



Master's Degree and Certificate in International Law 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

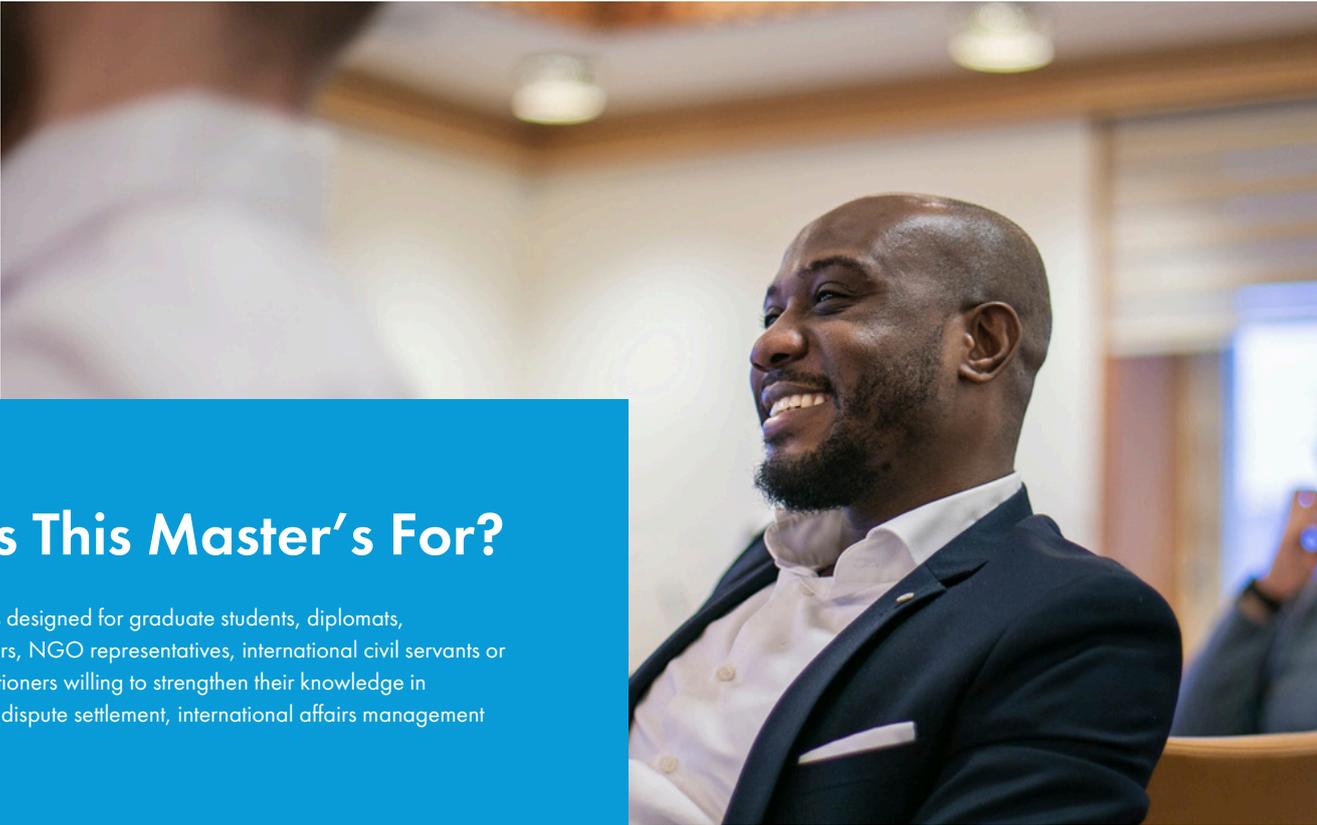
The **Master of Arts in International Law and Diplomacy** (hybrid and online modalities) is a graduate programme permitting students to specialize in the interface between international law and diplomacy.

It will not only broaden students' knowledge in the field of international law and its various foundational dimensions but will also equip them with knowledge and skills to work in the field of diplomacy and related international careers.

During this programme, students will analyse the different dimensions of international law including those related to law-making, armed conflicts, human rights, economic relations, territorial and maritime disputes, environmental disputes as well as those related to the theory and practice of diplomacy in the 21st century including dispute settlement and conflict resolution.

Students will also attend skills development sessions that are designed to support their professional career and employability.

This master's degree offered by two UN entities (University for Peace and 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 and The Hague where the UN maintains a significant presence.

A photograph of a Black man with a beard, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, smiling and looking towards the left. He is seated in a conference room with other people blurred in the background.

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.



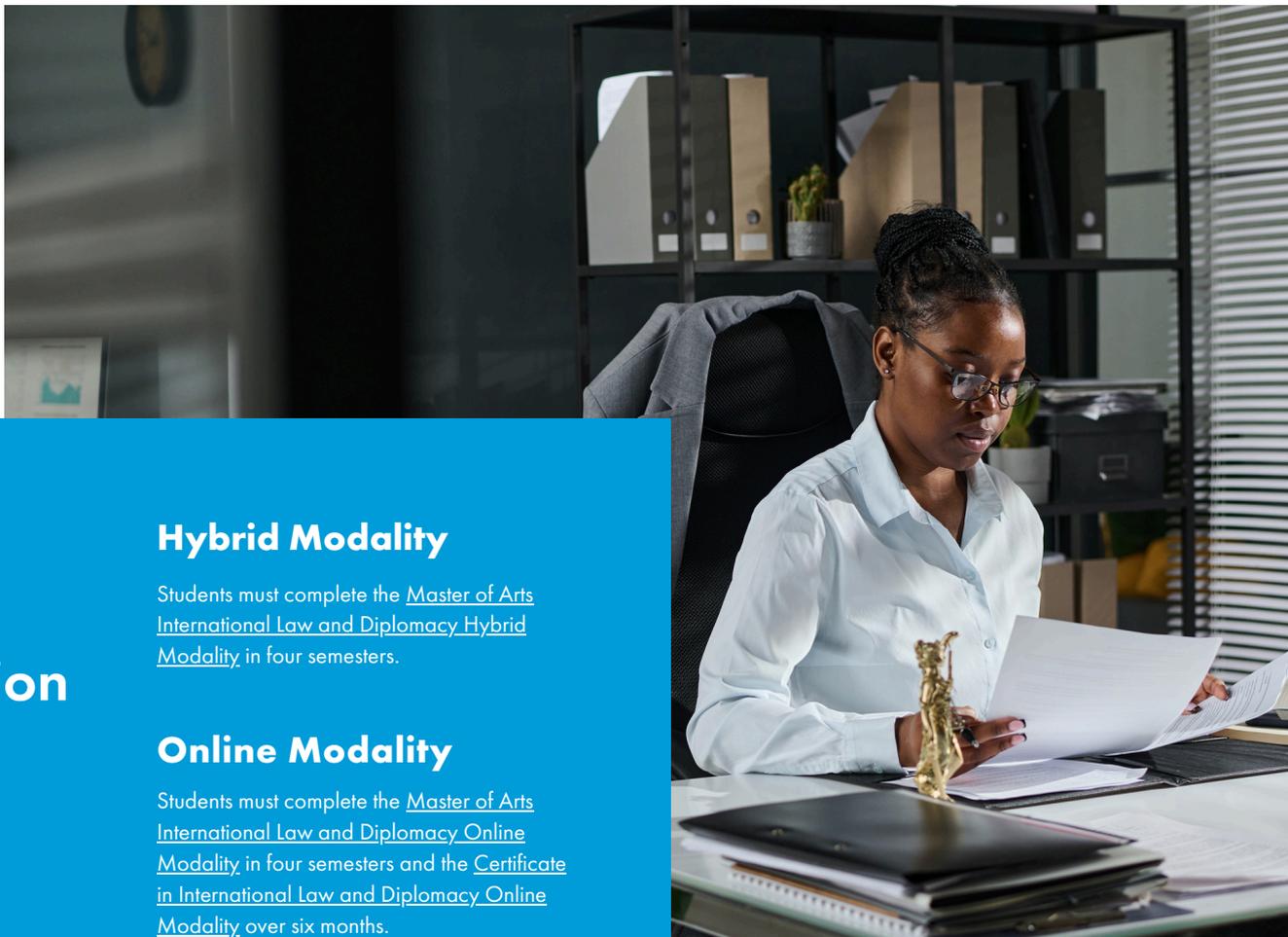
BENEFIT FROM AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

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

Hybrid Modality

Students must complete the [Master of Arts International Law and Diplomacy Hybrid Modality](#) in four semesters.

Online Modality

Students must complete the [Master of Arts International Law and Diplomacy Online Modality](#) in four semesters and the [Certificate in International Law and Diplomacy Online Modality](#) over six months.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the programme, students should:

- Be able to demonstrate key knowledge of the theory and practice of International Law
- Develop the capacity to engage in law-making, implementation, and enforcement processes that advance the rule of law at national, regional, and international levels
- Have a deep understanding of the theory and practice of diplomacy
- Be able to appraise the nexus between international law, diplomacy, the UN System and current contemporary challenges
- Be able to apply key soft skills in an international working environment



Credits and Courses

M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy: Hybrid Modality

Credits

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



Students can obtain the M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy (hybrid 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 hybrid modality, students will complete on-campus mandatory courses (14 credits) and online mandatory courses (11 credits), for a total of 25 credits of mandatory courses.
- In addition, students must take 11 credits optional courses from the list, before completing their final graduation project (IRP) worth 6 credits.



Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy Hybrid Modality) 1/3

Course Title	Entity	Type	Credits	Modality	Dates
UPEACE Foundation Course	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	7 Sept - 25 Sept 2026
The United Nations System and UPMUNC	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	On-site	28 Sept - 9 Oct 2026
Public International Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	12 Oct - 30 Oct 2026
International Humanitarian Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	On-site	30 Oct - 2 Nov 2026
International Law on the Use of Force	UPEACE	Mandatory	1	On-site	16 Nov - 20 Nov 2026
International Human Rights Law (First Week)	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	On-site	23 Nov - 27 Nov 2026
UPEACE Anniversary Festivities - 30 Nov - 4 Dec, 2026					
International Human Rights Law (Second Week)	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	On-site	7 Dec - 11 Dec 2026
December Break					
Universal System for Protection of Human Rights	UPEACE	Mandatory	1	On-site	11 Jan - 14 Mar 2027
International Criminal Law	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	11 Jan - 21 Feb 2027

Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy Hybrid Modality) 2/3

Law of Treaties	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	11 Jan - 14 Mar 2027
International Environmental Law	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	22 Feb - 4 Apr 2027
Transitional Justice	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
International Law and Diplomacy	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	Online	12 Apr - 23 May 2027
World Politics	UPEACE	Optional	3	Online	7 Jun - 8 Aug 2027
International Law Dimensions of Peace and Conflict	UPEACE	Optional	3	Online	7 Jun - 8 Aug 2027
Globalization and Human Rights	UPEACE	Optional	3	Online	2 Aug - 3 Oct 2027
International Economic Law	UPEACE	Optional	3	Online	9 Aug - 10 Oct 2027
Human Rights Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation	UPEACE	Optional	3	Online	4 Oct - 5 Dec 2027
December Break					

Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy Hybrid Modality) 3/3

Law of International Organizations	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	10 Jan - 12 Mar 2028
Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	6 Mar - 16 Apr 2028
Rule of Law	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	13 Mar - 14 May 2028
Final Graduation Project					
Independent Research Project (Deadline)	UPEACE	Mandatory	6	-	31 August 2028

M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy: Online

Credits

The Master of Arts in International Law and Diplomacy (online modality) will comprise a total of 42 credits, allocated as follows:



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

- In order to graduate from the programme, students must undertake 27 credits of mandatory courses.
- In addition, students must also take 9 credits of optional courses from the course list, before completing their final graduation project (IRP), worth 6 credits.



Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy: Online Modality) 1/2

Course Title	Entity	Type	Credits	Dates
Public International Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	6 July - Sept 6 2026
International Human Rights Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	6 July - Sept 6 2026
UPEACE Foundation Course	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Sept 2025 - 8 Nov 2026
UN System	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Sept 2025 - 8 Nov 2026
Law Related to Armed Conflict Part I (Jus ad Bellum)	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	9 Nov - 20 Dec 2026
Law Related to Armed Conflict Part II (Jus in Bello)	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	9 Nov - 20 Dec 2026
December Break				
International Criminal Law	UPEACE	Optional	2	11 Jan - 21 Feb 2027
Law of Treaties	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	11 Jan - 14 Mar 2027
International Environmental Law	UPEACE	Optional	2	22 Feb - 4 Apr 2027
Transitional Justice	UPEACE	Optional	2	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027

Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy: Online Modality) 2/2

International Law and Diplomacy	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	12 Apr - 23 May 2027
World Politics	UPEACE	Optional	3	7 Jun - 8 Aug 2027
International Law Dimensions of Peace and Conflict	UPEACE	Optional	3	7 Jun - 8 Aug 2027
Globalization and Human Rights	UPEACE	Optional	3	2 Aug - 3 Oct 2027
International Economic Law	UPEACE	Optional	3	9 Aug - Oct 10 2027
Human Rights Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation	UPEACE	Optional	3	Oct 4 - Dec 5 2027
December Break				
Law of International Organizations	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	10 Jan - 12 Mar 2028
Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills	UPEACE	Optional	2	6 Mar - 16 Apr 2028
Rule of Law	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	13 Mar - 14 May 2028
Final Graduation Project				
Independent Research Project (Deadline)	UPEACE	Mandatory	6	31 August 2028

Online Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes

Students can obtain the Certificate in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes upon successful completion of 11 credits, all mandatory.

Course Selection

Course Title	Entity	Type	Credits	Dates
UN System	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	7 Sept - 8 Nov 2026
Law of International Organizations	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	11 Jan - 14 Mar 2027
Rule of Law	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	15 Mar - 16 May 2027
International Law and Diplomacy	UPEACE	Mandatory	2	12 Apr - 23 May 2027

Enrollment Fees

Masters' degrees

The cost for pursuing a [M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy Hybrid Modality](#) is USD 13,000*.

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.

(* 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 (31 January) will also benefit from a 10% tuition reduction.

The cost for pursuing a [M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy Online Modality](#) is USD 11,000*.

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.

(* 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 (31 January) will also benefit from a 10% tuition reduction.

Certificate degree

The cost for pursuing the [Certificate in International Law and Diplomacy](#) is USD 3,550*.

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

It is important to note that additional expenses, such as field visits, may not be covered in this figure.

(* 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 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 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) 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

Hybrid Master's Degrees:

✉ admissions@upeace.org

Online Master's Degrees and Certificates:

✉ admissions@elearning.upeace.org

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