



University
for Peace



Department of Peace and Conflict Studies

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 Peace and Conflict Studies** is an integrated grouping of programmes that affiliate, interrelate and synergize around core themes and perspectives in conflict analysis and the challenges to peacebuilding. The programmes share a common goal of providing a critical understanding and analysis of root causes of conflicts and violence in diverse local, national, global and societal contexts, while specifically focusing on various dimensions, strategies, sectors, institutions and levels of conflict resolution and transformation to build a peaceful world.

Course Examples:

- *Gender Mainstreaming in Peacekeeping Operations and in Humanitarian Assistance*
- *Strategic Nonviolence Resistance*
- *Terrorism and Conflict: Issues and Perspectives*
- *Working in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas - Field Training*

"From my courses at UPEACE I gained critical tools for analysis, systemic ways of responding to stimuli and specific skills in educational management. This education helped me become quite well-rounded in not only the knowledge, but the skills and networks I've created with my peers and the lives I have touched in my years of work."

Golda Keng, M.A. in Peace Education, 2008

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



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United Nations - mandated University

admissions@upeace.org
Ph: +506 2205-9065
El Rodeo de Ciudad Colón
San José, Costa Rica
www.upeace.org

M.A. in International Peace Studies

The Master of Arts Degree in International Peace Studies provides an interdisciplinary and critical understanding and analysis of the causes and consequences of a wide range of contemporary conflicts and violence that impact on global, international and human security. Topics to be explored include militarization, armed conflicts, terrorism, economic, social and gender injustices, cultural and religious identities, transnational organized crime and competition over environmental resources.

M.A. in Media, Peace and Conflict Studies

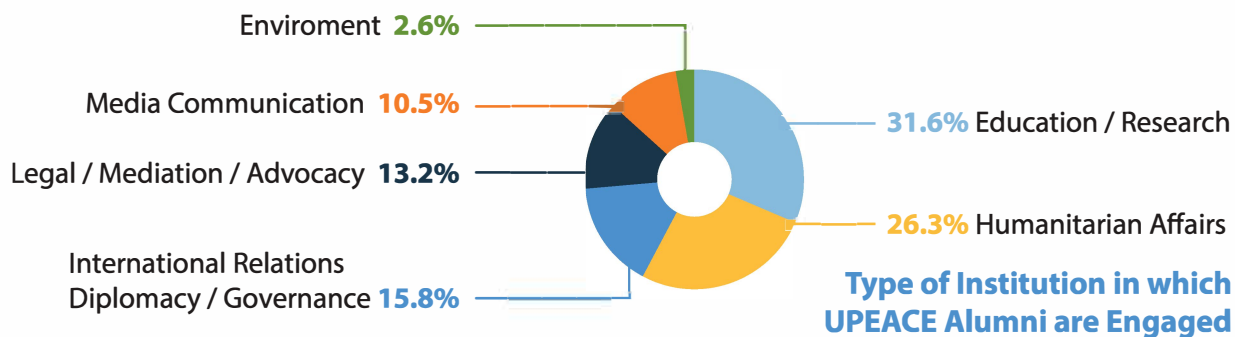
The Master of Arts Degree in International Peace Studies with a Specialization in Media, Peace and Conflict Studies is designed for students from diverse cultural, professional, and academic backgrounds who seek to engage with and understand contemporary trends in media and communications, particularly as they relate to social processes of peace and conflict. Emphasis is placed on the intersection of theory and practice, that is, on media analysis and media production, with special attention paid to debates around ethical principles in news reporting.

M.A. in Gender and Peace Building

The Master of Arts Degree in Gender and Peacebuilding offers critical knowledge and training in gender studies, which is a crucial aspect of any and all peace efforts. The programme deals in-depth with the diverse and international aspects of gender as they relate to violence, peace negotiations, peacebuilding and peacekeeping in different locations on the planet. The programme also encompasses the many fields of knowledge in which gender plays a crucial role.

M.A. in Peace Education

The Master of Arts Degree in Peace Education seeks to develop and strengthen the capacity of formal and non-formal educators to build a peaceful world in all levels and dimensions of life. Through coursework and independent research or internship experiences, complemented with a unique and cooperative learning environment at UPEACE, students will enhance their values formation, knowledge and skills essential to the contributions of educators and institutions toward resolving and transforming conflicts and violence towards a holistic culture of peace.



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, peacekeeping and peacebuilding; security sector reform; local/global justice; transnational organized crime; conflict and peace-sensitive policy-making, as well as peace and conflict studies/research.