



DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMME

DUAL M.A. PROGRAMME IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

You will learn contemporary frameworks and tools to analyse and address key sustainability issues.



ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT

You will become skilled researchers and communicators on environmental and development challenges and solutions.



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Become part of an international network of collaborators to help you further your professional goals.



[PROGRAMME PAGE](#)

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The dual-degree programme in **Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (NRSD)** equips you with the knowledge and skills to address the root causes of environmental degradation and poverty through a lens of social and environmental justice. Offered jointly by **American University** in Washington, D.C., and the **University for Peace (UPEACE)** in Costa Rica, this interdisciplinary programme combines rigorous academic training in sustainable development, environmental governance, and conflict resolution with hands-on experience in ecological and social research. Students study topics such as climate justice, water management, indigenous perspectives, and gender analysis while building practical skills in critical social research, data analysis, and applied sustainability frameworks. Graduates emerge as skilled professionals ready to tackle global eco-development challenges, bridging the Global North and South to create equitable and sustainable futures.



SPECIFIC COURSES



Dual M.A. in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development: Programme-Specific Courses



Examples of courses that may be offered each year include:



- Climate Adaptation and Justice
- Climate Change Governance
- Coastal Resources Management
- Development and Conflict in Practice
- Environment, Conflicts, and Sustainability
- Food Security
- Forests, Forestry, and Poverty
- Gender, Environment, and Development
- Urban Sustainability
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water Security and Peace



WHERE WILL YOU BE STUDYING?

Students in the Natural Resources and Sustainable Development programme will take classes at American University (AU) and at the University of Peace.

The University of Peace is a UN-established, graduate-level university located in Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica. Students will have the opportunity to learn from experts in environment, development, and peace and conflict studies while enjoying the open-air campus and surrounding forest.

American University, located in a residential neighborhood of Washington, D.C., offers a diverse, globally connected campus and distinguished faculty. A top-10 school in international affairs, AU provides a unique learning experience at the center of environmental policy in the U.S.

For application process questions, please email nrsd@american.edu

For programme content questions, please email jbreitling@upeace.org