Entente Cordiale Challenge 2026-2027

What is the Entente Cordiale Initiative?

A distinguished history





On March 12,1881, 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, Co-Chair & French Honorary President of Entente Cordiale Day) meet in the Smoking Room of the Chateau de Breteuil, paving the way for the **Entente Cordiale,** signed on **April 8,1904**, ending centuries of war and conflict between Britain and France.

What is the Entente Cordiale Initiative?

A view toward the future

- Exactly **120 years later, on 8 April 8, 2024, the** Entente Cordiale Day initiative was launched at the Chateau de Breteuil, its mission: to honor Queen Elizabeth II and 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 of the President of France, Monsieur Emmanuel Macron
- Under the joint Family Patronage of the Marquis de Breteuil and the Marquess of Salisbury, and the dual Royal and Presidential Patronage of His Majesty The King and the President of the French Republic, the Entente Cordiale Day Prizes reflect a shared heritage spanning more than four centuries, while engaging with contemporary challenges and debates.



Top-tier institutions

Inspired by Davos World Economic Forum's mission and recognising the excellence of UK and French – and now American -- top-tier academics institutions in training international leaders globally, the Entente Cordiale Day aims to become a forum where current students and future leaders meet annually in April to present to today's global leaders their ideas, recommendations and innovative solutions to tackle the most pressing global challenges.

UK Universities


Oxford University


Cambridge University


London School of Economics


University College of London


King's College London


Imperial College of London

French Universities


Sorbonne University


Sciences Po Paris


Centrale Supelec Paris


EDHEC Business School



University Paris Dauphine PSL



ESSEC Business School

US Universities


The George Washington University


William & Mary


Lafayette College


University of Virginia


Columbia University


The University of Alabama



International Advisory Board

The Supervisory Board and International Advisory Board, composed of senior figures from law, finance, academia, public institutions, and international affairs bodies, advise on strategic direction and institutional positioning.


Sasha Rinkevich ‘27
William & Mary Branch President

A student-led initiative

The Entente Cordiale Challenge brings together students from leading universities to conceive, organise and represent joint academic and cultural initiatives.

The Leadership Team is supported by a network of Division Members across the university network, who contribute to the work of the initiative and represent it within their respective institutions

Why W&M was invited to participate

Inspired by the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence and to celebrate the pivotal role played by France in America's fight for freedom, the Entente Cordiale University Challenge opened their platform to a select group of leading American universities to reinforce the Challenge's **transatlantic**, **historical** and **global** dimension in its mission of **academic excellence, civic education and the transmission of shared heritage**.

Their purpose is also to show how alliance, sacrifice, diplomacy and shared purpose helped shape America's birth and the Declaration of Independence itself—lessons that remain essential at a time of profound global uncertainty.

Why W&M is participating

IT'S A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENTS!

- Student-driven research
- Tackling an important issue in a multi-disciplinary way
- Competing on a global stage
- Meeting and competing with peers in top universities
- Networking with leaders in academia, public policy, government, non-profits, media and more

Entente Cordiale 2025-2026:

Conflicts, Technologies and World Security









2026/2027 Challenge: Artificial Intelligence, Power and Ethics

The 2026/2027 Challenge moves away from abstract definitions of AI.

“We treat Artificial Intelligence not as a neutral software tool, but as a lever of power that carries profound ethical consequences.”

Submissions must not simply describe an AI technology; they must identify a specific locus of power it alters and propose a concrete technical, regulatory, or governance framework to ethically manage that shift.

Definition: Artificial Intelligence

All computational models and technologies that are able to do tasks usually associated with human intelligence. This encompasses both machine learning and non-learning algorithms - consider a wider range of applications than the recent arrival of large language models (LLMs).

Technical submissions proposing engineering architectures, algorithmic designs, or scientific frameworks are as central to this challenge as policy or legal proposals.

Furthermore, we actively seek submissions that propose viable business models, market incentives, or corporate governance structures that align profitability with ethical AI deployment. The competition does not privilege one mode of solution over another.

Definition: Ethics

This moves beyond vague notions of “fairness”. It requires addressing specific structural harms: for example, accountability vacuums in autonomous decision-making, the amplification of systemic biases, the erosion of cognitive liberty, resource extraction, or the tension between national security imperatives and individual human rights.

Submissions should consider how these ethical principles can be operationalized within corporate governance structures, product lifecycles, and engineering pipelines.

Definition: Power

The capacity to direct, control, or influence the behaviour of actors or the allocation of resources. This includes sovereign power (state surveillance, defence, border control), market power (monopolies, labour displacement, data harvesting), and discursive power (control over information ecosystems, epistemic trust, and public narrative).

In a commercial context, this includes supply chain dominance, computational monopolies, algorithmic pricing control, and the power to dictate industry standards.

Four Tracks



Track A: Sovereign Power & Geopolitical Security

This track addresses how states and defense contractors deploy AI to project power, secure critical infrastructure, or maintain domestic order, and the technical and ethical guardrails required to prevent systemic overreach.



Track B: Market Consolidation & Labor Autonomy

This track investigates the shifting power dynamics driven by hyper-consolidated technology sectors, the business models that sustain them (e.g., compute-as-a-service, data scraping), and their impact on global labor markets.



Track C: Information Integrity & Algorithmic Liability

This track targets the business models and algorithms that drive the information economy, focusing on the erosion of shared reality and the technical/regulatory mechanisms needed to assign liability and restore trust.



Track D: Independent Focus

You can define your own specific intersection outside of Tracks A, B & C. The report must still target a specific, identifiable power imbalance caused by AI, and propose a concrete, actionable framework to resolve it.

Teams & Papers

- Teams of 3 students – no limit to number of teams
- Looking for teammates? Submit your information to an excel list and see who else is looking.
- Teams submit directly to Entente Cordiale, but we ask that you share with us your title and names of team members, so we can see the titles of projects
- Any discipline and undergraduate or graduate
- May seek advice/mentorship from a faculty member, but the paper must be original and written by the students
- The handbook supplies specific instructions and guidance on everything from structure and format to word limits and the use of AI
- You can review the winning papers from last year here.

2026 - 2027 Timeline

October 30, 2026: Team Registration Deadline

January 10, 2027: Report Submission Deadline

February 18, 2027: Publication of Written Jury Results

April 7-8, 2027: Entente Cordiale Day Summit

Questions?

How can we support you?

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