



Master's Degree and Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy



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- unifar.org
- 1 NO POVERTY
 - 2 ZERO HUNGER
 - 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
 - 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
 - 5 GENDER EQUALITY
 - 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
 - 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

2030 FINAL REPORT



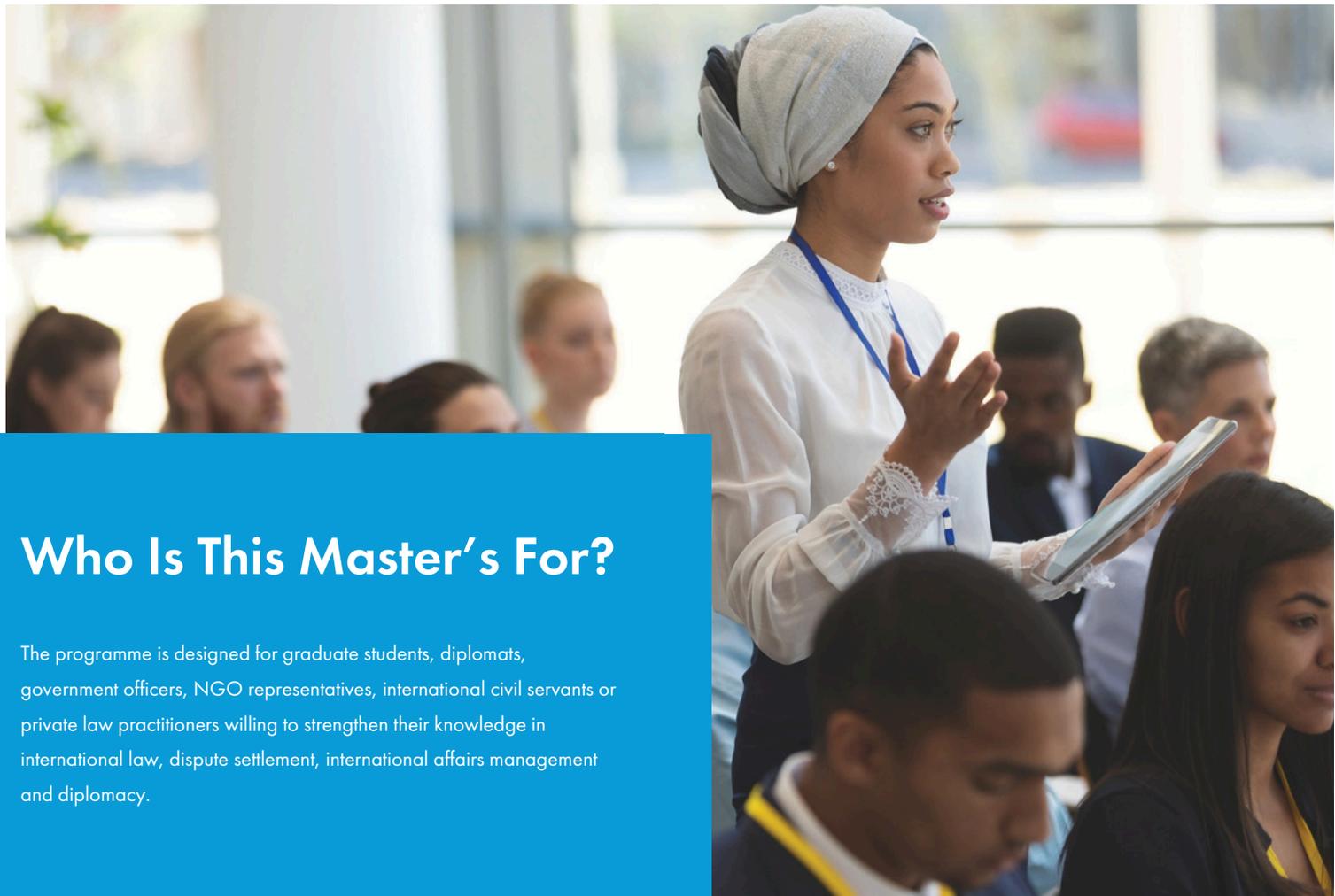
About the Programme

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 an online format, 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. Career paths in this field span a wide and diverse range of opportunities. Prospective employers include governments, international organizations, development agencies, academia and the private sector.

Students can also pursue a shorter programme such as the **Online Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy**, 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 This Master's 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.



VISIT THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE UN

The programme includes an optional study trip to Geneva and/or The Hague, featuring visits to international organisations, networking with diplomats and civil servants, and practical skills sessions supporting international career development.



LEARN FROM HIGHLY EXPERIENCED EXPERTS

This programme is taught by experienced practitioners, UN staff, diplomats, and academics, offering participants direct exposure to multilateral processes, policy practice, and applied diplomatic skills in real-world professional contexts.



BENEFIT FROM AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

This programme connects multiple disciplines to provide students with holistic knowledge, combining academic learning with practical skills development and tailored coaching sessions to support professional growth and leadership development.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FLEXIBLE LEARNING METHODS

The programme offers flexibility through diverse optional modules and weekly seminars, allowing students to tailor their learning pathways to individual needs, professional interests, and evolving career goals.



Duration

Online Masters

Students must complete the [Master of Arts in Development Studies and Diplomacy](#) within four semesters.

Online Certificate

Students must complete the [Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy](#) within a six-month period between September and March.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the programme, students should:

- Apply a deep understanding of the theory and practice of development studies, international cooperation and sustainable development to real-world cases
- 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

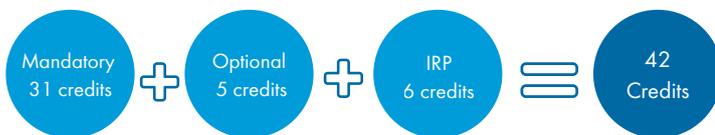


Credits and Courses

Online M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy

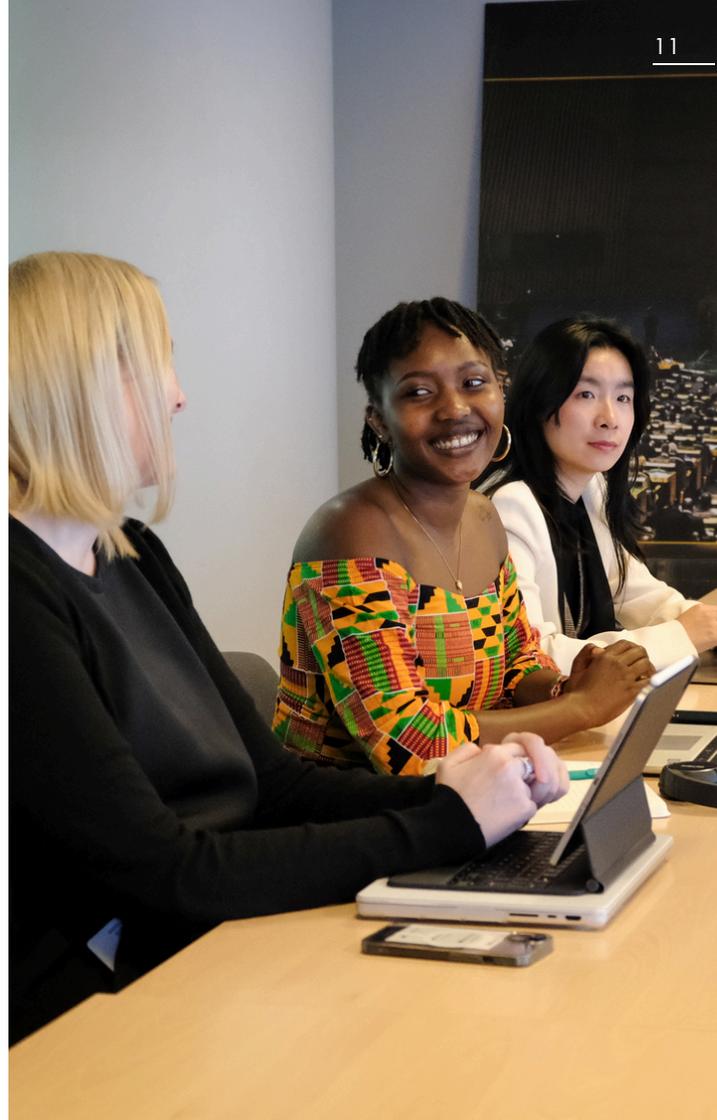
Credits

The Master of Arts in Development Studies and Diplomacy will comprise a total of 42 credits, allocated as follows:



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

- In the online modality, students will complete on-site mandatory courses (14 credits) and online mandatory courses (17 credits), for a total of 31 credits of mandatory courses.
- In addition, students must take optional courses (5 credits) from the list, before completing their final graduation project (IRP) worth 6 credits.



Course Selection (Online M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy) 1/2

Course Title	Entity	Type	Credits	Dates
Development Studies and International Cooperation	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Sept - 8 Nov 2026
Peace and Conflict Studies; The Foundation Course	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Sept - 8 Nov 2026
Sustainable Development Theory, Policies and Practice	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	9 Nov - 20 Dec 2026
Transformative Education in Precarious Times: Educational and Pedagogical Possibilities	UPEACE	Optional	2	9 Nov - 20 Dec 2026
Migration and its Link to Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development Agenda	UPEACE	Optional	2	9 Nov - 20 Dec 2026
Food Security	UPEACE	Optional	2	9 Nov - 20 Dec 2026
Research Methodology	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	4 Jan - 7 Mar 2027
Sustainable Development Goals	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	11 Jan - 21 Feb 2027
Global Governance	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
International Law, Borders and Conflicts	UPEACE	Optional	2	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills	UPEACE	Optional	2	15 Mar - 18 Apr 2027

Course Selection (Online M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy) 2/2

Gender and Peacebuilding	UPEACE	Optional	3	5 Apr - 6 Jun 2027
Introduction to the United Nations System	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	5 Apr - 6 Jun 2027
Climate Adaptation and Justice	UPEACE	Optional	2	12 Apr - 23 May 2027
World Politics	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Jun - 8 Aug 2027
Conflict Analysis	UPEACE	Optional	2	14 Jun - 18 Jul 2027
Globalization and Human Rights	UPEACE	Optional	3	2 Aug - 3 Oct 2027
Environment, Development, and Peace	UPEACE	Optional	3	2 Aug - 3 Oct 2027
Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	6 Sept - 21 Feb 2027
Human Rights, Internet and Sustainable Development	UPEACE	Optional	3	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
Diplomacy in the 21 st Century	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	10 Jan - 12 Mar 2028
Fundraising for Sustainable Development	UPEACE	Optional	2	17 Jan - 27 Feb 2028
Independent Research Project	UPEACE	Mandatory	6	31 August 2028

Online Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes

Credits

The Online Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes will comprise a total of 12 credits, allocated as follows:



Students will obtain the degree upon successful completion of 12 credits, as follows:

- Two mandatory courses, as listed below, must be completed by all students.
- For the remaining 6 credits, students must choose two courses from the four elective options indicated below.

Course Selection (Online Modality)

Course Title	Entity	Type	Credits	Dates
Development Studies and International Cooperation	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Sept - 8 Nov 2026
Diplomacy in the 21 st Century	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	11 Jan - 14 Mar 2027
Global Governance	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	6 Sept - 7 Nov 2027

Enrollment Fees

Masters' degrees

The cost for pursuing a [Master of Arts in Development Studies and Diplomacy](#) is USD 8,700*.

This includes tuition, administrative fees, and other associated costs.

It is important to note that additional expenses, such as textbooks, accommodation, field visits and living expenses, may not be covered by this figure.

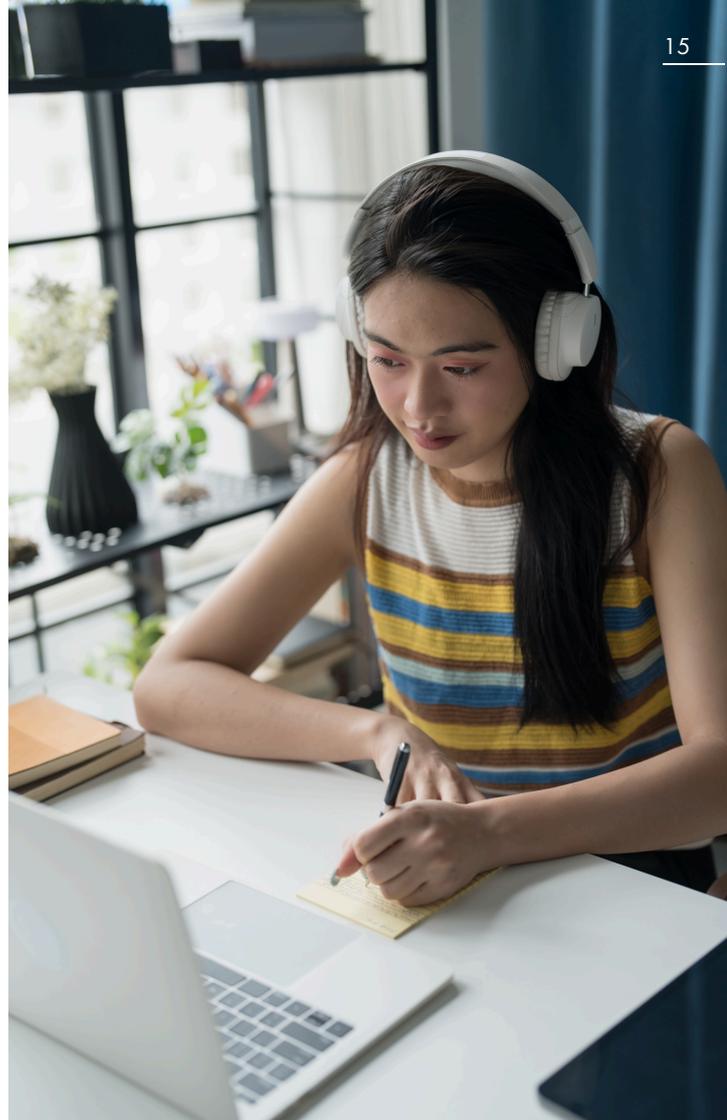
(*) Applicants who complete their admission and payment by the early bird deadline (31 January) will also benefit from a 10% tuition reduction.

Certificate degree

The cost for pursuing a [Certificate in Development Studies and Diplomacy](#) is USD 3,500*.

This includes tuition, administrative fees, and other associated costs.

(*) 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 11 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.



Optional Field Visits to Geneva and to 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 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) 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.”



Required Admission 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

Online Master's Degrees:

✉ admissions@upeace.org

Online Certificates:

✉ admissions@elearning.upeace.org

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