



UN Photo / Manuel Elias

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



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 modalities) 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.

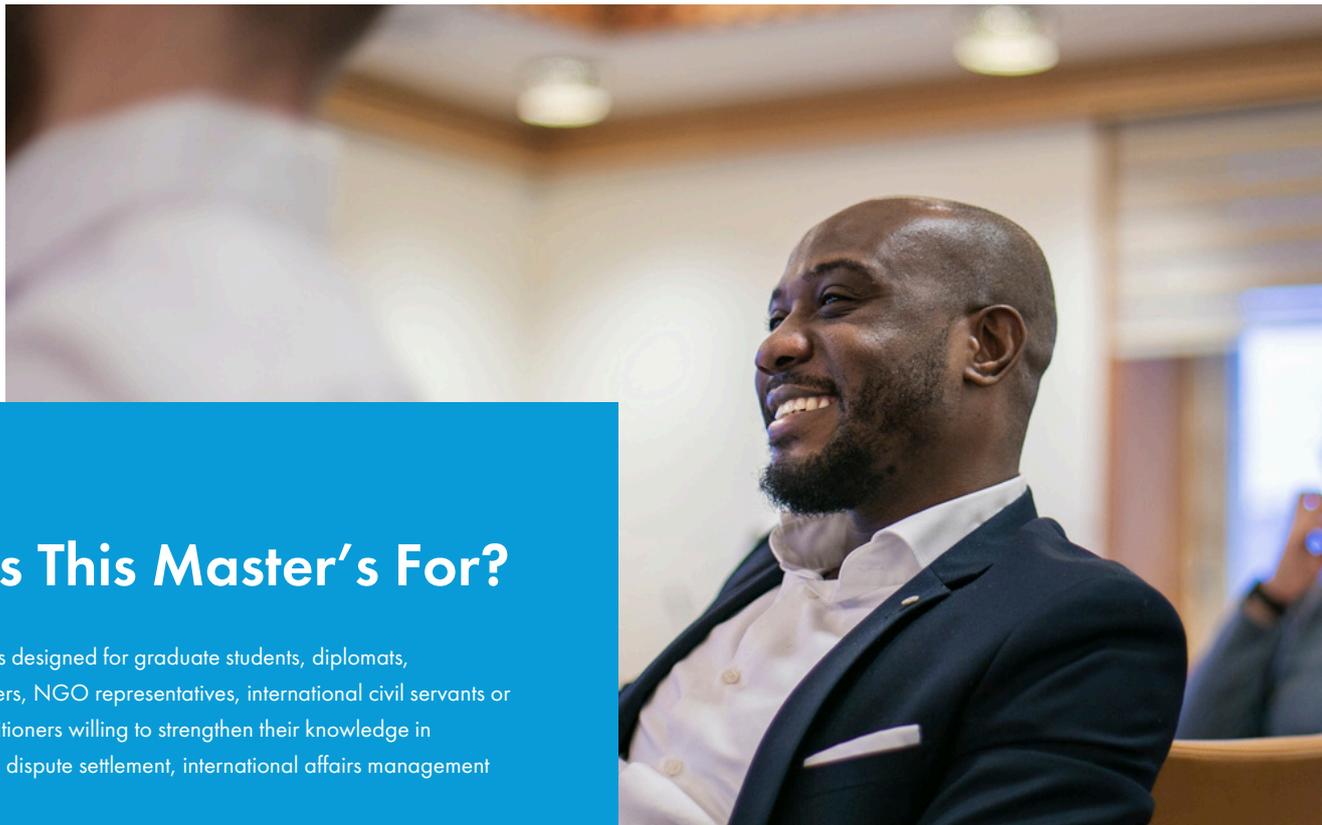
As international and transnational adjudication has acquired a more prominent role in international relations, it is essential to understand how these global and regional courts are responding to the challenges of the early 21st Century. Students will examine the role of international law in the settlement 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 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

On-site Modality

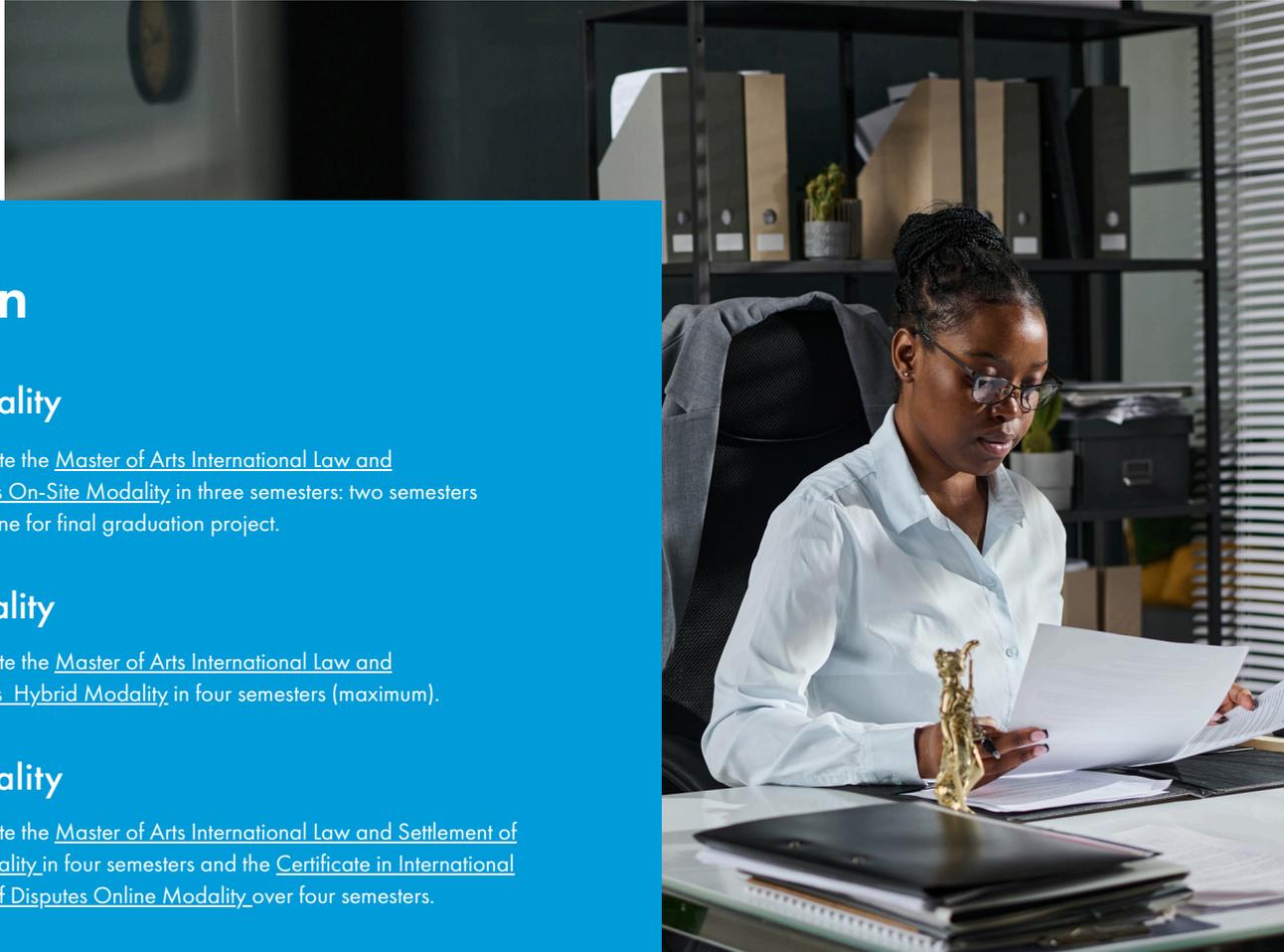
Students must complete the [Master of Arts International Law and Settlement of Disputes On-Site Modality](#) in three semesters: two semesters of course work and one for final graduation project.

Hybrid Modality

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

Online Modality

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



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 Courses

M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes: On-site

Credits

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



Students can obtain the M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes On-Site 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 the Settlement of Disputes: On-site Modality) 1/2

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 Part I	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
Universal System for Protection of Human Rights	UPEACE	Mandatory	1	On-site	14 Dec - 18 Dec 2026
December Break					
International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	11 Jan - 29 Jan 2027

Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes: On-site Modality) 2/2

International Environmental Law and Dispute Settlement	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	1 Feb - 19 Feb 2027
International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	On-site	22 Feb - 12 Mar 2027
Advocacy and International Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	1	On-site	15 Mar - 19 Mar 2027
Easter Break					
Maritime and Territorial Dispute Settlement	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	29 Mar - 16 Apr 2027
Indigenous Peoples' Rights	UPEACE	Optional	1	On-site	19 Apr - 23 Apr 2027
International and Transnational Adjudication	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	26 Apr - 14 May 2027
Protection of Refugees	UPEACE	Optional	1	On-site	17 May - 28 May 2027
Skills for a Successful International Career	UNITAR	Optional	2	On-site	17 May - 28 May 2027
Final Graduation Project					
Thesis/Internship/Capstone Project Deadline	UPEACE	Mandatory	8 for thesis/ internship; 5 for Capstone project	–	15 Dec 2027

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

Credits

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (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).

- In the hybrid 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).



Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes: Hybrid Modality) 1/2

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	2 Nov - 30 Oct 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
Universal System for Protection of Human Rights	UPEACE	Mandatory	1	On-site	14 Dec - 18 Dec 2026
December Break					
International Criminal Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	11 Jan - 29 Jan 2027

Law of Treaties	UNITAR	Optional	3	Online	11 Jan - 14 Mar 2027
International Environmental Law	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	Online	22 Feb - 4 Apr 2027
Transitional Justice	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
International and Transnational Adjudication	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	Online	12 Apr - 13 June 2027
Skills for a Successful International Career	UNITAR	Optional	2	On-site / Online	17 May - 28 May 2027
International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	21 June - 22 Aug 2027
Cyber Law and Warfare	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	6 Sep - 7 Nov 2027
Maritime and Territorial Dispute Settlement	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	Online	11 Oct - 5 Dec 2027
December break					
Law of International Organizations	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	11 Jan - 12 Mar 2028
International Environmental Law	UNITAR	Mandatory	2	Online	21 Feb - 2 Apr 2028
Final Graduation Project					
Independent Research Project (Deadline)	UNITAR	Mandatory	6	Online	31 August 2028

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

Credits

The Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (online) 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).

- 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 (M.A. in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes Online Modality) 1/2

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

Course Selection (M.A. in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes Online Modality) 2/2

Workshop on Negotiation and Mediation Skills	UPEACE	Optional	2	Online	8 Mar - 18 Apr 2027
International and Transnational Adjudication	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	Online	12 Apr - 13 June 2027
Skills for a Successful International Career	UNITAR	Optional	2	Online	17 May - 28 May 2027
International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	21 Jun - 22 Aug 2027
Cyber Law and Warfare	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	Online	6 Sep - 7 Nov 2027
Maritime and Territorial Dispute Settlement	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	On-site	11 Oct - 5 Dec 2027
December break					
Law of International Organizations	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	On-site	10 Jan - 12 Mar 2028
Final Graduation Project					
Independent Research Project (Deadline)	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 Certificate in International Law and The Settlement of Disputes) 1/1

Course Title	Entity	Type	Credits	Dates
International Criminal Law	UPEACE	Optional	3	11 Jan - 21 Feb 2027
Transitional Justice	UPEACE	Optional	3	22 Feb - 4 Apr 2027
International and Transnational Adjudication	UPEACE	Mandatory	3	12 Apr - 16 June 2027
International Trade and Investment Law and the Settlement of Disputes	UNITAR	Mandatory	3	12 Apr - 16 June 2027
Cyber Law and Warfare	UNITAR	Optional	3	6 Sep - 7 Nov 2027
Law of International Organizations / Law of Treaties	UNITAR	Optional	3	10 Jan - 12 Mar 2028

Enrollment Fees

Masters' degrees

The cost for pursuing a [M.A. in International law and the Settlement of Disputes On-site Modality](#) is USD 19,500*.

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

The cost for pursuing a [M.A. in International law and the Settlement of Disputes 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 will be eligible for a 20% waiver (2,600 USD). Therefore, UN staff will pay 10,400 USD. Furthermore, Costa Rican citizens and residents will be eligible for a 30% waiver (3,900 USD). Therefore, Costa Rican nationals and residents will pay 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 the Settlement of Disputes 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 will be eligible for a 20% waiver (2,200 USD). Therefore, UN staff will pay 8,800 USD. Furthermore, Costa Rican nationals and residents will be eligible for a 30% waiver (3,300 USD). Therefore, Costa Rican citizens and residents will pay 7,700 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 a [Online Certificate in International law and the Settlement of Disputes](#) 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

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

On-site and Hybrid Master's Degrees:

✉ admissions@upeace.org

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