



# **GYEL NEWSLETTER**

Volume 8 June 2026

## **WELCOME TO OUR JUNE 2026 GYEL NEWSLETTER!**

Our goal is to keep you updated on our program sessions and showcase our students' global impact projects related to the UN's SDGs. We will also share helpful tips and insights to make your college application stand out, as recommended by some of the industry's most trusted professionals.

[Read more about our program](#)

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR OF PROGRAMS**

As we move into June, we are delighted to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Spring Term at GYEL. It has been an incredibly rewarding term, filled with growth, creativity, and achievement, and we are immensely proud of everything our students have accomplished.

One of the highlights of the term has been the completion and submission of our students' capstone projects. These projects represented the culmination of months of learning, reflection, and hard work, providing students with the opportunity to explore issues they are passionate about and transform their ideas into meaningful outcomes. The quality of work submitted was truly impressive, showcasing not only creativity and critical thinking, but also the leadership, initiative, and global perspective that we strive to cultivate at GYEL.

This month also marks an important milestone as students graduate from the programme. It has been inspiring to witness their development over the course of the term as they have grown in confidence, strengthened their leadership skills, and built meaningful connections with peers from

around the world. Watching students discover their voices, challenge themselves, and develop into more capable and thoughtful leaders has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the Spring Term.

As we celebrate the achievements of this graduating cohort, we are also looking ahead with excitement to the Summer Term, which begins at the end of June. We look forward to welcoming a new group of students to the GYEL community and supporting them as they embark on their own leadership journeys. Each cohort brings fresh perspectives, ideas, and experiences, and we are excited to begin another term of learning, collaboration, and growth.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated instructors, staff, and wider GYEL team for their unwavering commitment and support throughout the Spring Term. Their passion, expertise, and care create an environment where students are encouraged to think critically, engage meaningfully, and develop confidence in their abilities. Thank you as well to our families for your continued trust and partnership throughout the term.

As one term comes to a close and another prepares to begin, we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating students and look forward to welcoming the next generation of young leaders. We wish our graduates every success in their future endeavours and are excited for all that lies ahead for the GYEL community.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Hannah Kidner, Lead Instructor of Programs

## SUMMER TERM 2026 UPDATES

- As we move into the next phase of the year, applications for Summer Term 2026 have been extended until June 10. Applicants are encouraged to continue submitting their applications and to check their emails for acceptance letters and cohort forms to complete all onboarding steps ahead of the upcoming term.
- The Summer Term will begin the week of June 22–23. LMS access details and onboarding emails will be shared in the coming weeks as we prepare for launch.
- We are now accepting applications for Fall Term 2026. Spots are limited, so we encourage early submission as applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.
- We are also excited to continue introducing our new Fall course: Planetary Health & Climate Program, focused on leadership, systems thinking and the link between human health and a changing planet. More details will be available on our website soon.
- We look forward to welcoming both our incoming Summer cohort and new Fall applicants into another impactful term of learning and leadership.



I'm Ananya Singh, an educator and environmental practitioner exploring the intersections between nature and culture. Over the past decade, I've worked with universities, non-profits, think tanks, and development organizations across different countries and contexts.



## INSTRUCTOR INSIGHTS

Is there something surprising about your career journey that students might find interesting?

I began my academic journey in visual communication, later studied environmental law and policy, and eventually pursued environmental management at Yale. Rather than moving in a straight line, my career evolved through a series of overlapping curiosities that intuitively led into one another. Design introduced me to observation, perception, and narrative. Policy expanded my understanding of governance, equity, and institutions. Research

and fieldwork brought me closer to landscapes, wildlife, and shared knowledge. Today, this interdisciplinary perspective continues to shape how I teach and approach the world around me.

What mindset or skill do you think is most important for students to navigate a rapidly changing world?

Spending time among lush forests, sunlit coastlines, and close-knit communities changed the way I relate to learning itself. Every ecosystem depends on relationships, reciprocity, and constant adaptation, and I believe the same is true for human societies. Systems thinking encourages us to notice patterns, connections, and the quieter forces woven through everyday existence. It invites a deeper awareness rooted in humility and a sense of stewardship for all that surrounds us.



## PARTNERSHIP FEATURE Rukmini Foundation

We are proud to highlight our partnership with the Rukmini Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering girls in rural Nepal through education, mentorship, and holistic support. Their mission focuses on breaking cycles of poverty, child marriage, and gender inequality by ensuring girls have access to quality learning and opportunities for growth.

Through initiatives centered on education, health, and mentorship, Rukmini Foundation is helping shape confident young women who can transform their communities and futures. We are especially excited to welcome two Rukmini scholars joining us this Summer Term in High School Part 1, marking a meaningful step in this growing partnership.



*Check out their website to learn more about their work and impact*

[Learn more](#)

# GYEL SUMMER 2026

Summer Enrollment Extended! Last Chance to Enroll by June 10  
Summer Term set to begin on the week of June 22

[Apply today](#)

[Hear from our students](#)

## SMART READS FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Explore articles that empower students and families to make informed choices about their academic and leadership journey.



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

In an increasingly interconnected world, global citizenship education (GCED) plays a crucial role in promoting solidarity and empowering people of all ages to make a meaningful impact in their communities, both locally and globally. But what does GCED entail, why is it especially relevant today, and how is UNESCO leading the way in advancing this vital approach to learning?

For centuries, common aspirations for mutual respect, peace, and understanding were reflected in traditional concepts across cultures and civilizations – from 'ubuntu' (I am because we are) in African philosophy to 'sumak kawsay' (harmony within communities, ourselves and nature) in Quechua. Although the term "global citizenship education" was only coined in 2011, the values it represents have been central to UNESCO's mission since its founding in 1947.

By building peace through education and reminding humanity of our common ties, UNESCO has long championed the ideas now formalized as GCED. As our world grows increasingly interdependent, GCED is more vital than ever for international solidarity and inspiring learners of all ages to positively contribute to their local and global communities. But what exactly does global citizenship education entail, why does it matter today, and how is UNESCO driving this movement?

[Read More](#)

A portrait of a young man with dark hair, wearing a black jacket over a dark shirt, sitting in a living room with a couch and a lamp in the background.

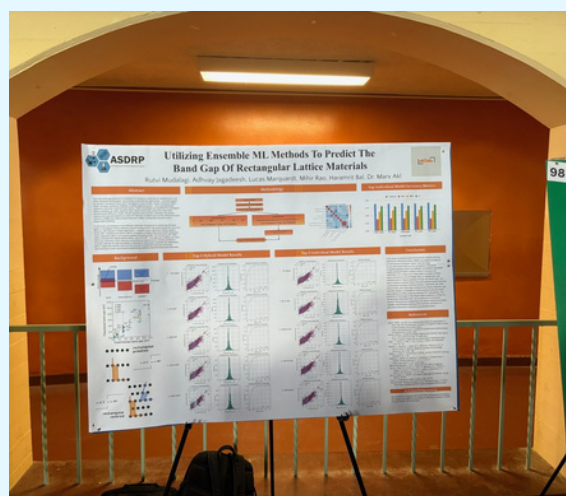
## Student Spotlight

From Research to Real-World Impact – Adhvay Jagadeesh's Journey

This month, we're proud to feature Adhvay Jagadeesh, a GYEL student whose work brings urgent attention to one of the world's most pressing yet overlooked challenges: energy inequality.

## ADHVAY'S SOCIAL IMPACT JOURNEY

- Focuses on sustainable development and climate justice, with a strong interest in addressing energy inequality and expanding access to clean, affordable electricity.
- Developed Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Universal Energy Access as his GYEL project, exploring barriers to SDG 7 including infrastructure gaps, rising debt and declining fiscal flows.
- Examines solutions such as solar microgrids, hybrid systems and off-grid renewable technologies for rural and underserved communities.
- Explores emerging technologies like smart grids and triboelectric nanogenerators (TENGs) as cost-effective solutions for resilient electricity systems.
- Advocates for youth engagement, policy reform and international cooperation to drive a just energy transition.



Through GYEL, Adhvay has developed the ability to transform research into real-world insight while strengthening his voice in sustainability, energy access and climate justice. His journey reflects the GYEL mission of empowering young leaders to think globally, act with purpose and drive meaningful impact.

### Abstract

Transitioning to renewable energy is a needed and timely process towards realization of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), which targets ensuring access to universal, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for all by 2030. Success in attaining the goal is synonymous with ending the global energy access crisis and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 as endorsed under the Paris Agreement. Although impressive success has been achieved, nonetheless, an estimated 666 million persons are presently still deprived of electricity access and 2.3 billion still use harmful cooking appliances, mostly in rural and poor areas of Sub-Saharan Africa. The addition of the worldwide crisis of energy adds impetus to these challenges because growing debt, rising costs of energy, and declining fiscal flows make it increasingly difficult for gaining momentum towards SDG 7 (World Health Organization, 2023). Concurrently, as African countries such as Ghana possess high renewable energy potential in the forms of solar and hydro endowments, respectively, these countries are challenged by systemic impediments towards complete utilization of these endowments. In response, it is priceless that low-income countries adopt decentralized renewable energy technologies in such forms as solar microgrids, hybrid power systems, and off-grid solar appliances complemented with international finance as an expedient of bridging gaps of infrastructure and energy access.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ENERGY ACCESS

This project explores how expanding access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy through decentralized solutions like solar microgrids and hybrid systems can help achieve SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy for All by 2030. It highlights the need for global cooperation, investment and innovation to address energy inequality affecting over 666 million people without electricity access worldwide.

## WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT?

We love celebrating the incredible impact our GYEL students are making around the world. If you'd like to share your journey, achievements, or community project, send us your details at [inquiry@un.gyel.org](mailto:inquiry@un.gyel.org) and you could be our next feature!

