



Master's Degree and Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes



University
for Peace





COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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2030
FINAL REPORT

About the Programme

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes

(on site, hybrid, and online formats) is a graduate programme that 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. As international and transnational adjudication has acquired a more prominent role in international relations, it is essential to understand how these global and regional courts are responding to the challenges of the early 21st Century. Students will examine the role of international law in the settlement of disputes in a wide array of fields such as human rights, armed conflicts, territorial and maritime border issues, environment and climate change, multilateral trade, investments, amongst others. Students will learn not only the traditional legal processes employed

in international and transnational adjudication but also the alternative forms of dispute settlement prevalent in international law. Students will also attend skills development sessions that are designed to support their professional career and employability.

This master's degree offered by the University for Peace and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research combines the best of academic and executive-style education. Students will also gain first-hand experience of the work of the United Nations (UN) as they will have the opportunity to participate in a field trip to Geneva or The Hague where the UN maintains a significant presence.

■ Who is it for?

The programme is designed for graduate students, diplomats, government officers, NGO representatives, international civil servants or private law practitioners willing to strengthen their knowledge in international law, dispute settlement, 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 international law, 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

Students must complete the Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online) in a maximum of 4 semesters. Students must complete the Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (hybrid) in a maximum of 4 semesters, with the first semester at UPEACE campus in San José, Costa Rica, between August and December of the year of enrolment. Students must complete the Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (on-site) in a maximum of 2 semesters of course work and 1 additional semester for submission of their final graduation project. Students must complete the Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online) in a maximum of 4 semesters.

Format

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online) and the Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online) will be implemented entirely online. All subjects will be hosted on UPEACE's Virtual Learning Environment.

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (on-site) will be implemented face-to-face in San José, Costa Rica on UPEACE's campus. Some courses taught by UNITAR may, if necessary, be delivered synchronously through virtual modality, although students will be required to be on campus.

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (hybrid) will be implemented both face-to-face (in San José, Costa Rica on UPEACE's campus (first semester) and online (second, third and fourth semesters). All online subjects will be hosted on UPEACE's Virtual Learning Environment.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the programme, students should:

- Have gained holistic, rigorous, and critical knowledge of the role that international law and institutions play in the settlement of disputes.
- Possess skills in developing pleadings before international courts and tribunals through moot court simulations and opportunities such as representing UPEACE-UNITAR directly in the final rounds of the Phillip Jessup Moot Court competition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of dispute settlement norms and practices in diverse areas of international law such as human rights law, law of armed conflicts, law of the sea, law related to territorial and boundary disputes, international trade and investment, international environmental law, amongst others.
- Use practical tools for the settlement of legal disputes through non-judicial means, including diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, and conciliation, as well as have an in-depth understanding of non-judicial mechanisms for justice, including in post-conflict transitional settings.



Credits and Enrolment Fees

M.A. in International law and the Settlement of Disputes - On Site

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (on-site) will comprise a total of 41 credits, allocated as follows



(*) 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. Applicants who complete their admission and payment by the early bird deadline will also benefit from a 10% tuition reduction.



| Course Title | Entity | Type |
|---|---|-----------|
| UPEACE Foundation Course |  | Mandatory |
| Public International Law |  | Mandatory |
| UN System |  | Mandatory |
| International Human Rights Law |  | Mandatory |
| Universal Human Rights System |  | Mandatory |
| Law related to Armed Conflict I (Jus ad bellum) |  | Mandatory |
| Law related to Armed Conflict II (Jus in bello) |  | Mandatory |
| International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice |  | Mandatory |
| International and Transnational Adjudication |  | Mandatory |
| International Trade and Investment Law and Settlement of Disputes |  | Mandatory |

| Course Title | Entity | Type |
|--|---|-----------|
| Cyber Law and Warfare |  | Mandatory |
| Maritime and Territorial Settlement of Disputes |  | Mandatory |
| International Environment Law and Settlement of Disputes |  | Mandatory |
| Skills for a Successful International Career |  | Mandatory |
| Alternative Dispute Resolution in International Law |  | Mandatory |
| Model United Nations Conference |  | Mandatory |
| Thesis or Internship |  | Mandatory |











M.A. in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes: Hybrid






The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online and hybrid) will comprise a total of 42 credits, allocated as follows:






Students can obtain the M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (hybrid) upon successful completion of 42 credits, including 36 credits for course work and 6 credits for a final independent research project (IRP). For the M.A. in international Law and the Settlement of Disputes (on-site), students must complete a total of 41 credits, including 33 credits for course work and 8 credits for the final graduation project which may either be a thesis or an internship. In order to graduate from the programme, students must undertake the courses as per the list below, before completing their respective final graduation projects.

(*) UN staff can opt for a 20% waiver (tuition balance: 10,400 USD). Costa Rican citizens and nationals are eligible for a 30% waiver (tuition balance: 9,100 USD). Applicants who complete their admission and payment by the early bird deadline will also benefit from a 10% tuition reduction.

| Course Title | Entity | Methodology | Type |
|---|---|-------------|-----------|
| UPEACE Foundation Course |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Public International Law |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| UN System |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| International Human Rights Law |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Universal Human Rights System |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Law related to Armed Conflict I (Jus ad bellum) |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Law related to Armed Conflict II (Jus in bello) |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| International Criminal Law |  | Online | Optional |
| Law of Treaties |  | Online | Optional |
| International Environmental Law |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |

| Course Title | Entity Methodology | Type |
|---|--|-----------|
| International and Transnational Adjudication |  Online | Mandatory |
| Skills for a Successful International Career |  One Week on Campus / One week online | Optional |
| International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes |  Online | Mandatory |
| Cyber Law and Warfare |  Online | Mandatory |
| Maritime and Territorial Dispute Settlement |  Online | Mandatory |

| Course Title | Entity Methodology | Type |
|---|--|-----------|
| Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills |  Online | Optional |
| Law of International Organizations |  Online | Mandatory |
| International Environmental Law (Repeat Offering) |  Online | Mandatory |
| Final Graduation Project | | |
| Independent Research Project | Online | Mandatory |











M.A. in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes: Online






The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online and hybrid) will comprise a total of 42 credits, allocated as follows:






Students can obtain the M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online) upon successful completion of 42 credits, including 36 credits for course work and 6 credits for a final independent research project (IRP). For the M.A. in international Law and the Settlement of Disputes (on-site), students must complete a total of 41 credits, including 33 credits for course work and 8 credits for the final graduation project which may either be a thesis or an internship. In order to graduate from the programme, students must undertake the courses as per the list below, before completing their respective final graduation projects

(*) UN staff can opt for a 20% waiver (tuition balance: 8,800 USD). Costa Rican citizens and nationals are eligible for a 30% waiver (tuition balance: 3,300 USD). Applicants who complete their admission and payment by the early bird deadline will also benefit from a 10% tuition reduction.

| Course Title | Entity Methodology | Type |
|---|---|-----------|
| UPEACE Foundation Course |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Public International Law |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| UN System |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| International Human Rights Law |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Universal Human Rights System |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Law related to Armed Conflict I (Jus ad bellum) |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Law related to Armed Conflict II (Jus in bello) |  On-Campus | Mandatory |
| International Criminal Law |  Online | Optional |
| Law of Treaties |  Online | Optional |
| International Environmental Law |  On-Campus | Mandatory |

| Course Title | Entity | Methodology | Type |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| International and Transnational Adjudication |  | Online | Mandatory |
| Skills for a Successful International Career |  | One Week on Campus / One week online | Optional |
| International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes |  | Online | Mandatory |
| Cyber Law and Warfare |  | Online | Mandatory |
| Maritime and Territorial Dispute Settlement |  | Online | Mandatory |








| Course Title | Entity | Methodology | Type |
|---|---|-------------|-----------|
| Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills |  | Online | Optional |
| Law of International Organizations |  | Online | Mandatory |
| International Environmental Law (Repeat Offering) |  | Online | Mandatory |
| Final Graduation Project | | Online | Mandatory |
| Independent Research Project | | | |

Online Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes

Mandatory credits (6 Credits) + Optional Credits (6 Credits) = 12 Credits



Tuition Fees: 3,550 USD. No partial tuition waivers will be offered for the certificate. Students can obtain the Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes upon successful completion of 12 credits. The list of courses mentioned below shall be kept under review and be modified from time to time by UPEACE and UNITAR through mutual agreement with the objective of improving the programme offering. All courses will be hosted on UPEACE's Virtual Learning Environment:

| Course Title | Entity | Methodology | Type |
|---|---|-------------|-----------|
| international Criminal Law |  | On-Campus | Optional |
| Transitional Justice |  | On-Campus | Optional |
| International and Transitional Adjudication |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Cyber Law and Cyber Warfare |  | On-Campus | Optional |
| Maritime and Territorial Dispute Settlement |  | On-Campus | Mandatory |
| Law of International Organisations or Law of Treaties. |  | On-Campus | Optional |

Optional Field Visit to Geneva or The Hague

Each year UNITAR will organize two optional 5-day field trips to Geneva (Switzerland) and The Hague (Netherlands) for the students in the Master of Arts in International Law and Diplomacy. Students can sign up for one field visit or for both (Geneva and The Hague) if they wish to do so.

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.

The fee for each five-day field trip is 1,500 USD. If students register for both field visits, the ten-day field trip is 3,000 USD. 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

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

Hybrid Master's Degrees:

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Online Master's Degrees and Certificates:

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