



University for Peace



Department of International Law

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 programmes within the **Department of International Law** provide students with a rigorous understanding of the role of law in today's complex global society. These programmes provide an introduction to this dynamic field, as well as the opportunity to gain a solid and critical understanding of public international law and its various underpinnings. Students can choose between two different programmes: Master of Arts in International Law and Human Rights and Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes.

Course Examples:

- *Global Law and Human Rights*
- *Regional Mechanisms for Human Rights Protection*
- *Working in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas - Field Training*
- *Tools for Conflict Resolution and Transformation*

"The environment UPEACE offers is just perfect for learning and allows people to flourish. I feel inspired and moved by my classmates' stories every single day...it makes the dream feel real!"

Sarah Cowley, M.A. in International Law and Human Rights, 2017

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



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M.A. in International Law and Human Rights

The Master of Arts Degree in International Law and Human Rights offers students an in-depth review of the procedures and practice of international human rights bodies, at the global and UN level as well as at the regional level. Students will gain an understanding of the various judicial and non-judicial bodies, the development of international human rights standards, and enforcement. In addition, students receive training in reporting, monitoring and evaluation of human rights. Finally, this specialization explores the interaction between economics and rights, asking critical questions about this process and potential solutions.

What to expect after graduation?

Graduates of these programmes will gain knowledge, capacities, skills and motivation relevant to professional work in international, national and local government or civil society agencies and organizations. UPEACE Alumni are prepared to succeed in fields related to conflict analysis, resolution and transformation; nonviolence; disarmament; peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building; security sector reform; local/global justice; transnational organized crime; conflict and peace-sensitive policy-making, as well as in tribunals at the local, regional, and global levels, not to mention peace and conflict studies/research.

M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes

The Master of Arts Degree in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes offers students an understanding of the role that international law and institutions play in the settlement of international and transnational disputes. This specialization examines the role of national and international courts and tribunals in contributing to the settlement of disputes. Students will examine the role of law in traditional and not-so traditional territorial and boundary disputes, and acquire an overview of the law of the sea. Finally, they will be examining the field of dispute settlement in international economic relations, which will include investment arbitration.



Type of Institution in which UPEACE Alumni are Engaged

28.4% Legal / Mediation / Advocacy

23.9% Humanitarian Affairs

22.4% Education / Research

14.9% International Relations / Diplomacy / Governance

4.5% Media Communication

3.0% Business

3.0% Environment