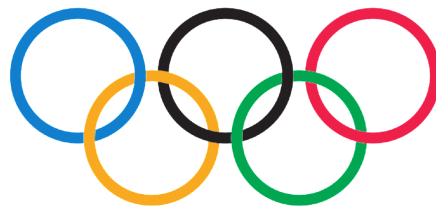


*Kings Christian Collegiate Model United Nations*

*International Olympic Committee*



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

*Michael Dovale*  
*December 13, 2024*

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## **Welcome Letter**

Dear King'sMUN 2025 delegates,

We are truly honoured, as this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, to welcome you to our 11th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with a variety of unique committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to a variety of pressing issues that plague our current world. In most committees, students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for both real and fictional issues and crises. We provide distinctive committees that delve into historical events, future scenarios, and fictional topics.

In our personal experience with MUN, we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we are constantly meeting delegates who share similar passions to us in committee sessions. We truly believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (ie. UNSC and the ICJ) and issues in sports (ie. English Premier League and International Olympic Committee) to fictional, yet applicable issues (ie. Pokémon) and issues set in our very own communities (ie. Government of Ontario). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope that you engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2025.

Sincerely,

Aryan Suri and Luciana Ilic

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2025

## **Background Info**

The Olympics is an international competition where different athletes from countries around the world compete for their country in various events like swimming, running, shooting, etc. Since 1992, the games have been held every two years, alternating between summer and winter. The top three finishers of each of the individual competitions receive a medal, with first place receiving a gold medal, second place receiving a silver medal, and third place receiving a bronze medal. Originating in Ancient Greece, the Olympic games were known as “ta Olympia,” where they hosted games in Olympia from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. The modern Olympic games were founded in 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who started the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The International Olympic Committee is a non-governmental, not-for-profit sport organization and the governing body of the Olympic Movement, which encompasses all entities and individuals involved in the Olympic Games. It was founded to promote, regulate, and oversee the modern Olympic games. The Olympic games also aim to build a better world through education, sport, and promoting peace. The IOC is responsible for selecting the host city, overseeing the planning of the Olympic Games, updating and approving the Olympic sports programme, and negotiating sponsorship and broadcasting rights. The Olympic games have had numerous impacts on the world today, such as boosting the economy due to more tourism in the host city and country, peace and development all over the world through sport, and a cultural exchange between people from all over the world. The Olympic Village can be the centrepiece, with athletes connecting and tourists visiting the village throughout the games. The IOC has faced many controversies due to the poor living conditions athletes must live in and the overall hosting fatigue that cities face when it comes to hosting the Olympics. The host cities for the Olympics are responsible for the funding and are therefore in charge of creating the villages for the athletes. Some think the IOC should be more involved with the funding process.

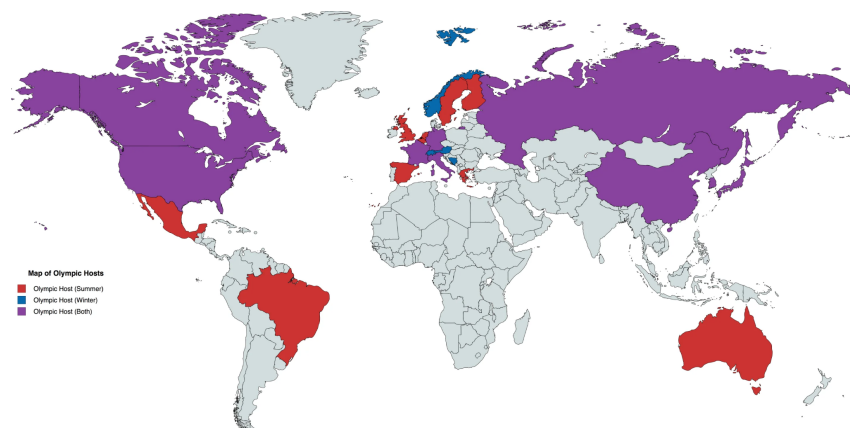


Figure 1: Map of countries that have hosted the Olympic games

### Topic 1: Standards of living in the Olympic Village

The Olympic Village is a residential complex that houses athletes, officials, and athletic trainers throughout the Olympic Games. For the first Olympic Games, there were no official living arrangements for all the athletes to stay in. Athletes often stayed in hotels, schools, barracks, and even boats.

In 1924, the idea came up that the International Olympic Committee should oversee providing participants of the games with proper accommodation, bedding, and food. The 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles was considered the first modern-day Olympic Village, providing male athletes with rooms, food, and even places to train. This village would then be seen as the model for today's Olympic villages. These villages were going to be built to be sustainable, meaning that cities would use the buildings after the games were over. The following are a list of all Olympic Villages:

- Los Angeles 1932
- Berlin 1936
- Helsinki 1952
- Squaw Valley 1960
- Rome 1960
- Innsbruck 1964
- Tokyo 1964
- Mexico City 1968
- Munich 1972
- Montreal 1976
- Lake Placid 1980

- Moscow 1980
- Sarajevo 1984
- Los Angeles 1984
- Calgary 1988
- Seoul 1988
- Barcelona 1992
- Lillehammer 1994
- Atlanta 1996
- Nagano 1998
- Sydney 2000
- Salt Lake City 2002
- Athens 2004
- Turin 2006
- Beijing 2008
- Vancouver 2010
- London 2012
- Sochi 2014
- Rio de Janeiro 2016
- Pyeongchang 2018
- Tokyo 2020
- Beijing 2022
- Paris 2024

The intention of the Olympic Villages to connect athletes is positive; it is hindered by poor living conditions, leading people to want it to end. For example, during the 2016 Rio Olympics, due to the poor construction of the living quarters, athletes complained about blocked toilets, electrical problems like exposed wires and lights not working, and even leaks in the ceiling. The athletes complained about what they had to deal with when trying to compete, with many calling the conditions “Uninhabitable.” These issues were a result of the rushed timelines for the projects, and it cost the construction companies involved in building the facilities to miss key details. After these games in 2016, the problems only grew with the following Olympic games having more complaints not only because of unfinished construction. During the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, athletes would complain about

leaving the village entirely because of the conditions. This time, it wasn't because of poor construction but instead of basic amenities not accessible to people living in the village. Videos would go viral across the internet, with athletes showing off their cardboard beds with a thin mattress topper on top, no air conditioning in the heat, poor internet connection, subpar food quality, and limited hot water. These complaints led many athletes to leave the village, and some even chose to sleep outside because it was cooler.

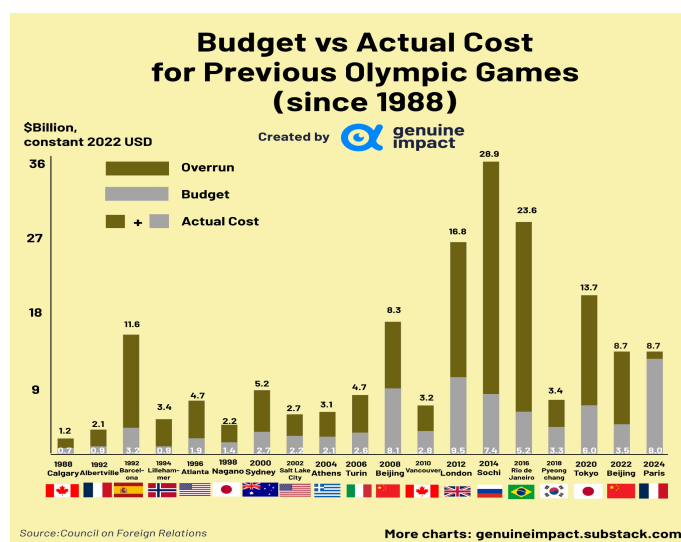


Figure 2: Overrun and budget for hosting the Olympics

This budget crisis of countries spending so much money yet not creating good living conditions in the Olympic Villages has everyone questioning how the money is being spent, why there are budget cuts, and why the villages aren't improving. This has people talking about eliminating the Olympic Villages altogether. With the constant complaints from people staying in the Village to athletes leaving the Village and not even staying there, many people are starting to see the village as a waste of time and money.

## Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs cover all pressing issues within the world, and they are developed by the United Nations. It is a global partnership where all nations come together to eradicate issues the world faces. The poor living conditions within the Olympic Villages connect with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being. The main connection is to SDG 9- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. The rushed timelines of Olympic projects often lead to subpar

structures that cannot sustain short-term use, let alone serve as part of the city's legacy infrastructure. Poor construction quality in the Olympic Villages, such as faulty plumbing, leaks, and electrical problems, shows they need to prioritize resilient and durable infrastructure. This violates the principles of SDG 9, which calls for infrastructure that is both functional and long-lasting. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth also come into play with rushed timelines, meaning exploitation of the construction workers. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being are involved in poor living conditions, which affect many athletes having trouble sleeping due to the uncomfortable beds and extremely hot rooms as a result of no air conditioning.



Overall, the Olympics have faced controversy involving the poor living conditions and lack of improvement inside the village, leading to talks about scrapping the Olympic Villages altogether.

### Questions to consider

1. Should the IOC scrap the Olympic Villages? Why or why not?
2. Can the IOC solve the issue of poor living conditions? Why or why not?
3. Do the positives of having an Olympic Village outweigh the negatives?
4. What are some possible solutions to increase the living conditions in the villages?



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## Topic 2: Hosting Fatigue

Every Olympic Games since 1960 has run over budget. There are numerous reasons why they have been over budget. Still, these reasons will all link back to the host cities having to pay for every expense when it comes to hosting with very little help from the International Olympic Committee. Another reason countries don't want to host is the strict and fixed deadlines. The opening date for the Olympic Games cannot be moved, so everything needs to be completed before that date. Therefore when problems occur, there can be no trade-off between schedule and costs. Due to the high costs when it comes to hosting the Games, many countries and cities are not interested in hosting the Olympic Games. The status of hosting the Olympic Games is now being overtaken by the high prices, meaning that countries and cities do not see the benefit if they were to host. It's not that cities do not want to host, it's that these places do not want to or cannot afford to pay to host the Olympic Games. Cities also fear that after the Games, they can be pushed into economic trouble after paying large sums of money to host. This well-founded fear further pushes cities from wanting to host as they do not see the overall benefit of hosting.

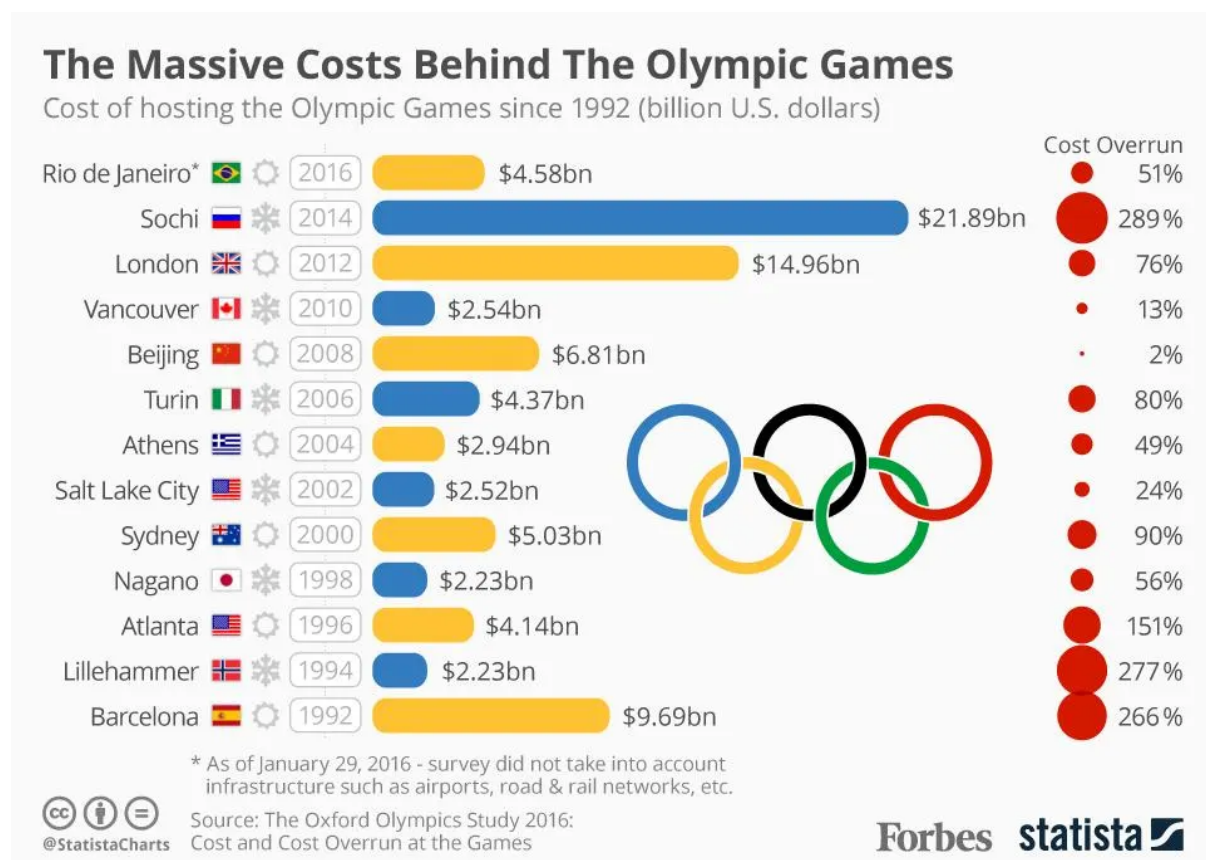


Figure 3: Graph of prices and overrun

This graph shows how much money each country paid to host the Olympics in both summer and winter whilst showing the cost overrun. The International Olympic Committee can ask for money, and the city has to pay for it, leading to the prices skyrocketing. For example, London spent around 12 billion dollars to host the 2012 Olympics. London said that they went over budget by 3.2 billion dollars. This was due to the complex budgets that had to be put in place for each aspect of the games; they severely underestimated just how much they would need to spend on each aspect of the games. Also, following the London bombings, the city had to put in place more security, further adding to the overspend. Concerns have been raised about how cities are always going over budget and the role of the Olympics taking a burden off the cities.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

This issue relates to SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals, as hosting fatigue reveals gaps in international collaboration. SDG 17 promotes global partnerships to share knowledge and resources with others. SDG 16: Peace, Strong, Justice Institutions also become a factor as cities often fail to build resilient institutions. Cities can struggle to oversee the project, which results in project overruns. SDG 16 aims to strengthen these institutions and help with their ability to make big decisions. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth also needs to be evaluated as cities often become ruined after hosting the Olympic Games. The high costs of hosting the Games make it possible to fail to see economic returns, and after the Games, many cities are left with debt and unused infrastructure. Ensuring that Olympic investments contribute to long-term economic benefits—such as boosting tourism, local businesses, and employment—can help align the Games with SDG 8.



Overall, The Olympics have struggled to find new host cities due to the high costs that come with hosting the Olympics. These high costs are well known, yet the IOC refuses to help resolve the issue.

**Questions to consider**

1. How can Olympic budgets improve to be more sustainable for the city?
2. Should the International Olympic Committee get more involved with operating the Olympic costs?
3. How can we boost interest in hosting the Olympic games?
4. What are some ways that cities can reduce the cost of hosting?
5. Should other countries get involved in hosting/paying for the Olympic games?

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