



University for Peace



Department of Environment and Development

About UPEACE

The University for Peace (UPEACE) was created by the UN General Assembly in 1980 with the mission *"to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress."*

The UPEACE campus is located in the central valley of Costa Rica, approximately 30 kilometers southwest of San Jose, within a natural reserve composed of a secondary forest and the last remnant of primary forest in the Central Valley of San Jose. The park and the campus are part of a protected zone of 303 hectares, home to mammals such as monkeys and deer, reptiles, and over 300 species of birds, as well as approximately 100 varieties of trees.

The **Department of Environment and Development** focuses on efforts to reconcile poverty alleviation with environmental protection in a manner that contributes to peaceful conflict resolution. We emphasize sustained critical analysis in order to formulate solutions that do not just deal with surface issues but address the root causes of environmental problems and underdevelopment. We take full advantage of our unique location in Costa Rica by including, within all of our courses, case studies and field visits to explore the many innovative sustainable development projects occurring throughout the country.

Course Examples:

- *Human Vulnerability and Climate Change Adaptation*
- *Natural Resource Management Field Course*
- *Tools for Conflict Resolution and Transformation*
- *Disaster Risk Reduction*

"During and after your experience at UPEACE, you will expand and redefine your vision, your values and your cultural sensitivity with the company of a greater community of UPEACERS around the world. This network will become an excellent asset not only for your professional life, but also for your soul."

Marco Castro, M.A. Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development, 2011

The work of the University for Peace contributes to the following SDGs



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M.A. in Environment, Development and Peace

This M.A. provides comprehensive training in issues of sustainable development, environmental governance, natural resource management, and environmental conflict management from both ecological and social perspectives. It includes themes like Food Systems, Water Management, Forestry, Coastal Resources, Climate Change, Urban Ecology and Social Movements. Within this programme, the following specializations are offered:

Sustainable Food Systems

Courses in this specialization train students to evaluate both the social and natural scientific aspects of food systems. The specialization takes advantage of Costa Rica's unique location by studying all facets of agriculture and food consumption, from plantation-style production of export crops to local, organic and permaculture production systems.

Climate Change Policy

This specialization prepares students to work with international and community-based organizations in climate change mitigation and adaptation policy formulation and project implementation, disaster risk reduction, as well as in the identification and management of conflicts arising from climate change-related factors.

Environmental Security and Governance

This specialization is designed for those wishing to critically engage with issues concerning global environmental change and security. Students will gain insights into different institutional tools and practical techniques related to water, food, and other environmental conflict scenarios. Other topics include disaster risk reduction and environmental conflict management.

Sustainable Natural Resource Management

This specialization is primarily designed for those intending to engage in community-oriented work in natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, or sustainable development. It emphasizes the enhancement of biodiversity for global life support systems and mitigation of conflicts that arise from development initiatives, natural resource disputes, and environment degradation.

M.A. in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development

The Master of Arts Degree in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development emphasizes economic and management perspectives of peace while focusing on the concepts of sustainability and responsibility. Its creation was based on the belief that, to better contribute to the promotion of sustainable peace, it is imperative to explore what role the economy plays in the world today and its impact on our environment and societies' wellbeing. Issues of rural and urban poverty, growing inequalities and disparities, environmental degradation, financial crises and globalization are challenging political economic stability and social cohesion in all societies. Modern society faces the growing challenge of sustainability and that of finding solutions that will maintain and protect social systems for future generations. Students from the RMSED Programme will become responsible managers with a strong emphasis on sustainability, who will be able to work in the corporate sector, public sector or social sector, both in industrialized and developing countries.

What to expect after graduation?

The Master of Arts Degree in Environment, Development and Peace prepares students for a wide range of careers in both environmental and development policy and programming in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The Master of Arts Degree in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development is not a degree in business or economics, but one that incorporates and goes beyond both. The degree offers alternative methods of managing the ever-evolving political, economic and social problems faced by many societies. We will challenge you to analyse, debate and find creative solutions for building a better world.



The programmes within the Department of Environment and Development have been accredited before the National Higher Education Accreditation System of Costa Rica (SINAES).

Type of Institution in which UPEACE Alumni are Engaged

