



University for Peace



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair in Countering Illicit Trade and Preventing Transnational Organized Crime

Costa Rica headquarters | Indefinite appointment | Reports to the Rector

Salary: USD 2,400–3,000 per month | Apply by 25 October 2026

The opportunity

Lead the Chair's teaching, research, partnerships and outreach on illicit trade, transnational organized crime and their implications for peace and security. You will connect scholarship with policy and practice, strengthen UPEACE's international engagement, and uphold academic quality, research integrity and institutional professionalism.

International applicants are welcome. UPEACE will assist with relocation to Costa Rica.

Your responsibilities

Academic leadership and teaching

Develop, coordinate and teach postgraduate and professional courses in English and Spanish as required. Improve curricula and academic programmes through innovative, interdisciplinary and practice-oriented teaching. Supervise theses, capstones, internships, field research where applicable and other academic activities, and provide student advising and mentoring.

Research and publications

Lead research aligned with UPEACE's mandate and the Chair's priorities. Produce and coordinate peer-reviewed books and articles, policy briefs, reports, working papers and other outputs. Build research collaborations with universities, international organizations, governments and research institutions; help secure funding and partnerships; and ensure ethical research and responsible scholarship.

Strategic partnerships and international engagement

Develop relationships with universities, research institutions, international organizations, governments, diplomatic missions, civil society and the private sector. Identify joint research, training, conferences, academic exchanges and cooperation opportunities. Represent the Chair and, when designated, UPEACE in conferences, multilateral forums, academic meetings and professional networks.

Executive and institutional support

Advise the Rector, Vice Rector, department heads, and resident and visiting professors on international security, peace, illicit economies, organized crime and related policy issues. Prepare



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briefings, presentations, concept notes, talking points, speeches and other substantive materials. Contribute to strategic planning, programme development and international cooperation.

Events and knowledge exchange

Coordinate conferences, workshops, seminars and executive education. Connect academic research with policy and professional communities, support outreach to relevant communities and stakeholders, and build networks that strengthen the Chair's and UPEACE's visibility and impact.

Resource mobilization and sustainability

Identify external funding, partnerships and institutional support. Develop or contribute to research, education, capacity-building and international cooperation proposals, supporting the long-term sustainability of the Chair's academic and institutional activities.

The balance of teaching, research, fundraising and institutional support will be explained during the application process.

Qualifications and expertise

Essential qualifications

A PhD or equivalent doctorate in International Relations, Political Science, Law, Economics, Peace and Conflict Studies, Security Studies, Criminology, Development Studies or another relevant social science discipline.

At least five years of relevant higher education experience combining academic, policy and institutional engagement with international organizations, government, international cooperation and public policy.

Demonstrated university teaching and curriculum development experience in the Chair's thematic areas or related fields, and the capacity to conduct, coordinate and publish high-quality academic and policy research, including peer-reviewed publications.

Experience developing strategic partnerships and professional networks, and designing, coordinating and implementing academic, research, capacity-building or international cooperation projects.

Fluency in written and spoken English and Spanish required.

Knowledge and practical skills

Subject expertise. Peace and conflict, security, transnational organized crime, illicit economies, corruption, money laundering, financial crime, citizen security and crime prevention; the role of the United Nations; and Latin American political, social and security dynamics.



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Research and teaching. Qualitative and quantitative methods; research design, data collection and analysis; academic writing, publication standards and peer review; research ethics; evidence-based policy; and interdisciplinary and applied research. Ability to lead multidisciplinary research and use participatory, innovative teaching methods.

Partnerships and delivery. Academic programme development, international academic cooperation and resource mobilization. Ability to build relationships, mobilize support and manage collaborative projects, including workplans, partners, outputs, timelines and resources.

Communication and organization. Excellent academic and professional writing in English and Spanish; clear communication with academic, governmental, diplomatic, international and non-specialist audiences; negotiation and diplomatic skills; and institutional representation. Ability to manage multiple responsibilities, use relevant digital tools, and work independently and across teams.

Professional approach

Uphold academic and professional integrity, research ethics, confidentiality, independence and objectivity. Exercise sound judgment and discretion in sensitive matters. Demonstrate collegiality, initiative, adaptability, problem-solving and continuous development in multicultural, multilingual and interdisciplinary settings. Respect diversity, inclusion, gender equality and intercultural dialogue, and the values of UPEACE and the multilateral system, including peace, human rights, international cooperation and social justice.

Desirable

Portuguese-language skills; experience with projects involving multiple institutional or international partners; and comparative international knowledge of political, social and security dynamics.

How to apply

Email your CV in English (maximum five pages) and a cover letter outlining your interest, suitability and availability only to jobshr@upeace.org. Reference Position #8600.

Application deadline: 25 October 2026.

The selection board will review applications after the deadline. Only applicants proceeding to the next stage will be contacted before **1 November 2026**.

UPEACE is committed to diversity and inclusion across gender, ethnic and cultural identity, beliefs, disabilities and age.