



Master's Degree and Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy







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2030
FINAL REPORT

About the Programme

The Master of Arts in Development Studies

and Diplomacy is an interdisciplinary and holistic programme that will broaden students' knowledge in the field of development studies, sustainability and diplomacy and equip them with the required soft skills for a successful international career in any of these areas of expertise. It is offered in hybrid format (face-to-face and online on the UPEACE campus in San José, Cost Rica), and includes optional visits to Geneva, Switzerland, and/or The Hague, Netherlands.

During this programme, students will analyze the different dimensions of development, including environmental, social, economic and human dimensions, as well as the theory and practice of diplomacy in the 21st century. Students will also

attend skills development and coaching sessions that are designed to support their professional careers and employability. Careers in this field can be very broad. Prospective employers include governments, international organizations, development agencies, academia and the private sector.

Students can also pursue a shorter programme such as the **Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy (online)**, or sign up for individual online courses within the framework of the Master of Arts in Development Studies and Diplomacy and the Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy.



Who is it for?

The programme is designed for graduate students, diplomats, government officers, NGO representatives, international civil servants or private sector specialists who seek to strengthen their knowledge in development studies, sustainability, international affairs management and diplomacy.

Invest in Your Future

This unique programme, backed by the United Nations, is designed to give students a first-hand experience in the field of development, international affairs and diplomacy.



LEARN FROM HIGHLY EXPERIENCED EXPERTS

This programme is taught by practitioners, UN staff, diplomats and academics.



VISIT THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE UN

It includes an optional study field trip to Geneva and/ or The Hague, where students will visit different international organizations, network with international civil servants and diplomats and participate in skills-based sessions to prepare them for a successful international career.



BENEFIT FROM AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

This programme connects different disciplines to provide students with holistic knowledge, including skills development and coaching sessions.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FLEXIBLE LEARNING METHODS

It allows students to accommodate their needs for flexibility by offering diverse optional modules and weekly seminars.



■ Duration



Hybrid

Students must complete the Master of Arts in Development Studies and Diplomacy in two semesters.



Online

Students can complete the Master of Arts in Development Studies and Diplomacy, and the Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy, in up to four semesters.

Learning Objectives



At the end of the programme, students should:

- Have a deep understanding of the theory and practice of development studies, international cooperation and sustainable development.
- Be able to evaluate the different dimensions of development.
- Have an advanced knowledge of the theory and practice of diplomacy.
- Be able to appraise the nexus between diplomacy, the UN System and contemporary challenges.
- Be able to apply key soft skills in an international working environment.



Credits and Enrolment Fees









M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy: Hybrid

Students can obtain the Master of Arts in Gender and Development (hybrid) upon successful completion of 41 credits, including 33 credits for coursework and 8 credits for a master's thesis or internship assignment. Students who choose Capstone as their Graduation Project must take an additional 3-credit course (37-course credits and 5 Capstone credits)



*UN staff and Costa Rican nationals can opt for a 50% waiver (tuition balance: 9,750 USD). All other applicants may apply for a 20% waiver (tuition balance: 15,600 USD), which may be granted in limited numbers by mutual decision of UPEACE and UNITAR to ensure equitable gender and regional representation.











Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
UPEACE Foundation Course		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management		Mandatory	Online
Development Studies and International Cooperation		Mandatory	Online
The United Nations System and UPMUNC (Part I)		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Geopolitics and Geoeconomics in the 21st Century		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Social Research Methods		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Diplomacy in the 21st Century		Mandatory	Online
Climate Change Governance		Optional	Face-to-face








Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
Food Security		Optional	Face-to-face
Development and Conflict in Practice: Role and Application of Sustainability Frameworks in Development Projects		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Indigenous Perspectives on Environment and Development		Optional	Online/ Face-to-face
Circular Bioeconomy		Optional	Face-to-face
International Law and Diplomacy		Optional	Face-to-face
Skills for a Successful International Career1		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Model UN Conference (UPMUNC)		Mandatory	Face-to-face
Final Graduation Project		Mandatory	Face-to-face








M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy: Online

Students can obtain the M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy upon successful completion of 42 credits, including 36 credits for course work and 6 credits for a final independent research project (IRP).



Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
Development Studies and International Cooperation		Mandatory	Online
Peace and Conflict Studies; The Foundation Course		Mandatory	Online
Sustainable Development Theory, Policies and Practice		Mandatory	Online
Transformative Education in Precarious Times: Educational and Pedagogical Possibilities		Optional	Online
Migration and its link to Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development Agenda		Optional	Online
Food Security		Optional	Online
Research Methodology		Mandatory	Online
Sustainable Development Goals		Mandatory	Online

Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
Global Governance		Mandatory	Online
International Law, Borders and Conflicts		Optional	Online
Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills		Optional	Online
Gender and Peacebuilding		Optional	Online
Introduction to the United Nations System		Mandatory	Online
Climate Adaptation and Justice		Optional	Online
World Politics		Mandatory	Online

Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
Conflict Analysis		Optional	Online
Globalization and Human Rights		Optional	Online
Environment, Development, and Peace		Optional	Online
Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management		Mandatory	Online
Human Rights, Internet and Sustainable Development		Optional	Online
Fundraising for Sustainable Development		Optional	Online
Independent Research Project		Mandatory	Online

Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy:





Students can obtain the Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy upon successful completion of 11 credits.

Hybrid



Online



Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
Development Studies and International Cooperation		Mandatory	Online
Global Governance		Mandatory	Online
Diplomacy in the 21st Century		Mandatory	Online
Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management		Mandatory	Online

Optional Field Visits to Geneva and/or The Hague

During this activity, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the very heart of diplomacy, visit different international organizations and network with other diplomats, personnel of permanent missions accredited to the UN, civil servants of international organizations and civil society representatives.

Students can sign up for one field visit or for both (Geneva and The Hague), if they wish to do so. Students will spend 5 days in Geneva (Switzerland), and 5 days in The Hague (Netherlands). The fee for each five-day field trip is USD 1,500. If students register for both field visits, the ten-day field trip is USD 3,000. The fee does not include travel, accommodation, food, or visa expenses.





About UNITAR

As a training arm of the United Nations, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is an autonomous institution within the UN system that provides innovative learning solutions to individuals, organizations, and institutions in the fields of diplomacy, economic and social development, peace, and security. Over the last 60 years, UNITAR has contributed to developing the capacities of Member States and other stakeholders to enhance global decision-making and support country-level and regional-level actions for shaping a better future and enabling positive change.





■ About UPEACE

The University for Peace was established as a Treaty Organization with its own Charter in an International Agreement adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/55 on 5 December 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, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.”

Apply Now



Scan to Apply

Required Admissions Documents

- English Proficiency Test Scores Report (TOEFL, IELTS)
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of recommendation
- Official Undergraduate (Bachelor's Degree) Transcripts and Degree Certificate
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Copy of Passport





Contact Us

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Online Master's Degrees and Certificates:

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