Cathedral. It takes part in numerous events that punctuate the life of the cathedral: a concert of hunting horns and organ as part of Mois Molière, the Mass of Christ the King, and parish events. Working very closely with Jean-Pierre Millioud, titular organist of the Grand Orgue Historique at Saint-Louis Cathedral in Versailles, the RTPC also performs at prestigious venues (Saint-Louis Cathedral at Les Invalides, Val de Grâce, the cathedrals of Amiens, Meaux and Blois, the Royal Chapel at the Palace of Versailles), provides musical accompaniment for events such as the Grandes Eaux at the Domaine de Marly and the VIP days at the Chartreuse de Neuville (Pas-de-Calais), and offers voluntary support for heritage conservation initiatives (the churches of Vimoutiers, Notre-Dame de Courson, Le Mesnil-Amelot, etc.).

The D-tuned hunting horn, a natural instrument, is played in three different sections arranged in the V-shaped formation characteristic of hunting horn ensembles: the lead, the second and the bass. All sections use the same instrument; only the mouthpieces differ. As a hunting horn, the hunting horn is naturally played with power, fulfilling its role of communicating hunting events so as to be heard from afar: dozens of different fanfares allow the circumstances of a hunt to be described through sound. The horn players then began to use it for musical purposes; they expanded the repertoire to include thousands of fanfares and refined its use through specific techniques, transforming it into a musical instrument in its own right, finding its place in Baroque works such as the suites of Jean-Joseph Mouret, for example.

To keep up to date with the Rally, the Group's website is regularly updated (in French and English): <http://cervus78.free.fr>.

# History of Entente Cordiale Day



## A story dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The Entente Cordiale Day initiative has its historical roots in the 19th century, at a meeting on 12 March 1881 between the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, and the President of the French National Assembly, Leon Gambetta, hosted by the 8th Marquis de Breteuil (grandfather of the current Marquis de Breteuil, French Honorary President of Entente Cordiale Day). This historical meeting was held in the Smoking Room of the Chateau de Breteuil and paved the way for the Entente Cordiale which was signed on 8 April, 1904, ending centuries of war and conflict between Britain and France. Exactly 120 years later, on 8 April, 2024, the Entente Cordiale Day initiative was launched at the Chateau de Breteuil, its mission: to bring together the best students and alumni from Britain and France's most prestigious academic institutions, with the support of His Majesty King Charles III and the President of France, Monsieur Emmanuel Macron.

This initiative embodies the meeting of history with the present and the future. It also illustrates how Entente Cordiale Day aims not only to celebrate the historical bonds of friendship between the UK and France but also – and more importantly – to address together the current and future global challenges faced by our two great countries: conflicts, technologies and world security, for example. As His Majesty King Charles III said during his speech in the French Senate on September 21st 2023: “Today, in confronting the greatest challenges of our time, we continue the work of those who came before us.”

## An Annual Celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's legacy

Entente Cordiale Day was conceived on September 8th, 2022, in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was a living embodiment of the Entente Cordiale, solidifying this relationship throughout her 70-year reign. “Queen Elizabeth was the golden thread binding our two great nations,” as His Majesty King Charles III said during his state visit to France in September 2023. The Queen Elizabeth II Entente Cordiale Prize is an annual testament of this extraordinary legacy. As President Macron said in his tribute, “the Queen will live with us forever.” Every year on March 8th, we celebrate Women's Day, and on May 8th, VE Day. Similarly, now and going forward, every year on April 8th (the anniversary of the signing of the Entente Cordiale on April 8th, 1904), we will celebrate Entente Cordiale Day. In this way we will also pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as well as Her Majesty's predecessors and successors, with the support of His Majesty King Charles III.

The relationship between the founders of Entente Cordiale Day and Queen Elizabeth II started in 2004, during the celebrations of the centenary of the Entente Cordiale. It was consecrated ten years later in 2014, during Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's last state visit to France. On this very special occasion the Entente Cordiale Day founders had a private audience with Her Majesty Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at the British Embassy in Paris, and presented Queen Elizabeth II with letters of historical importance from Her Majesty's grandfather, King George V, sent in 1912 to the grandfather of the Entente Cordiale Day French Honorary President, the Marquis de Breteuil. It is in memory of Her Majesty Elizabeth II on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, that the idea of an Entente Cordiale Day was conceived, as an annual celebration of the best work on global challenges. This was when it was decided that the top two UK Entente Cordiale Prizes would be named after Queen Elizabeth II and King Edward VII.

*“I recall my own happiness, discovering this beautiful country for myself and for the first time, and developing my own great affection for the French people.”*

*- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, State Dinner, Elysee Palace, June 6th, 2014*



*A special gift is presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip by the Marquis de Breteuil, French Honorary President of Entente Cordiale Day, in the presence of Maître Yves-Justice Djimi, Founder of Entente Cordiale Day, and Maître Adel Baba-Aissa, Member of the Alumni Advisory Board.*

## Honouring the Past, Experiencing Greatness, Empowering Tomorrow

Launched on April 8th 2024 and marking the 120th anniversary of Entente Cordiale, under the High Patronage of the President of France, Monsieur Emmanuel Macron, and with the support of His Majesty King Charles III, Entente Cordiale Day aims to bring together students and alumni from UK and French academic institutions each year. These institutions include Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, UCL, King's College, and Imperial, as well as various universities in France, including the Sorbonne Paris, Sciences Po, EDHEC, Dauphine, and CentraleSupélec Paris. The event fosters discussions on global topics of shared interest and provides a platform for recommendations and innovative solutions for public and private decision-makers. These study groups are awarded annually in April with the Entente Cordiale Prizes, named after some of the prominent figures who have shaped the Entente Cordiale over the past 120 years, such as Winston Churchill, General de Gaulle, Queen Elizabeth II and President Chirac.

## 2026: The 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The year 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose life and reign became one of the defining chapters of the modern era. Few moments illustrate the extraordinary course of her life more vividly than the day she became Queen. In February 1952, while travelling in Kenya with Prince Philip, the young Princess Elizabeth visited the Treetops Lodge, where guests could observe wildlife from platforms high in the trees. During the night, while she slept, news arrived that her father, King George VI, had passed away in London. As the famous account later described, she went up the tree a princess and came down a queen.

At just twenty-five years old, Elizabeth II assumed the responsibilities of the British Crown and began a reign that would last seventy years. Throughout this time, she became a symbol of continuity and diplomacy, particularly in the relationship between Britain and France.

Queen Elizabeth II maintained a close and enduring relationship with France and came to be widely regarded as a living symbol of the Entente Cordiale. Through her state visits, personal diplomacy, and longstanding relationships with French leaders, she helped strengthen the spirit of friendship and cooperation that has long defined the ties between the two nations. Her legacy continues to reflect the importance of dialogue, partnership, and shared history between Britain and France.



## The 250th Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence

The year 2026 also celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776. This foundational document proclaimed the thirteen American colonies' independence from British rule. The Declaration of Independence holds immense historical significance not only for the United States but also for the broader development of democratic ideals around the world. Its principles influenced political thought across Europe and beyond, shaping modern constitutional traditions and inspiring movements for self-determination.



The anniversary also recalls the historic cooperation between France and the emerging United States during the American War of Independence. French political, financial, and military support proved decisive in securing American independence, forging a lasting transatlantic partnership rooted in shared values of freedom and democratic governance. The 250th anniversary therefore provides an opportunity to reflect on the enduring ties between Europe and the United States and the continued relevance of the ideals first expressed in 1776.

### Introducing the US Entente Cordiale Prizes

As we mark this year the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, and celebrate the pivotal role played by France in America's fight for freedom, the Entente Cordiale University Challenge will, for the first time, open its platform to a select group of leading American universities. This expansion reinforces the Challenge's transatlantic, historical, and global dimension. At the heart of the Entente Cordiale University Challenge's mission lies academic excellence, civic education, and the transmission of our shared heritage. In this spirit, and to reinforce the Challenge's transatlantic historical dimension, we are launching five American Entente Cordiale Prizes: the Jefferson–Lafayette, Washington–Rochambeau, Franklin–Vergennes, Madison–Talleyrand and Hamilton–de Grasse Prizes. These Prizes will serve to honor the legacies of the Founding Fathers of the United States and act as a constant reminder to participating students of their shared vision: that education sustains republican virtue, that enlightened leadership must be grounded in history, and that America's strong and enduring relationships with the United Kingdom and France are consubstantial with both America's history and the American Dream. Supported by the families of the Marquis de Lafayette, the Comte de Rochambeau, and Admiral de Grasse, these Prizes are conceived not just as outstanding academic distinctions, but as living instruments of historical transmission. Their purpose is to ensure that young Americans understand how alliance, sacrifice, diplomacy, and shared purpose helped shape America's birth and the Declaration of Independence. These lessons are more relevant than ever today, at a time when America's relationships with Europe, and notably with its closest and oldest allies, the United Kingdom and France, are sometimes questioned, the preservation of these historic alliances remain essential at a time of profound global uncertainty. Within this framework, the Hamilton–de Grasse Entente Cordiale Prize honors Alexander Hamilton, whose education at King's College—now Columbia University—shaped his vision for American finance, governance, and international engagement, and Admiral de Grasse, whose naval victory made independence possible. This Prize embodies the belief that education and global engagement are inseparable from national leadership.

We are delighted and truly honoured to welcome **Lafayette College**, named after the Marquis de Lafayette and celebrating its 200th anniversary this year; to welcome **The George Washington University**, founded through the will of the first President of the United States; to welcome **William & Mary**, one of the oldest American universities; and finally, **the University of Virginia**, which was the first US university to accept joining the Entente Cordiale University Challenge and thus becomes the first American institution welcomed into our initiative. This carries a powerful symbolic significance, as the University of Virginia was founded by Thomas Jefferson, whose masterpiece, the Declaration of Independence of 1776—and its enduring words (“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”)—also inspired the Marquis de Lafayette and, in turn, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in 1789. Our hope and mission of the Entente Cordiale University Challenge are that, perhaps in the years ahead, the work and recommendations of students from top universities across the United States, the United Kingdom, and France participating in the Challenge will inspire one another and also contribute to advancing progress and civilisation.

# About University of Virginia



The University of Virginia (UVA), founded by Thomas Jefferson and chartered in 1819, is a proudly public institution consistently ranked among the best universities in the United States for excellence and value.

Located in Charlottesville, UVA was designed as an innovative model for higher education, focused on developing citizen leaders guided by empathy, integrity, and truth.

Jefferson envisioned the university as “something new under the sun,” combining revolutionary ideals with a collaborative academic environment. Today, UVA continues this mission, evolving to address global challenges while maintaining its foundational commitment to public service and leadership.

## Key Facts

- 12 schools across disciplines including Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, Law, Medicine, and more
- Additional campuses and programs in Northern Virginia and Wise
- Comprehensive health system and 6 pan-university research institutes

## Research & Innovation

- \$200M+ invested in research since 2021
- Focus areas: Democracy, Environmental Resilience, Precision Medicine/Health, Brain & Neuroscience, and Digital Technology & Society
- Home to leading initiatives such as:
  - Karsh Institute of Democracy
  - Manning Institute of Biotechnology
  - LaCross Institute for Ethical AI in Business
- UVA Innovates platform supports entrepreneurship and innovation

## Academic Experience

- The Academical Village (featuring the Rotunda) fosters close student-faculty collaboration
- Strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and exchange of ideas
- Designed to create a community where students and faculty live and learn together

## Impact & Mission

UVA prepares students to be citizen leaders and contributes to society through education, research, and public service. The university emphasizes collaboration, ethical leadership, and innovation, aiming to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges while improving communities locally and globally.

# About The George Washington University



Located in Washington, DC, just four blocks from the White House, GW was chartered by an Act of Congress on February 9, 1821. The university combines the opportunities of a major research institution with strong connections to government, policy, and global affairs. GW includes 10 schools and colleges and is one of only 71 institutions in the Association of American Universities (AAU).

## Key Facts

- 11,000+ undergraduate students
- Students from all 50 states and 140+ countries
- 5+ undergraduate majors
- 12,600+ graduate students (including ~2,300 international students)
- 250+ graduate and certificate programs

## Experience & Outcomes

- 76% of undergraduates participate in internships or research
- Strong emphasis on real-world, hands-on learning in Washington, DC
- 330,000+ alumni worldwide

## Notable Alumni

- Graduates include U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, and Mark Warner; Olympic medalist Elana Meyers Taylor; Emmy Award-winning actor Kerry Washington; and astronaut Frederick D. Gregory.

## Impact

- 500+ alumni work on Capitol Hill
- Strong presence in public service, leadership, and global careers

# About William and Mary



Located in Williamsburg, Virginia, W&M brings together the global opportunities of a larger R1 research university with the personalised education of a liberal arts and sciences institution. W&M is consistently recognised as one of the best values in the nation. W&M undergraduate alumni earn nearly 21% more than the national full-time mean starting salary (reported by the Class of 2023).

## Key Facts

- 7,000 undergraduates and 2,800 graduate students
- 40% of students come from outside Virginia, representing all 50 states and 70 countries
- 115+ majors and minors

## Recognition & Outcomes

- #1 best public school for study abroad participation (Institute of International Education)
- 85% of students participate in faculty-mentored research
- Selected a “New Ivy” for academic excellence (Forbes 2025)
- Top 20 public universities in America (Forbes)

## Notable Alumni

- Our graduates include former U.S. presidents and top executives, Academy Award winners, leaders of the FBI and CIA, NASA’s chief scientist, and groundbreaking producers in gaming.

# About Lafayette College



Located in Easton, Pennsylvania, overlooking the Delaware River, Lafayette College is a top liberal arts institution founded in 1826. Named after Marquis de Lafayette, the college combines a strong tradition of academic excellence with a close-knit, community-focused environment. Lafayette uniquely blends a liberal arts education with nationally recognized engineering programs, creating a dynamic and interdisciplinary learning experience.

## Key Facts

- 2,700 undergraduate students from 44 states and 60 countries
- 50+ majors across arts, sciences, and engineering
- 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- 100% undergraduate-focused institution

## Experience & Opportunities

- Hands-on research opportunities with faculty, often from the first year
- Study abroad programs available across the globe
- Gateway Career Program supports internships, networking, and career development
- 93% of students live on campus, fostering a strong residential community

## Student Life & Community

- Over 200 student clubs and organisations
- Division I athletics with strong school spirit
- Vibrant campus life in a scenic college town near New York City and Philadelphia

## Outcomes

- 98% of graduates are employed, in further education, or engaged in service within 6 months
- Strong alumni network and career preparation through hands-on experience



February 18, 2026

Maitre Yves Djimi, Founder  
Madame Charlotte Simunek, Chief Executive Officer  
Entente Cordiale Day  
Chateau de Breteuil  
78460 Choisel  
France

Dear Maître Djimi and Madame Simunek:

Thank you for your most gracious letter and for the extraordinary honor of inviting the University of Virginia to participate in the Entente Cordiale University Challenge beginning in the 2026-7 cycle. We deeply appreciate this invitation and are delighted to accept.

The vision and ambition of the Entente Cordiale University Challenge—and its commitment to historical understanding, civic education, and international leadership—resonate profoundly with the mission and values of the University of Virginia. As an institution founded by Thomas Jefferson and shaped by enduring transatlantic ideals of liberty, democracy, and shared responsibility, the University of Virginia is honored to join this distinguished initiative at such a meaningful historical moment, particularly as we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.

We are especially grateful for the opportunity to be formally welcomed as one of the first American universities to participate in the Challenge. We are proud to stand with our British and French partners in advancing the spirit of dialogue, cooperation, and global stewardship that lies at the heart of the Entente Cordiale.


While I regret that I will be unable to attend in person, I am pleased to designate Dr. Phillip Trella, Associate Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs, to represent the University of Virginia at the Entente Cordiale festivities in Paris on April 7–8, including the Gala Dinner at the Château de Breteuil. Dr. Trella will be honored to convey the University of Virginia's enthusiasm for this partnership and to engage with fellow university leaders and collaborators.

As it turns out, I am a dual citizen of France and the USA and speak French. I hope to visit France this summer and would like to meet you then, if possible. I understand you may visit the University of Virginia in June, and if so, I will be delighted to welcome you.

Madison Hall  
Post Office Box 400224 • Charlottesville, VA 22904-4224  
Phone: 434-924-3337 • Fax: 434-924-3792

We look forward with great enthusiasm to working closely with you and our international partners to create meaningful opportunities for the University of Virginia students to engage with their peers across the United Kingdom and France through the Entente Cordiale University Challenge. Thank you once again for this remarkable invitation and for your leadership in bringing this important initiative to life.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott C. Beardsley".

Scott C. Beardsley  
President

March 4, 2026

Maître Yves Djimi, Founder  
Madame Charlotte Simunek, Chief Executive Officer  
Entente Cordiale Day  
Chateau de Breteuil  
78760 Choisel  
France

Dear Maître Djimi and Madame Simunek:

On behalf of the George Washington University (GW), I would like to formally express our strong support for the Entente Cordiale Day and your ten-year strategic vision to strengthen transatlantic academic collaboration.

We are deeply honored by the invitation to participate in the Entente Cordiale University Challenge. The vision grounded in historical understanding, civic engagement, and international cooperation resonates with GW's institutional identity and mission. The Columbian University School for Comparative Jurisprudence and Diplomacy (now our Elliott School of International Affairs) was founded in 1898. Our location in the heart of Washington, DC, provides unparalleled access to leading international institutions, multinational corporations, global media outlets, and the governments of 177 countries via their resident embassies. GW has students and alumni from more than 130 nations.

We are especially pleased to see the distinguished portfolio of endorsements supporting Entente Cordiale Day, including that of the descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette. As I noted in our previous correspondence, Lafayette was the guest of honor and featured attendee at GW's first Commencement ceremony in 1824, and we proudly honor his legacy on our campus today with Lafayette Hall.

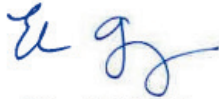
As the United States prepares to celebrate 250 years of independence, GW is actively developing programming to commemorate this historic milestone. The Entente Cordiale University Challenge and the themes of both 2025-26 (Conflicts, Technologies, and World Security) and 2026-27 (Artificial Intelligence, Power and Ethics) align well with our strengths in international affairs, public policy, and [Trustworthy AI](#). The University Challenge presents an exceptional opportunity for our students to learn from their peers abroad as together they address the complex challenges shaping our shared global future.

While I am unable to attend, I am pleased to designate Dr. Jeffrey Brand, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and Associate Professor of Philosophy, who would be honored to

represent the George Washington University at the Entente Cordiale Summit on April 7-8, 2026, engaging with fellow university leaders and collaborators.

We are proud to stand alongside our distinguished UK and French partners in advancing dialogue, cooperation, and academic excellence. Please accept our appreciation for your leadership in bringing this initiative to fruition. We look forward to contributing meaningfully to its success and to building enduring partnerships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Granberg', is positioned above the typed name.

Ellen M. Granberg  
President

cc: Jeffrey Brand, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and Associate Professor of  
Philosophy (apua@gwu.edu)



# William & Mary

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

30 March 2026

Maitre Yves Djimi, Founder  
Madame Charlotte Simunek, Chief Executive Officer  
Entente Cordiale Day  
Chateau de Breteuil  
78760 Choisel  
France

Dear Maitre Djimi and Madame Simunek,

On behalf of William & Mary, I accept your invitation to participate in the 2026-2027 Entente Cordiale University Challenge with pleasure. William & Mary shares many lasting bonds with France and the United Kingdom, including cherished academic collaborations with almost all of the French and UK institutions in the Entente Cordiale. This year's theme *Artificial Intelligence, Power, and Ethics* aligns closely with William & Mary's longstanding commitments to international education and our democratic ideals.

Established in 1693 by Royal Charter of King William III and Queen Mary II, William & Mary is the first university founded in what would become the United States — and ranks among the country's leading public universities. America's Founding Fathers — notably George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe — studied at William & Mary. We feel both honored and also at home to be honored by your invitation to join the first cohort of American universities for Entente Cordiale Day.

International education is in our DNA. Today, William & Mary is the United States' top ranked public university for study abroad. More than 55% of our students study abroad during their undergraduate years. We also have a robust international community, representing 55 countries from around the world.

In 2024, William & Mary marked the bicentennial anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's tour of America. During that tour, William & Mary granted him an honorary degree. Last year, the honorary degree returned to our campus from France for the first time on loan from the Chambrun Foundation who preserves and maintains Lafayette's estate, Chateau de Lagrange, and its archives.

P.O. Box 8795 • Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8795 • (757) 221-1693

Maitre Yves Djimi  
Madame Charlotte Simunek  
30 March 2026  
Page 2

We have been honored to host Queen Elisabeth II and then Prince Charles on more than one occasion, and we have strong ties with the Churchill family, through the Harriman Foreign Service Fellowships. Our Reves Center for International Studies was founded in 1989 by the widow of Emery Reves, friend and publisher of Churchill.

This year, William & Mary honors these connections along with our community's foundational role in establishing U.S. democracy. To complement America 250, the year-long celebration of the founding of the United States, we have launched a Year of Civic Leadership. We remain steadfast in our mission to prepare graduates to meet the current moment with resourcefulness and integrity in the age of AI.

I welcome the opportunity for this friendly competition among our institutions. Although I am not able to attend this year's Gala, I look forward to seeing our students' submissions in the upcoming competition.

Dr. Teresa Longo will continue to be your main contact at the university. Ms. Katherine Hoving, Associate Director of International Communications, will represent William & Mary at the Opening and the Gala. I am certain this is the beginning of a productive and exciting collaboration.

Sincerely,



Katherine A. Rowe  
President

KAR/edm

P.O. Box 8795 • Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8795 • (757) 221-1693

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

*Office of the President*

Easton, Pennsylvania 18042-1768 • TEL 610-330-5200 • FAX 610-330-5700 • [www.lafayette.edu](http://www.lafayette.edu)

March 16, 2026

Maitre Yves Djimi, Founder  
Madame Charlotte Simunek, Chief Executive Officer  
Entente Cordiale Day  
Chateau de Breteuil  
78460 Choisel  
France

Dear Maitre Djimi and Madame Simunek,

Thank you for your gracious letter and for the remarkable honor of inviting Lafayette College to participate in the Entente Cordiale University Challenge beginning with the 2026–2027 cycle. We are deeply appreciative of this invitation and delighted to accept.

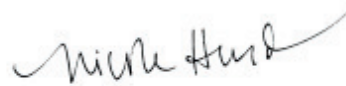
The vision of the Entente Cordiale University Challenge—its emphasis on historical understanding, civic responsibility, and international leadership—resonates strongly with Lafayette’s mission as a liberal arts college dedicated to preparing students for lives of engaged citizenship and global impact. Since our founding in 1826, Lafayette has been shaped by the enduring ideals embodied by our namesake, the Marquis de Lafayette, whose legacy represents the very spirit of Franco-American friendship and democratic partnership that the Entente Cordiale seeks to celebrate and strengthen.

For our community, participation in this initiative carries particular meaning as Lafayette College celebrates its bicentennial in 2026. We are proud to join distinguished partners in the United Kingdom and France in advancing dialogue, cooperation, and shared learning among the next generation of global leaders.

I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally, either during a visit to the United States or while I am in France this April and June. It would be a pleasure to continue our conversation and explore the many ways this partnership may develop in the years ahead.

We look forward with great enthusiasm to working closely with you and with our international partners to create meaningful opportunities for Lafayette students to engage with their peers across the United Kingdom and France through the Entente Cordiale University Challenge. Thank you again for this extraordinary invitation and for your leadership in bringing this important initiative to life.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "d".

Nicole Hurd  
President



21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

**To:** Maître Yves Djimi, Co-Founder, Entente Cordiale Day & University Challenge

**Cc:** The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL, Co-Chair and Co-Founder, Entente Cordiale Day & The Duke of Marlborough, Chair of the Circle of Patrons, Entente Cordiale Day & Global Future Leaders Day

**RE: Support of The Society of Presidential Descendants for the Creation of US Entente Cordiale Prizes**

Dear Yves,

As **Co-Founder of The Society of Presidential Descendants**, I am honored to express my strong support for the Entente Cordiale University Challenge, and for its decision to open, for the first time, to a select group of leading American universities on the occasion of the **250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence**. Since its creation, the Entente Cordiale University Challenge has brought together outstanding students from leading universities in the United Kingdom and France to collaborate on proposals addressing the most pressing global challenges of our time.

The **Society of Presidential Descendants**, formed during an event hosted by the **White House Historical Association in Washington, D.C.**, was established to preserve, promote, and transmit the historical legacy, civic values, and constitutional principles embodied by the Presidents of the United States and their families. Our mission is grounded in the conviction that history must remain a living inheritance—actively understood and passed on to future generations. In this spirit, The Society supports initiatives that connect historical legacy with education and public service. The Entente Cordiale University Challenge exemplifies these ideals in an exceptional and timely manner. Held under the joint Patronage of **His Majesty The King** and the **President of France**, it reflects a shared commitment to academic excellence and to the transmission of a **shared heritage shaped by the intertwined histories of the UK, France, and the US**.

The Society of Presidential Descendants warmly supports the establishment of the **United States Entente Cordiale Prizes**, named jointly after the **Founding Fathers of the United States—Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, and Monroe**—and the **French heroes of American Independence**, including **Lafayette, Rochambeau, de Grasse, Vergennes, and Talleyrand**. To be awarded annually to top-ranked students from American universities alongside the existing UK and French Entente Cordiale Prizes, these distinctions will remind students that enlightened leadership is central to the preservation of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I very much welcome the proposal to bring together, later this year, as part of America 250, the **French, British, and American descendants** of families who shaped our shared transatlantic history and common destiny. The opening of the Entente Cordiale University Challenge to American universities, together with the creation of **U.S. Entente Cordiale Prizes**, truly represents an inspired and necessary initiative, and I look forward with great interest to its success in the United States.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Massee McKinley".

**Massee McKinley**  
Co-Founder, Vice President and Chief of Staff  
**The Society of Presidential Descendants**

# From Debate to Celebration:

## The Annual Events of Entente Cordiale Day

Our events welcome a distinguished panel of decision-makers from academic, economic, financial, political, administrative, cultural, intellectual, and artistic circles from both the UK and France. The objective of Entente Cordiale Day is to build a strong student and alumni community so that these experiences and bonds last participants far beyond April.

### Annual Summit of the Entente Cordiale Day

The Entente Cordiale Day event spans two days of prestigious activities, beginning with a working lunch at the École Militaire Academy with finalists of the Challenge on Conflicts, Technologies and World Security, followed by a conference and roundtables in the Foch Auditorium on Security, Diplomacy and Influence: The Shifting Fronts of the Europe–Russia Relationship. The day continues with an official opening ceremony at the Hôtel National des Invalides, including a military parade, flag-raising ceremony, and addresses by dignitaries, followed by a cocktail reception, and concludes with a classical concert at Saint-Louis des Invalides Cathedral.

On the second day, student presentations take place before a Grand Jury at the Sorbonne University across morning and afternoon sessions, followed by jury deliberations, culminating in a gala dinner and Entente Cordiale Awards ceremony at the Château de Breteuil in the Chevreuse Valley. Held annually on the anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, this event celebrates excellence by awarding prizes to the top performing student teams in iconic venues on themes of global interest.

### ◆ Entente Cordiale Alumni Reception

The Entente Cordiale Alumni Meeting is an annual event alternating between the House of Lords in the UK and the Senate in France, fostering networking and collaboration among alumni from diverse fields. Held in June or early July, it features keynote speeches, discussions on Franco-British partnerships, and cultural activities aimed to celebrate and strengthen bilateral ties.

The Entente Cordiale Alumni Meeting 2026 features a prestigious conference-debate at the House of Lords. This landmark event will be a highlight of the alumni gathering, commemorating Franco-British collaboration through a focus on “Security, Diplomacy, Influence: The Shifting Fronts of the Europe-Russia Relationship.”

### ◆ Entente Cordiale Talk Series

Running from October to March, the Entente Cordiale Day Talks are a flagship series of high-impact events held in the UK and France, complementing the two main annual Entente Cordiale Day events: the Summit in April and the Alumni Meeting in July. Organised in collaboration with partnered student societies, the programme brings together students, experts, and world leaders through two complementary tracks. With a focus on innovation and youth engagement, the Talks provide a unique platform for sponsors to support cross-border academic excellence while gaining visibility among a highly engaged audience.

# Timeline of the Entente Cordiale Prizes 2025-2026

## **Awareness and Recruitment** (*July–October*)

- Recruitment campaigns in top French and UK academic institutions.
- Registration opens for student teams, highlighting the year's global theme (e.g. Climate Change and Biodiversity).

## **Research, Evaluation, and Finalist Selection** (*November–March*)

- Teams conduct research and submit reports tackling the global theme.
- Written reports are evaluated, and finalists are selected to present their findings.

## **Grand Jury Presentations and Awards Gala** (*April 7–8*)

- Grand Jury Presentations at different host universities each year: Finalists showcase their solutions to global challenges, judged by an elite panel.
- Opening Ceremony and Cocktail Dinner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London alternating with the Hotel des Invalides in Paris: A prestigious event featuring speeches and cultural performances focused on learning societies, think tanks and academia.
- Awards Gala Dinner alternating between Hatfield House and Château de Breteuil: Winners are celebrated in a formal setting with high-profile networking opportunities focused on corporate, business, and celebrities' symbols of Franco-British excellence

## **Presentation to National Leaders** (*June–July*)

- Winning teams present their work at Buckingham Palace and the Élysée Palace.

## **Alumni Networking and Collaboration** (*Early July*)

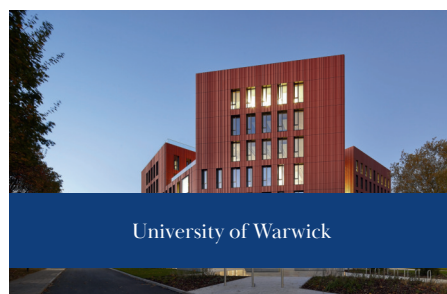
- Annual Alumni Meeting alternating between the House of Lords and the French Senate, featuring discussions on Franco-British collaboration.



# UK Participating Student Universities 2025-2026

*“Today, in confronting the greatest challenges of our time,  
we continue the work of those who came before us.”*

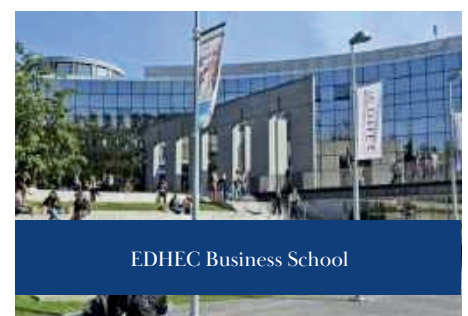
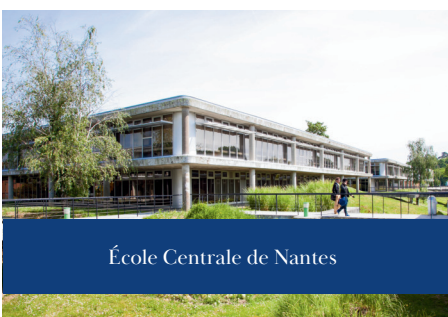
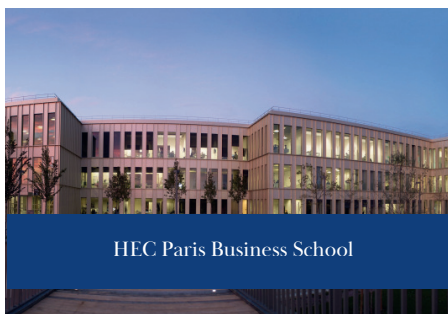
**- His Majesty King Charles III**



# French Participating Student Universities and Grandes Ecoles 2025-2026

*"The Queen will live forever with us."*

- President Emmanuel Macron



# Entente Cordiale Prizes: Royal and Presidential Patron

## His Majesty the King

### Charles III

His Majesty King Charles III has long demonstrated a profound affection for France and a deep commitment to strengthening the relationship between the United Kingdom and its closest European partner. Over the decades, he has made numerous official visits to France, engaging with its political leaders, cultural institutions, and civil society, and consistently promoting dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding between the two nations.

A passionate advocate for culture, heritage, and the environment, King Charles III has often highlighted the shared values and historical ties that unite France and the United Kingdom. His longstanding interest in architecture, sustainability, and traditional craftsmanship has also found strong resonance in France, where these themes are deeply embedded in national identity.

Fluent in French and attentive to its cultural nuances, he has always shown particular care in addressing French audiences, further reinforcing the warmth and respect that characterise his relationship with the country. As Sovereign, he continues to embody and renew the spirit of the Entente Cordiale, championing a modern partnership rooted in history, friendship, and a shared vision for the future.



## The President of the French Republic

### His Excellency Emmanuel Macron

Emmanuel Macron is the eighth President of the Fifth Republic of France and a central figure in modern Franco-British relations.

On 7 May 2017, Emmanuel Macron was elected President of the Republic, and on 24 April 2022, he was re-elected for a second term. He was born in December 1977 in Amiens, in the Somme department. He studied at Sciences Po in Paris before attending the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), from which he graduated in 2004. Following this, he then joined the Inspectorate General of Finance, where he worked for four years before moving into the banking sector.

In 2012, he became Deputy General Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic. He left this role in July 2014 and served as Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs from August 2014 to August 2016.

Throughout his presidency, Emmanuel Macron has continued to strengthen diplomatic, political, and cultural ties between France and the United Kingdom, reinforcing the long-standing partnership established by the Entente Cordiale.



# Entente Cordiale Prizes: Co-Chairs and Honorary Presidents

## The Marquess of Salisbury

Members of the Cecil family have played key roles in British history since the Middle Ages. William Cecil was Chief Minister to Elizabeth I; his son Robert Cecil was Secretary of State and Spymaster to both Elizabeth I and James I. He notably played a prominent role in the Gunpowder Plot. Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, usually known as Lord Salisbury served three mandates as Prime Minister between 1885 and 1902. While Prime Minister, he was also Foreign Secretary, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords. Lord Salisbury was the last Prime Minister in History to run the government from the House of Lords. Lord Salisbury eventually played an important role in improving relations with France which had cooled during the Boer War. This rapprochement led directly to the negotiation of the Entente Cordiale. Though Lord Salisbury died at Hatfield House in 1903, without seeing the culmination of his diplomatic efforts, his nephew, Arthur Balfour became Prime Minister and presided over the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904 under King Edward VII.



Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 5th Marquess of Salisbury, nicknamed “Bobbetty,” played a significant role in politics during World War II and British post-war politics. He served as Paymaster General, Minister of the Dominion Affairs, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords under Winston Churchill. He invented the Salisbury “Doctrine” or “Convention” as it is sometimes called to ensure that major Government Bills can get through the House of Lords when the Government of the day has no majority in the Lords.

The current and 7th Marquess of Salisbury, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, was Leader of the House of Lords under John Major. He was summoned as Baron Cecil to the House of Lords by a Writ of Acceleration in 1992, the last in British History. Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Thames Celebrations in 2012, the Marquess of Salisbury was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and became a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO). In 2019, he was appointed Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Marquess of Salisbury was educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford and he is the Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire.

## The Marquis de Breteuil

Members of the Breteuil family were Ministers under Louis XIV, Louis XV, and Louis XVI. Louis Nicolas de Breteuil became Louis XIV’s “Introducteur des Ambassadeurs et Princes étrangers”, and as such the first of several diplomats in the family. Ahead of his times, Louis Nicolas de Breteuil encouraged his daughter, Gabrielle Emilie, to study science and mathematics. She would later become famous as Emilie du Châtelet, one of the leading thinkers of the French Enlightenment, defending the ideas of Newton and Leibniz. She was also Voltaire’s companion and collaborator for over 15 years. As Prime Minister under Louis XVI, Louis Auguste de Breteuil authorised the first performances of Beaumarchais’ controversial, anti-establishment play *The Marriage of Figaro* in 1784. He was the Prime of France on 14 July 1789, and he was called by Louis XVI for 100 hours before he was replaced by Necker. The 8th Marquis de Breteuil was a Member of Parliament and spokesperson of the Count of Paris, he later became friends with the Prince of Wales and with most European Aristocracy at the end of nineteenth century. He played an important role in forging the Entente Cordiale with the future Edward VII and was also close to King George V and Queen Mary who stayed at his home several times. He hosted the future King Edward VIII at the Chateau de Breteuil, and he met several times during his stays with the Royal Family, the future King George VI, father of Queen Elizabeth II and grandfather of King Charles III.



The current Marquis, the 10th, Henri-François de Breteuil, was educated at Janson de Sailly and at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris. He was an administrator of the Palace of Versailles and is a fellow of the Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques.

# Entente Cordiale Prizes: Venues

*"It must be our hope that the Entente Cordiale which we celebrate today may prove the exemplar and prototype of other more extensive arrangements and agreements between nations for the removal of the ancient enmities and mistrusts which at present divide them. That must be the aim and the object of all our policies. On that, most surely, the survival of all civilisations, and perhaps the survival of humanity, will depend"*

-Speech from the 5<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Salisbury, April 8, 1954, in the House of Lords on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Entente Cordiale



## Hatfield House

Queen Elizabeth II was a regular visitor, thanks to her close ties with the Cecil family. In 1985, Queen Elizabeth II planted a new tree to replace Queen Elizabeth's oak that had died and been uprooted in 1978. The house and its gardens have been used for some surprising activities over the years. During World War One, the gardens were dug up and used as a testing ground for the first-ever British tanks. Hatfield House is a popular TV and film location, and features in, amongst many others, *The Favourite*, *The Great*, *Batman*, *Bridgerton*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Tomb Raider*, *The King's Speech*, and, perhaps inevitably, *The Crown*. Hatfield House is the present home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury and has been the home of the Cecil family for over 400 years.

## The Château de Breteuil

In 1881, the Prince of Wales, future Edward VII of England, visited the Château as a guest of Marquis Henry de Breteuil, who arranged a meeting with Léon Gambetta, an anti-royalist politician and then President of the French National Assembly. Their frank discussions were vital preliminaries to the Entente Cordiale. Marcel Proust was a notable visitor of the Château. In 1912, the Prince of Wales, future Edward VIII, took French lessons at the Château. And five years later François de Breteuil introduced the Prince to Marguerite Alibert, who became a royal mistress for the duration of World War I.



The Château was occupied during World War II, and deteriorated somewhat, but was renovated by the current owner, the 10th. Marquis de Breteuil, and was declared a Monument Historique in 1973. The Chateau de Breteuil has been in the Breteuil family for over 300 years.

# Our Founder & CEO



## Maître Yves-Justice DJIMI

Yves is a Corporate Finance, Private Equity & Family Office Lawyer.

Yves graduated from the London School of Economics (LSE) with a Master of Laws degree (LL.M) in 2006 and then started his career in the City of London as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. He is also admitted to the Paris Bar and is fluent in both French and English and also speaks Portuguese.

Yves further holds a Master degree from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and an undergraduate law degree (with honours) from the Sorbonne. He has been practising as an international lawyer for over 20 years in Europe, Middle East and Africa and America.



## Professor Charlotte Simunek

Charlotte Simunek is an international project and programme manager specialising in intercultural communication, stakeholder engagement, and academic collaboration.

Charlotte has developed extensive experience in designing and delivering large-scale academic and professional programmes across international environments. Her work focuses on fostering cross-border partnerships, coordinating high-level events, and supporting educational initiatives that bring together diverse stakeholders.

She is particularly engaged in promoting intercultural exchange and strengthening collaboration between academic, public, and professional sectors. Through her work, she contributes to building networks that encourage dialogue, leadership development, and long-term cooperation between the United Kingdom, France, and wider international communities.

Charlotte continues to support initiatives that enhance global engagement, encourage innovation in education, and facilitate meaningful connections across disciplines and countries.

# The UK Entente Cordiale Prizes

The Entente Cordiale Prizes recognize outstanding contributions and achievements in various fields, inspired by historical figures who have shaped Franco-British relations. The prizes include:

## King Edward VII

**(The Founder's Entente Cordiale Prizes)**

King Edward VII played a pivotal role in the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904, which was a significant diplomatic agreement between the United Kingdom and France. As the monarch of the United Kingdom at the time, King Edward VII fostered closer ties between Britain and France, marking a departure from historical tensions and rivalries between the two nations.



His diplomatic efforts and personal relationships with key figures in the French government, including President Émile Loubet and Leon Gambetta, were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Entente Cordiale. The agreement aimed to resolve colonial disputes between the two countries, particularly in Africa and elsewhere, and establish a cooperative relationship based on mutual interests and understanding.

King Edward VII's commitment to diplomacy and his efforts to promote peace and stability in Europe contributed to the successful negotiation and signing of the Entente Cordiale. This landmark agreement paved the way for closer diplomatic, military, and economic cooperation between Britain and France, ultimately reshaping the geopolitical landscape of Europe in the early 20th century.

## Queen Elizabeth II

**(The Centenary Entente Cordiale Prizes)**



Queen Elizabeth II played a significant role in upholding and strengthening the principles of the Entente Cordiale between the United Kingdom and France throughout her reign. As the longest-reigning monarch in British history, Queen Elizabeth consistently fostered diplomatic relations and cooperation between the

two nations, embodying the spirit of friendship and partnership established by the Entente Cordiale.

Throughout her reign, Queen Elizabeth II made numerous state visits to France, engaging in cultural exchanges, diplomatic meetings, and official ceremonies that helped solidify the bonds between the two countries. These visits served to highlight the enduring friendship between Britain and France and reinforce the shared values and interests that underpin the Entente Cordiale. Additionally, Queen Elizabeth II worked closely with successive French presidents, including Charles de Gaulle, François Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, and Emmanuel Macron, to promote bilateral cooperation on a range of issues, from defence and security to trade and cultural exchange.

Her diplomatic efforts contributed to the strengthening of Franco-British ties and the deepening of mutual understanding and respect between the two nations.

Furthermore, Queen Elizabeth II's role as a symbolic figurehead of the Commonwealth also facilitated closer ties between France and the wider international community. Through her commitment to multilateralism and diplomacy, she helped promote peace, prosperity, and cooperation across Europe and beyond, in line with the principles of the Entente Cordiale.

## Sir Winston Churchill

**(The Warriors Entente Cordiale Prizes)**

Sir Winston Churchill, as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II, played a crucial role in upholding and reinforcing the principles of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France. Despite the challenges of war, Churchill's legacy of enduring partnership between France and the United Kingdom maintained a strong commitment to cooperation and solidarity with France, aligning his policies with the spirit of the Entente Cordiale.



On 16 June 1940, the British government under Sir Winston Churchill offered complete and indissoluble political union with France.

# The UK Entente Cordiale Prizes

Sir Winston Churchill, as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II, played a crucial role in upholding and reinforcing the principles of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France. Despite the challenges of war, Churchill legacy of enduring partnership between France and the United maintained a strong commitment to cooperation and solidarity with France, aligning his policies with the spirit of the Entente Cordiale.

Churchill's leadership during the war emphasised the importance of the Franco-British alliance in confronting the Axis powers and preserving democracy in Europe. He worked closely with French leaders, including Charles de Gaulle, to coordinate military strategies, intelligence sharing, and logistical support, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration between the two nations.

Churchill's vision for post-war Europe was a strong partnership between Britain and France, anchored in the principles of peace, democracy, and collective security. He championed the idea of a united Europe, in which France and Britain would play leading roles, working together to prevent future conflicts and promote prosperity and stability on the continent.

Churchill's legacy as a staunch advocate for the Entente Cordiale endures to this day, symbolizing the enduring bond between Britain and France forged through shared history, values, and mutual respect. His leadership during World War II and his vision for a united Europe laid the groundwork for continued cooperation and friendship between the two nations in the post-war era.

## The Marquess of Lansdowne

(The signatories Entente Cordiale Prizes)

The Marquess of Lansdowne, also known as Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, was a prominent British statesman who played a significant role in diplomatic affairs during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Serving as the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from 1900 to 1905, worked closely with French for Foreign Affairs from 1900 to 1905, Lansdowne was involved in shaping



British foreign policy, including efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with other European powers.

His tenure as Foreign Secretary coincided with a period of significant diplomatic activity. During this time, Lansdowne worked to maintain stability in Europe and fostered strong cooperation with France. His diplomatic efforts laid the groundwork for initiatives like the Entente Cordiale, which he signed on behalf of the United Kingdom on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1904.

In the broader context of European diplomacy, the Marquess of Lansdowne's contributions to British foreign policy helped to shape the alliances and agreements that would define the continent's geopolitical landscape for decades to come. Lansdowne's diplomatic stewardship during this period contributed to the overall spirit of cooperation and rapprochement between Britain and France.

## Lord Williams of Elvel

(The Friends Entente Cordiale Prizes)

Lord Williams of Elvel was deputy Labour leader in the Lords. He played a pivotal role in the history of our project by launching in the House of Lords the idea of supporting a permanent alliance of students between our two great countries in the spirit of the Entente Cordiale. Lord Williams obtained on the very day of President Chirac Centenary of the Entente Cordiale Visit on 18 November 2004 the unanimous support of the House and of Her Majesty's Government toward our project.

Lord Williams was a Francophile and strong supporter of the Alliance. He wrote a brilliant biography of General De Gaulle and was married to Lady Williams of Elvel, who had been personal secretary to Sir Winston Churchill. He was also stepfather of Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

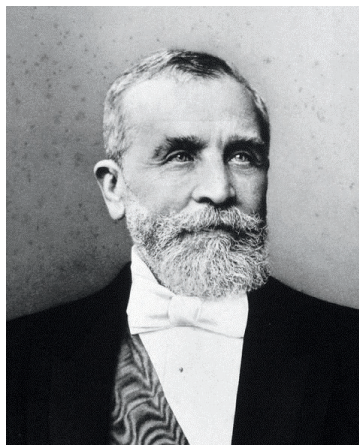


By launching this Entente Cordiale Day Annual Event on the 120th Anniversary of the Entente Cordiale, The Entente Cordiale Day Team aims to honour the legacy of the support of Lord Williams of Elvel and the whole House of Lords which we received on the 100th Anniversary of the Entente Cordiale.

# The French Entente Cordiale Prizes

## President Émile Loubet (The Founder's Entente Cordiale Prizes)

President Émile Loubet of France played a crucial role alongside King Edward VII in the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904. As the President of France during that period, Loubet worked closely with British officials to strengthen Franco-British relations and resolve longstanding disputes between the two nations.



Loubet's leadership and diplomatic skills were essential in navigating the complexities of French foreign policy and garnering domestic support for the Entente Cordiale. His commitment to cooperation with Britain and his willingness to compromise on colonial issues helped pave the way for the historic agreement.

President Émile Loubet's efforts, in conjunction with King Edward VII's, facilitated the establishment of a new era of friendship and collaboration between France and the United Kingdom. The Entente Cordiale not only resolved tensions between the two countries but also laid the foundation for future alliances and partnerships that would shape the course of European history.

## President Jacques Chirac (The Centenary Entente Cordiale Prizes)

Jacques Chirac, as the President of France from 1995 to 2007, played a significant role in furthering the spirit of the Entente Cordiale between France and the United Kingdom. President Chirac's tenure saw efforts to deepen the Franco-British relationship across various domains. During his presidency, President Chirac worked to strengthen diplomatic ties between France and the UK, building on the historical foundations laid by the Entente Cordiale. He engaged General Charles de Gaulle in numerous high-level meetings, summits, and state visits with British leaders, fostering dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual interest.



President Chirac's commitment to the Entente Cordiale was particularly evident in his efforts to enhance Franco-British history of the Entente Cordiale cooperation within the European Union and NATO.

He advocated between France and the United Kingdom for closer collaboration between the two countries on matters of European integration, defence, security, and foreign policy.

Additionally, President Chirac prioritized cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections between France and the UK, recognizing the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations. Through initiatives promoting cultural exchange, De Gaulle's leadership during education, and tourism, he sought to deepen mutual understanding World War II and his role in the and appreciation between the peoples of France and Britain.

## General Charles de Gaulle (The Warriors Entente Cordiale Prizes)

General Charles de Gaulle played a pivotal role in the history of the Entente Cordiale between France and the United Kingdom. The Appeal of 18 June was the first speech made by Charles de Gaulle after his arrival in London in 1940 following the Battle of France.



De Gaulle's leadership during World War II and his role in the Free French Forces earned him respect and admiration from the British people and government. His collaboration with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and other Allied leaders was instrumental in coordinating military strategies and efforts to defeat Nazi Germany, laying the foundation for a strong alliance between France and the UK.

Throughout his political career, de Gaulle's leadership and statesmanship helped to consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation established by the Entente Cordiale, contributing to a legacy of enduring partnership between France and the United Kingdom.

# The French Entente Cordiale Prizes



## Paul Cambon

(The Signatories Entente Cordiale Prizes)

Paul Cambon, a distinguished French diplomat, played a pivotal role in the negotiation and implementation of the Entente Cordiale between France and the United Kingdom. As the French Ambassador to the United Kingdom from 1898 to 1920, Cambon was at the forefront of diplomatic efforts to strengthen Franco-British relations during a crucial period in European history.

Cambon's tenure as ambassador coincided with a period of shifting alliances and heightened geopolitical tensions in Europe. Recognising the need for closer cooperation between France and Britain, he worked tirelessly to cultivate a strong rapport with key figures in the British

government and society including Prime Minister Lord Salisbury. His diplomatic skills and tactful approach were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Entente Cordiale, which he signed on behalf of the French Republic on April 8th, 1904.

Throughout the negotiation process, Cambon played a central role in bridging the gap between French and British interests, advocating for mutual understanding and compromise. His diplomatic efforts culminated in the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904, which marked a significant milestone in Franco-British relations and laid the foundation for future cooperation on diplomatic, military, and economic front.

## George Grosz

(The Friends Entente Cordiale Prizes)



With the help of some fellow alumni, George was the founder of the Association of LSE Alumni in France in 1982 and remained the honorary president until his death in 2021.

George was a great friend of the alliance and one of its most vocal supporters.

George once said that LSE left an indelible stamp on his life, and we can say that he left an indelible stamp on ours.

# The US Entente Cordiale Prizes

To mark the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence (1776–2026), the Entente Cordiale Summit is proud to launch the US Entente Cordiale Prizes.

## A Transatlantic Legacy for the Next Generation

Together, the US Entente Cordiale Prizes celebrate five enduring qualities that remain essential for the future:

- The exchange of ideas and intellectual curiosity
- Leadership and cooperation
- Dialogue and partnership
- Strategy and innovation
- Vision and the shaping of the future

By honouring the legacy of the American Founding Fathers and the French heroes of American independence, the Entente Cordiale Challenge invites the next generation of students and innovators to carry forward the spirit of transatlantic cooperation, intellectual curiosity, and creative problem-solving that continues to unite the United States, France, and the United Kingdom.

## Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States & The Marquis de Lafayette, French Hero of American Independence

(The Jefferson-Lafayette Entente Cordiale Prize)

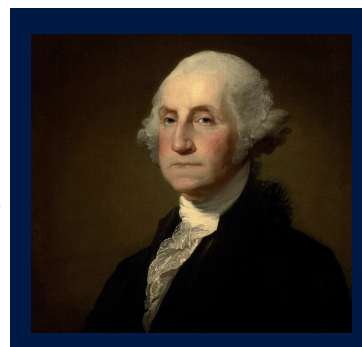


Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd President of the United States and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, championed liberty, democracy, and the rule of law. Marquis de Lafayette, French aristocrat and general, was a leading advocate for liberty and a key military supporter of American independence.

Together, Jefferson and Lafayette historically embodied the advancement of democratic values, intellectual exchange, and innovative thinking that strengthens the principles of freedom and human dignity. The Jefferson–Lafayette Entente Cordiale Prize celebrates creativity, intellectual curiosity, and the exchange of ideas that drive progress and innovation across disciplines.

## George Washington, 1st President of the United States & General Rochambeau, Winner of Yorktown

(The Washington-Rochambeau Entente Cordiale Prize)

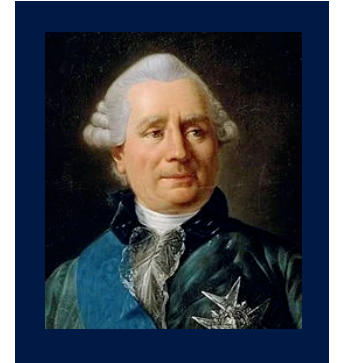
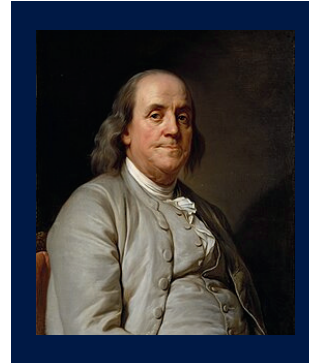


George Washington, the first President of the United States, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and a central figure in securing American independence.

General Rochambeau, French commander, led troops to support the American revolutionaries and played a decisive role at the Siege of Yorktown. Washington and Rochambeau exemplified leadership, trust, and cooperation in achieving victory through the Franco-American alliance. The Washington–Rochambeau Entente Cordiale Prize celebrates student projects that demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and the capacity to bring people together to address complex challenges.

# The US Entente Cordiale Prizes

## Benjamin Franklin, Founding Fathers of the United States & Count of Vergennes, Architect of the Franco-American Alliance

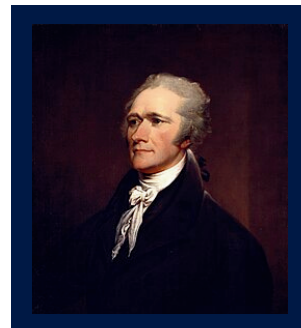


### (The Franklin-Vergennes Entente Cordiale Prize)

Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, diplomat, scientist, and statesman, known as the Father of the Franco-American Alliance for securing French support during the American Revolution.

Charles Gravier, French Foreign Minister, architect of the Franco-American alliance and key to international diplomacy. Franklin and Vergennes embodied visionary diplomacy and the ability to build enduring alliances in pursuit of freedom and international cooperation. The Franklin–Vergennes Entente Cordiale Prize celebrates students whose work fosters collaboration, partnership, and innovative approaches to global challenges.

## Alexander Hamilton, First US Secretary of the Treasury & Admiral de Grasse, Winner of Chesapeake

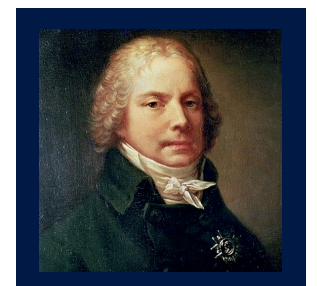


### (The Hamilton-De Grasse Entente Cordiale Prize)

Alexander Hamilton, the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, military aide to Washington, and architect of the financial foundations of the United States. Admiral de Grasse, French naval commander, ensured victory at the Battle of the Chesapeake, enabling the Franco-American triumph at Yorktown. Hamilton and De Grasse exemplified strategic vision, innovation, and the decisive coordination of land and naval power that led to American independence.

The Hamilton–De Grasse Entente Cordiale Prize celebrates students whose projects demonstrate strategic thinking, ingenuity, or innovation with the potential for transformative impact.

## James Madison, 4<sup>th</sup> President of United States & Talleyrand, Chief Diplomat of Louisiana Purchase



### (The Madison-Talleyrand Entente Cordiale Prize)

James Madison, the 4th President of the United States and “Father of the Constitution,” architect of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand, French diplomat and statesman, renowned for his mastery of negotiation and shaping the course of European and transatlantic diplomacy.

Madison and Talleyrand exemplified foresight, governance, and the art of shaping institutions and international relations for lasting stability. The Madison–Talleyrand Entente Cordiale Prize celebrates students whose work advances solutions for governance, institutional design, or policy innovation that can shape a better future.

# UK Finalist Teams:

<p>“Hearts of Steel: Making European Electronic Health Records resilient to cyberattacks and increasing the immunity of medical supply chains”</p> <p><b>Raphaël Maurer, Ariel Giovannetti, Rafael Moreno López</b> <i>King’s College London</i></p>	<p>“SaaS: Security as a Service and the Role of Private Tech in the Global South”</p> <p><b>Pranav Harish, Eisa Faisal Iqbal, Nicolas Boojindasup Valladolid</b> <i>London School of Economics and Political Science</i></p>
<p>“Biometric Surveillance: A tool for national security or political authoritarianism?”</p> <p><b>Teleri Rosina Selby, Katie Rose Dolan, Hailey Lynn Wilson</b> <i>University College London</i></p>	<p>“THE AGE OF WIRE AND STRING: Towards a Just Strategic Assessment Methodology for European FPV Drone Deployments”</p> <p><b>Cain Peter Hillier, Harry Louis Johnson, Daniel Kam Chun Ernn</b> <i>University of Cambridge</i></p>
<p>“ENTANGLED SYSTEMS: A Framework for Post-Quantum European Resilience”</p> <p><b>Giovanni Louigi Lacroix, Samuel Yves Lionel Fedida, Ruben Benjamin Elie Dahan</b> <i>University of Cambridge</i></p>	<p>“The grey zone: navigating sovereignty in the age of cyberwarfare”</p> <p><b>Alice Brunteaux, Samuel English, Miranda Fitzpatrick</b> <i>University of Cambridge</i></p>
<p>“ICSO Out of This World: Solving the Problem of Space Debris”</p> <p><b>Abdul Mateen Bin Kamal, Tay Zhe Qian, Tan Ee Ning Maegan</b> <i>University of Cambridge</i></p>	<p>“Groundwater Under Pressure: Incentives and Policy Recommendations to Manage Pakistan’s Water Crisis”</p> <p><b>Lea Milanini, Inaaya Salim, Syna Jain</b> <i>University of Cambridge</i></p>
<p>“From Extraction to Remediation: Technological Innovation and Indigenous Governance in West Papua’s Nickel Mining Sector”</p> <p><b>Sua Cho, Khin Thazin, Amalia Ghina Alfiya</b> <i>University of Oxford</i></p>	<p>“The New Home Front: Addressing Catastrophic Cyber Vulnerabilities from Undersea to Orbit”</p> <p><b>Zachary Turinsky, Alexander Beck, Yassin Hachi</b> <i>University of Oxford</i></p>

# French Finalist Teams:

COP TECH : Repenser la sécurité internationale dans un contexte de conflictualité transformée par l'innovation

Maud Archer, Alice Faure, Danaé Deleest

HEC -Paris

"Proliférer pour ne pas laisser proliférer : le cas d'une dissuasion nucléaire tactique française au service de l'Europe."

Léon Bourgueil, Jules Dagher, Noé Hourton

LSE - Panthéon-Sorbonne - SciencesPo

The Signal in the Noise: A Franco-British Shield Against Hybrid Warfare

Pierre-Jean Clause, Grace Casanova Avila, Camilo Juan Saldarriaga

Ecole doctorale de la Sorbonne / ESCP

La désinformation algorithmique au coeur de la défiance démocratique moderne

Metisse Clain, Jeanne Dannenhoffer, Romain Debreu

Les Jeunes IHEDN

"Mining the Gap: Integrating Digital Foresight and Circularity to Secure EU Mineral Supply Chains"

Alice Borges Moron, Athéna Benzarti Simon, Sophia Radis

"Cyber-École de la Résilience : Stratégie de déploiement d'une infrastructure éducative sécurisée en zone de conflit sahélienne"

Abdelmoumene Aftis, Jean Dutertre, Celine Lin

La Sorbonne

"When Will Luck Run Out? The Future of Autonomous Weapons Regulation"

Axelle Le Garec, Isabella Martins, Caterina Boico

SciencesPo

"L'Arctique : le laboratoire géopolitique du futur"

Tanguy Belotti, Romain Montanelli, Nikolai Ropa

EDHEC

The Timor Protocol: Breaking the Climate-Crisis in Post-Conflict States

Margherita Greco, Cassidy Chan, Patrick Andrianopoulos

SciencesPo

The Digital Battlefield: Franco-British Strategy to Restore Human Control & Accountability in AI-Driven Warfare

Mehdi Hajji, Tristan Ledinek Jesovnik, Fady El Yacoubi

Université Dauphine - PSL

# Meet the Entente Cordiale Team

## Student Management Board



**Clara Chevalier**  
French President



**Martha Leszczynski**  
UK President



**Joy Wang**  
VP of Communications  
(GLOBAL)



**Zian Vigny**  
VP of Academics (France)



**Brandon Tay**  
VP of Academics (UK)



**Shiori Nakatani**  
VP of Sponsorship  
(UK)



**Oscar Quispe**  
VP of IT (GLOBAL)



**Jaden Zhu**  
VP of Logistics  
(GLOBAL)



**Samuel Rea-Rankin**  
VP of Operations  
(GLOBAL)



**Rachel Zhang**  
VP of Partnerships  
(UK)

# Meet the Entente Cordiale Team

## Alumni Supervisory Board



**Didier Chaudet**  
Geopolitical Advisor,  
Entente Cordiale Day



**Susan Walton**  
Think Tank & Philanthropy  
Advisor, Entente Cordiale Day



**Camille Foley**  
Logistics Advisor,  
Entente Cordiale Day



**Antoine Hillion**  
Institutional Communications  
Advisor, Entente Cordiale Day



**Marie-Helene Blattmann-  
Lenoir**  
University Affairs Advisor,  
Entente Cordiale Day



**Max Buechner**  
Defence Advisor,  
Entente Cordiale Day



**Franck Debane**  
Technological Advisor,  
Entente Cordiale Day



**Adel Baba-Aissa**  
Strategy Advisor,  
Entente Cordiale Day

# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

# Sponsors



## MBDA

MBDA is a unique multi-national European group and a world-leader in the field of complex weapon systems

Established through the merging of Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo's missile activities, MBDA brings together state-of-the-art expertise in Complex Weapon Systems. By delivering decisive military capabilities to European nations and their allies around the world, MBDA plays a major role in supporting their strategic independence, protecting their national security and preserving their land, air and maritime sovereignty.

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## MobilitySoft



MobilitySoft is a technology company specialising in advanced mobility solutions powered by artificial intelligence.

They are specialised in design, development, publishing, marketing, distribution, maintenance, and operation of software, applications, algorithms, and digital solutions, particularly in the fields of public transport, artificial intelligence, data science, automation, and embedded systems.

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## Champagne Pol Roger



Champagne Pol Roger is a prestigious family-owned Champagne house, internationally recognised for its excellence and heritage.

Founded in 1849, the house has built a distinguished reputation for producing refined and elegant champagnes using traditional methods and grapes sourced from some of the finest vineyards in the Champagne region. With an unwavering commitment to quality, precision, and craftsmanship, Pol Roger continues to uphold its legacy across generations. Its wines are celebrated worldwide for their consistency, balance, and timeless character.



SUMERSON

## Sumerson

Sumerson is a forward-looking organisation dedicated to delivering high-quality services and innovative solutions across its field of expertise.

With a strong emphasis on professionalism, reliability, and long-term partnerships, the company supports its clients through tailored strategies and meticulous execution. Sumerson's commitment to continuous improvement and adaptability enables it to respond effectively to evolving market conditions. By combining expertise with a client-focused approach, the organisation ensures consistent delivery of value in a dynamic global environment.



## CMA CGM

CMA CGM is a global leader in shipping and logistics, operating in more than 160 countries worldwide.

Founded in France, the Group offers comprehensive maritime, land, air, and logistics solutions that facilitate international trade and global connectivity. Through continuous investment in innovation and digital transformation, CMA CGM enhances efficiency and service quality across its network. Committed to sustainability, the Group is actively engaged in reducing the environmental impact of its operations while supporting responsible and resilient global supply chains.



## HAVAS

Havas is one of the world's leading global communications groups, with a long-standing history of innovation and creativity.

Founded in 1835, the Group operates in over 100 countries, providing integrated services across advertising, media, and creative industries. Havas combines creativity, data, and technology to deliver meaningful and impactful communication strategies. Guided by its mission to make a positive difference to brands, businesses, and society, the Group continues to shape the future of responsible and engaging communications.

# Gift Sponsors



CHAMPAGNE  
**POL ROGER**

## Champagne Pol Roger

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## ONOTO

Onoto is a distinguished British brand specialising in fine writing instruments, renowned for its heritage and craftsmanship.

Established in the early twentieth century, Onoto produces luxury pens that combine traditional techniques with modern precision engineering. Each instrument is crafted with meticulous attention to detail, reflecting a commitment to timeless design and enduring quality. The brand continues to appeal to collectors and professionals who value excellence, authenticity, and the art of fine writing.

## Château Beauchêne



Château Beauchêne is a family-owned winery located in the Rhône Valley, with a history rooted in tradition and expertise.

The estate produces a diverse range of wines that reflect the richness of its terroir and the precision of its winemaking practices. Combining generations of knowledge with modern techniques, Château Beauchêne maintains a strong commitment to quality and authenticity. Its wines are recognised for their character, balance, and expression of regional identity.

# Gift Partners



## Montres LIP

Château Beauchêne is a family-owned winery located in the Rhône Valley, with a history rooted in tradition and expertise. The estate produces a diverse range of wines that reflect the richness of its terroir and the precision of its winemaking practices. Combining generations of knowledge with modern techniques, Château Beauchêne maintains a strong commitment to quality and authenticity. Its wines are recognised for their character, balance, and expression of regional identity.

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## Conway Stewart



Conway Stewart is a prestigious British manufacturer of luxury writing instruments, renowned for its craftsmanship and heritage.

Established in 1905, the brand is synonymous with elegance, precision, and attention to detail. Each pen is handcrafted using traditional techniques and the finest materials, ensuring exceptional quality and performance. Conway Stewart continues to uphold its reputation for excellence, offering refined writing instruments that embody British tradition and sophistication.

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## Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

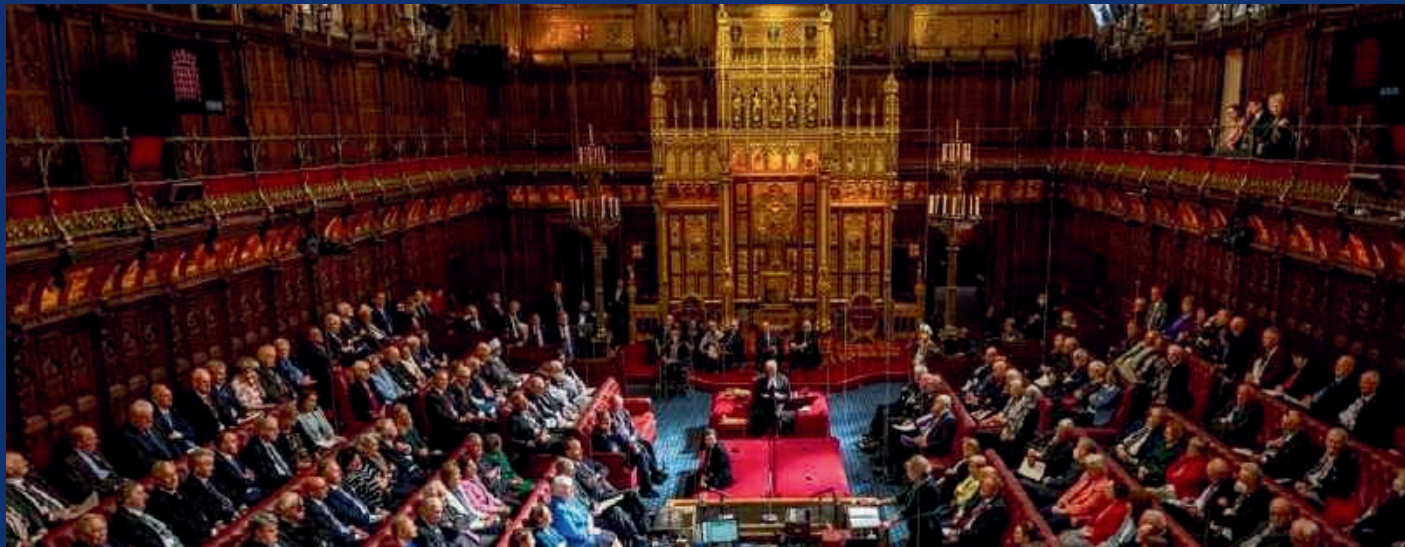


The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is dedicated to environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development.

Established to address critical global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and water resource management, the Foundation supports impactful initiatives worldwide. Through international partnerships, scientific engagement, and advocacy, it works to preserve natural ecosystems and promote long-term environmental resilience. Its actions contribute to building a more sustainable future for generations to come.

# Upcoming Alumni Summit

## 2 July 2026 - Paris



### Context and spirit of the initiative:

Created to strengthen Franco-British ties through dialogue, cooperation, and the sharing of experience between decision-makers, experts, and talent from both countries, the Entente Cordiale Day Alumni community organises an annual high-level meeting focused on a theme emblematic of the relationship between France and the United Kingdom.

This initiative is part of an exceptional institutional framework and benefits from the high patronage of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom and the President of the French Republic, underscoring its strategic, cultural, and economic importance. In July 2024, the first Alumni meeting was held at the House of Lords under the theme “London 2012 – Paris 2024: History, Vision, Legacy.” Sponsored by Lord Soames, it brought together leading speakers and was widely regarded as a great success.

Building on this momentum, a new event is planned for Paris in July 2026, with the aim of further strengthening ties between the French and British ecosystems, particularly in the fields of the creative industries and luxury goods.

### Event Details:

Proposed dates: Thursday 2 July

Proposed theme: “Paris Fashion Week & London Fashion Week: creative rivalry, strategic complementarity and global influence”

Proposed Venue: Fondation des Etats-Unis

Schedule: Conference-debate 6-8pm, followed by a cocktail party or dinner

The aim of this event is to promote high-level networking and strategic dialogue between key players in the two countries.

# Vision 2026-2036 Entente Cordiale Summit

## Proposed Dates Entente Cordiale Day Summit Provisional 10-Year Strategic Planning Calendar Vision 2026–2036

### 2026 – France

Tuesday 7 April 2026 – Opening Ceremony – Les Invalides

Wednesday 8 April 2026 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Château de Breteuil

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: Sorbonne Paris (8 April 2026)

### 2027 – United Kingdom

Wednesday 7 April 2027 – Opening Ceremony – Royal Hospital Chelsea

Thursday 8 April 2027 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Hatfield House

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: University of Oxford (8 April 2027)

### 2028 – France

Wednesday 5 April 2028 – Opening Ceremony – Les Invalides

Thursday 6 April 2028 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Château de Breteuil

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: EDHEC Business School (6 April 2028)

### 2029 – United Kingdom

Monday 9 April 2029 – Opening Ceremony – Royal Hospital Chelsea

Tuesday 10 April 2029 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Hatfield House

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: King's College London (10 April 2029)

### 2030 – France

Monday 8 April 2030 – Opening Ceremony – Les Invalides

Tuesday 9 April 2030 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Château de Breteuil

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: École Polytechnique (9 April 2030)

PAGE 3 – CALENDAR (PART 2)

### 2031 – United Kingdom

Monday 7 April 2031 – Opening Ceremony – Royal Hospital Chelsea

Tuesday 8 April 2031 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Hatfield House

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: University of Cambridge (8 April 2031)

### 2032 – France

Wednesday 7 April 2032 – Opening Ceremony – Les Invalides

Thursday 8 April 2032 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Château de Breteuil

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: HEC Paris (8 April 2032)

# Vision for Entente Cordiale

## 2026-36

### **2033 – United Kingdom**

Wednesday 6 April 2033 – Opening Ceremony – Royal Hospital Chelsea

Thursday 7 April 2033 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Hatfield House

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: Imperial College London (7 April 2033)

### **2034 – France**

Monday 3 April 2034 – Opening Ceremony – Les Invalides

Tuesday 4 April 2034 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Château de Breteuil

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: CentraleSupélec – Paris Saclay University  
(4 April 2034)

### **2035 – United Kingdom**

Monday 9 April 2035 – Opening Ceremony – Royal Hospital Chelsea

Tuesday 10 April 2035 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Hatfield House

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: UCL (10 April 2035)

### **2036 – France**

Monday 7 April 2036 – Opening Ceremony – Les Invalides

Tuesday 8 April 2036 – Awards & Closing Ceremony – Château de Breteuil

Entente Cordiale Challenge Finals Hosting University: Paris (8 April 2036)

*“Monsieur le President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I pay tribute to the nation of France, as Kipling wrote: ‘First to follow Truth and last to leave old Truths behind – France, beloved of every soul that loves its fellow-kind!’ And I ask you to join me in a toast to the French Republic, to the President and to the people of France.”*

**- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, final remarks to the People of France,**

*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”*

**- Sir Winston Churchill**

*“There exists an immemorial covenant between the greatness of France and the freedom of the world.”*

**- General de Gaulle**

*“The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind; she is destined to become the safe and venerable asylum of virtue, of honesty, of tolerance, and quality and of peaceful liberty.”*

**- Marquis de Lafayette**

*“Every man has two countries : his own and France.”*

**- Thomas Jefferson & Benjamin Franklin**

## Thank You...

**to our Patrons: His Majesty The King & The President of France.**

Our sincerest thanks go out to...

The team at Buckingham Palace: Sir Clive Alderton, Private Secretary to HM The King; Theo Rycroft, Deputy Private Secretary to HM The King; and Caroline Creer from the Office of the Private Secretary to HM The King. At the Élysée Palace, thanks go to Monsieur George-Francois Leclerc, Directeur de Cabinet du Président de la République, to Monsieur Patrice Faure, former Directeur de Cabinet du Président de la République and now Prefect of Paris, and Nicolas Guilbert (Stagiaire at the Elysee Palace).

We are grateful to our host for the Entente Cordiale Day Opening Ceremony, General Gravethe, and the wonderful team at the Invalides: Franck Moulai (Protocol Officer), Ludovic Bouchard and Stephanie Merle (Event Managers), Florence Duhot (Director of Communications), the external caterer Kaspia, the Governor Military of Paris, the Governor of the Invalides and all the Pensioners of the Invalides for their very kind and generous hospitality in hosting us in their home.

Thank you to our host for the Closing Ceremony at the Chateau de Breteuil, The Count and Countess of Breteuil, the Marquis de Breteuil, and their fantastic team: Fanny (Exec), Christine (Press & Media Support), Erwin (Gardener), and Antonio (Security) the external caterer Gaulpeau from Versailles.

Thank you to this year's host university, Pantheon-Sorbonne, its President and Vice Chancellor, Professor Christine Neau-Leduc, and the amazing team at the Sorbonne: Tristan Mitatre (Deputy Chief of the Staff), Raphael Poirie (Chief of Staff)

Finally, thank you to all our stakeholders and to our participating universities, students and student societies that support our mission, ambition and vision. To all those not listed who support and promote the Entente Cordiale Day and the University Challenge and to our team, once again, thank you.

We also thank our Alumni Summit host the Fondation des Etats-Unis, the French Embassy in London, Dr Patrick Nedelec and his team as well as the French Embassy; Ambassador and her team, the UK Embassy in Paris, the Ambassador, the Deputy Ambassador, James Addison, General Cresswell, and Alexander Kirri.

We also thank our host for the Grand Conference at the Ecole Militaire, General de Courreges, President of the IHEDN and Paris Defense Strategy Forum, the fantastic and amazing support from General Oustric, with his team at the ACADEM and the Paris Defence Strategy Forum, LCL Hugues Fleury, LCL de Luca, Emilie Cleret, Christian Berlaumont, Jean Bolling. Thank you to all the keynote speakers and our guests of honour from London Defence Conference Iain Martin, Director, and the Gothia Defence Forum with Anna Jaderstrom, Co-Founder.

Additional thanks go to Tristan Poli and Gilles Morel (from the Grenadiers of Napoleon), to Jean-Marie Le Gall and Anne-Laure Kassubeck (from the Orchestra of the University of Paris), and Francois Meyer (from the Hunting Horn Society or Rallye des Trompes de Chasse du Parc aux Cerfs du Château de Versailles).

Coach Service: Anderson Travel

Claude Bigeon: Photography

Mathieu Evin: Videography

Stephen Clarke: Historian and guide in Napoleon's Church



## Entente Cordiale Day 2026

Celebrating our Past, Transforming our Future

Website: [www.ententecordialeday.org](http://www.ententecordialeday.org)

Instagram: [@ententecordialeday](https://www.instagram.com/ententecordialeday)

Email: [entente.cordiale.challenge@gmail.com](mailto:entente.cordiale.challenge@gmail.com)

LinkedIn: Entente Cordiale University

Challenge

Front cover image: Franco-British Exhibition Poster, 1904  
Hatfield House images courtesy of Pete Seaward

