



# MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY

AND RELATED QUALIFICATIONS



United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Universitat Oberta  
de Catalunya

UN Photo/ Jean-Marc Ferré



In an increasingly interconnected, globalized and complex world, where the importance of multilateral dialogue and cooperation is ever growing, the demand for training and capacity development in the field of international affairs and diplomacy is constantly rising. In this regard, the establishment of this innovative on-line Master's Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) holds great significance.

This Master's program is designed to be perfectly suited to the needs of students and full-time professionals interested in both developing essential knowledge for understanding international affairs, as well as strengthening their capacities in the practice of diplomacy. This Master's degree will allow diplomats, government officials, students and other stakeholders to upgrade their studies and knowledge with a formally recognized degree combining the best of university education and UN executive training.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nibhil Mittal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark below the name.

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITAR

The Open University of Catalonia is delighted to offer the Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Our web-based degree offers a well-defined and comprehensive academic curriculum to diplomats and government officials involved in international affairs, as well as others who are interested in international relations and seek a career in this field.

The Master's program aims to provide participants with a general introduction to international affairs and specific geopolitical issues. It also allows them to develop and strengthen diplomatic skills in order to perform in a multilateral setting with increased confidence.

Upon successful completion of the UOC-UNITAR Master's program students will gain a thorough understanding of international affairs and diplomacy, whilst also allowing them to advance with their professional career.



Victor M. Gindea

INTERNATIONAL LAW PROFESSOR  
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CATALONIA

# AN INNOVATIVE MASTER'S DEGREE

This Master's program represents a unique opportunity for both students and professionals working within the framework of international and regional organizations, as well as governmental and non-governmental institutions to understand international affairs, and to strengthen their capacities in the practice of diplomacy.

▲ **Online programme** for students and full-time professionals.

▲ **Flexible schedule** designed to fit the specific needs of professionals.

▲ **Cutting-edge insights** into the challenges facing the global community.

▲ **Blend of theory and practice**, to foster a deeper understanding of the dynamics of international relations at different levels and diplomacy.

▲ **Multi-disciplinary approach.**

▲ **Diverse participants** from international and regional organizations (United Nations, African Union, European Union – among others), governmental and non-governmental institutions, and academia.





The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) is an internationally-renowned online university which offers courses and degrees with the benefits of personalized studies, flexibility, accessibility and collaboration. The UOC is a leader and innovator in education and technology, and is a benchmark for quality in its academic work and research on online Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

#### UOC

More than 60,000 registered students in 87 countries;

Close to 3,000,000 visits of its website;

Excellent university education.



Established in 1963, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a training arm of the United Nations, serving some 36,000 beneficiaries annually by conducting more than 500 capacity development and research activities around the world. The mission of UNITAR is to develop capacities of individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level action for shaping a better future.

#### UNITAR

More than 36,000 beneficiaries in 2014;

Cutting-edge training for civilian, military and police personnel;

More than 50 years of experience.

# WHY UNDERTAKE MASTER'S STUDY

A Master's degree is a valuable qualification that provides multiple benefits. Participants who choose to pursue the Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy may seek to:

1 Complement and enhance their knowledge and skills in the area of international relations.

2 Improve their performance, through the acquisition of leading-edge insights in communication and advocacy.

3 Advance their career, through an internationally recognized executive degree.

4 Enlarge their network, by accessing an international community of professionals, world-leading experts and academics.

# OBJECTIVES

The Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy will allow professionals and students to upgrade their studies and training with a formally recognized degree by combining the best of university education and UN executive training. At the end of the Master's Degree, participants will be able to:

- ▲ Develop a critical understanding of key issues and concepts in world affairs
- ▲ Demonstrate a comprehensive, substantive and practical knowledge of international relations and diplomacy
- ▲ Develop analytical skills and critical thinking
- ▲ Improve research and drafting skills
- ▲ Perform in both bilateral and multilateral working environments with increased confidence

The Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy is a UOC-Certified Master's Degree (awarded according to the rules and regulations set by the Spanish education system). Given its specificity, it does not give general access to Doctoral studies (Ph.D. and similar). Validation of credits for access to such programs can be requested from competent institutions. For more information, please visit our online page at <http://unitar.org/mdp/iad>.



# STRUCTURE OF THE MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY AND RELATED QUALIFICATIONS

## MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY

To receive the Master's degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy, issued by the UOC in partnership with UNITAR, students must successfully complete the following courses equivalent to 60 ECTS in no more than two years.

### UNITAR Courses:

- Introduction to the UN System
- Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management
- International Diplomacy - Theory and Practice
- Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks
- Public Diplomacy in a Multipolar World
- Field visit (optional)

### UOC Courses:

- International Law and Institutions
- International Relations System and Theories
- International Political Economy
- European Union in World Politics
- Latin America in World Politics
- Eastern Asia in World Politics
- Africa in World Politics
- Middle East in World Politics
- Research Methods Course
- Master Thesis
- Internship (optional)

Alternatively to the Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy, students may choose the Post-Graduate Certificate in Diplomatic Practice or the Post-Graduate Certificate in World Studies.

## POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE

To receive the Post-Graduate Certificate in Diplomatic Practice students must complete the following courses equivalent to 31 ECTS in no more than two years.

### UNITAR Courses:

- Introduction to the UN System
- Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management
- International Diplomacy - Theory and Practice
- Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks
- Public Diplomacy in a Multipolar World
- Field visit (optional)

### UOC Courses:

- International Law and Institutions
- International Relations System and Theories
- International Political Economy

## POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WORLD STUDIES

To receive the Post-Graduate Certificate in World Studies students must complete the following courses equivalent to 30 ECTS in no more than two years.

### UNITAR Courses:

- Introduction to the UN System
- Field Visit (optional)

### UOC Courses:

- International Law and Institutions
- International Relations System and Theories
- International Political Economy
- European Union in World Politics
- Latin America in World Politics
- Eastern Asia in World Politics
- Africa in World Politics
- Middle East in World Politics







# DESCRIPTION OF UNITAR COURSES

## INTRODUCTION TO THE UN SYSTEM

This course aims to provide an overview of the United Nations as well as a historical, political, and analytical framework to broaden your understanding of the UN system's structure and challenges and for liaising more effectively with UN representatives and staff.

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The course critically analyzes current events, major problems, processes and trends in international and regional conflicts. It also examines the prospect for negotiation among states as well as international and regional organizations to solve international crises.

## INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY - THEORY AND PRACTICE

The course helps students understand the theory and practice of diplomacy and discuss the contemporary challenges.

## OVERCOMING NEGOTIATION DEADLOCKS

This course aims to give students practical skills to enhance individual and collective negotiation capacity and lead through deadlock situations.

## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

This course aims to help participants understand what public diplomacy is, how its practice has evolved over time and how the current challenges are being addressed. The crucial project steps of campaigns, media relations and other public diplomacy tools are analyzed, discussed and summarized in a very practice oriented manner.









# DESCRIPTION OF UOC COURSES

## INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INSTITUTIONS

This course provides a deeper understanding of legal principles, rules and practices that have become the basic instrument for states in solving common problems and expressing common values. The course focuses on the specific nature of international law, as well as the historical, sociological and political context in which it has developed. It also introduces the major related theoretical approaches.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SYSTEM AND THEORIES

This course provides an overview of the field of international relations covering the definition, challenges and the key actors. The course also addresses the basic international relations theories including but not limited to realism, liberalism, constructivism, marxism, and rational decision-making.

## INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

This course focuses on a wide spectrum of issues such as global trade, production and global finance based on empirical and critical analysis.

## EUROPEAN UNION IN WORLD POLITICS

This course looks into the nature, goals, members, institutions and law of the European Union. This module also develops a critical analysis of the relationship between the European Union and emerging world powers.

## LATIN AMERICA IN WORLD POLITICS

This module explores and analyzes the history, economics and politics in Latin America.

## EAST ASIA IN WORLD POLITICS

With four great powers, three nuclear weapons states and two of the world's largest economies, East Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in world politics. This course introduces and critically explores the past and the future of East Asia.

## AFRICA IN WORLD POLITICS

The course examines the role of Africa in the global order. During this course, questions such as demographic transition, inequality gaps, agricultural transformation, political fragility, regional cooperation and adaptation to climate change are addressed.

## MIDDLE EAST IN WORLD POLITICS

The course examines political patterns in specific countries of the Middle East from a historical and theoretical point of view as well as the impact of the EU and the US foreign policy in the region.

## RESEARCH METHODS COURSE

This course provides students with the basic tools to develop in-depth research skills.

## MASTER THESIS

Participant will be supervised on an individual basis during the study and research of the topic in depth in relation to international affairs and diplomacy. The Master thesis should account for approximately 12,000 – 15,000 words.

## INTERNSHIP (OPTIONAL)

# FIELD VISIT TO GENEVA, DIPLOMACY HUB



On the shores of the Lac Léman, Geneva is a Swiss city of 192,000 inhabitants, which has been hosting intergovernmental organisations since the early 20th century. International conferences take place in the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), in the five United Nations specialized agencies which have their headquarters in the city, in the Geneva headquarters or offices of United Nations bodies, commissions, programmes and in other United Nations or non-UN entities.

Students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the very heart of diplomacy. This optional field trip of a duration of 5 days can become an unforgettable lifetime experience for students who wish to gain expertise as well as skills in the domain of multilateral diplomacy.

Students will also have the opportunity to visit different international organizations, the Palais des Nations (United Nations Office at Geneva), and participate in face-to-face training sessions at UNITAR headquarters delivered by practitioners, senior diplomats and members of academia.

They will also have the chance to network with other diplomats, personnel of permanent missions accredited to the UN, civil servants of international organizations and civil society representatives.



A photograph of three people sitting at a table in what appears to be a meeting or classroom setting. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a light green sweater over a black top, is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. She is holding a blue marker in her right hand, which is raised near her face. Behind her, another woman with dark hair and a white headband is looking slightly off-camera. To the right, a man with short dark hair and a blue shirt is also looking off-camera. On the table in front of them are various items: a black smartphone, a spiral-bound notebook with handwritten notes, a newspaper, and some loose papers. One of the papers has the United Nations logo and the text 'UNITED NATIONS Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' and 'CAP 2011 FACT SHEET'.

# ADMISSION PROCESS

The Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy and its related qualifications are aimed at diplomats as well as staff of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, the Master's Degree and related qualifications are open to graduate students\*, young researchers and other academics interested in gaining a thorough understanding of diplomacy and international relations and acquiring soft skills to thrive in their careers.

The objective of the admission process is to select students with great potential and who can make a significant contribution to the learning experience. We seek candidates who are dynamic, motivated, creative, and who have not only an excellent academic background and/or professional experience, but also have interpersonal skills enabling the participants to make the most out of this program.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to be considered for the Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy and related qualifications, candidates must be fluent in English, possess a valid passport or national identity card and have completed an undergraduate degree. In order to register, please visit: <https://studies.uoc.edu/en/postgraduate-courses>

## ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission is granted on a rolling basis. Early application is recommended given the limited number of places on the programme.

Admission is valid for two intakes.

## DURATION

The Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy and related qualifications can be completed in 1 year (full-time) or two years (part-time). However, candidates that are currently working are encouraged to complete the programme in two years (part-time).







# STUDENT AND FACULTY PROFILE

By choosing the Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy, students gain access to a broad group of alumni spread across the world.

Our international faculty is composed of high-level representatives from international and regional organizations, representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations, world-leading academics and experts. UNITAR and UOC faculty brings intellectual diversity and different perspectives on international affairs, negotiations, leadership and world politics, creating an enriching and challenging programme.





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