



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice

Geneva, Switzerland

2024-2025

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UNITAR's Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice

Drawing on UNITAR's extensive experience training global decision-makers for the past 60 years, our Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice represents an unparalleled opportunity for professionals in international affairs to strengthen their capacities and knowledge in the practice of diplomacy.

Former participants include Diplomats, CEOs, Private and Public Sector Professionals, and Academics.

Taught by seasoned experts and practitioners both within, and outside, the United Nations system, the programme offers participants the opportunity to expand their professional global networks, refine their knowledge and skills in diplomacy and related areas, and expand their career horizons.



Photo Credit: UNITAR/Virginia Fernandez De La Cal

For the UN, on the UN, by the UN

The Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice and our Core Diplomatic Training (CDT) are central to UNITAR's mandate and core objectives.

Held annually, the programme is comprised of a series of practice-oriented workshops for diplomats and global decision-makers "on the UN, for the UN, by the UN."

UNITAR has delivered Core Diplomatic Training since its inception, and is currently offering its 9th Edition of the Executive Diploma. The knowledge gained by programme participants enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of both Member States and the United Nations in the multilateral environment.



Scan for Video: Feedback from past participants

UNITAR's Work in Multilateral Diplomacy

At the heart of UNITAR, the Division for Multilateral Diplomacy supports member states and global leaders in overcoming global challenges related to multilateralism, international cooperation, peace and security, climate change, human rights, and science and technology.

The Division has supported diplomats since 1963, working closely with an increasing number of other partners to strengthen capacities of diplomats, government officials and major actors in the diplomatic sphere, empowering their participation in, and the efficiency of, the multilateral system in New York, Geneva, and other cities where the UN maintains a significant presence.

A 60-year history of leaving no one behind, and making global affairs, global.



1963

UNITAR was founded in 1963 based on the recommendation of the UN Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General then established the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, as an autonomous body within the UN system.



1968

UNITAR expanded its training activities under the leadership of Chief S.O. Adebo of Nigeria, including the establishment of regional training seminars to train junior diplomats from the Global South, and the launch of fellowship programmes.



Today

UNITAR empowers key decision-makers across the globe with the knowledge to lead in areas such as international relations, diplomatic practice, international law, negotiation, and cross-cultural communications.

9th Edition: Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice

Dates: November 2024 - August 2025

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Format: Face-to-Face Workshops

- Workshop on Negotiation Skills and Techniques
- Workshop on Effective Writing in Multilateral Diplomacy
- Workshop on Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette
- Workshop on Leadership Skills and Assertiveness
- Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination
- Workshop on Conference Diplomacy and Multilateral Negotiations
- Workshop on Public Speaking and Presentation Skills
- Workshop on Digital Diplomacy and Artificial Intelligence

Individual Workshops

Participants who wish to attend individual workshops offered in this programme, without being awarded a diploma, are invited to learn more and apply at: unitar.org/cdt

Diploma Requirements

Core Diplomatic Training

Attend at least 6 of the 8 CDT workshops over the course of 8 months, between November 2024 – August 2025

Optional Modality: Online Courses

In special situations, participants who cannot attend 8 workshops can either take up to 2 of UNITAR's online courses offered in the field of multilateral diplomacy instead of 2 CDT workshops.

Research Paper

In order to be awarded the Executive Diploma, participants are required to submit a research paper of between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Participants must provide an in-depth analysis and argumentation on a chosen theme covered in the course or related to multilateral diplomacy.

Application Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree;
- 2-3 years of relevant professional experience;
- Proficiency in English

Programme Duration

The estimated duration of the Executive Diploma is approximately 150 hours, with 125 hours of teaching and 25 for individual research and writing.

Please note that this programme will not provide ECTS credits

Part-Time Option

UNITAR offers a flexible pathway for the Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice, designed to accommodate the busy schedules of diplomats and professionals. Participants can complete the Diploma part-time over two years, by attending four workshops of your choice in the 9th Edition, and four workshops in the subsequent edition. This allows for better integration of learning with responsibilities, and a more balanced approach to professional development and work commitments.

For more information, please contact us at diplomacy@unitar.org

Workshops

Negotiation Skills and Techniques

The workshop will support participants in understanding negotiation techniques, as well as personal and professional skills. Participants will learn to define and understand the key elements and appropriate procedures in international negotiations, acquire and have the opportunity to practice new skills and strategies in negotiation, and will emerge confident to guide and advise colleagues as to best practices in dealing with complex negotiations.

Effective Writing in Multilateral Diplomacy

During this training, participants will learn how to use a comprehensive methodology and the appropriate tools to improve the recording and summarizing of conference results, negotiations, and meetings for stakeholders interested in their outcomes. Presentations and practical exercises will strengthen skills needed to analyze internationally agreed instruments and the required national follow-up.

Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette

This workshop aims to provide an overview of the United Nations and multilateral protocol practices to guide the practitioners who operate within the United Nations Headquarters and in field offices. Participants will gain a concrete understanding of specific protocol-related situations and the knowledge and capacities to make the right decisions considering a spectrum of possible protocol-related arrangements. Participants will gain the skills to organize a successful state visit, ceremony, or social event, adhering to official protocols.

Leadership Skills and Assertiveness

This training will enhance participants' understanding of theories and differing styles of leadership particularly in a cultural context, the importance and practice of effective communication skills, and strategies of strong leadership in times of crisis, decision-making and risk management. Participants will work on their own personality and leadership style, reflecting on ways to improve their assertiveness, self-awareness and interpersonal relationships.

Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

This workshop will enhance participants' skills in communicating, consulting, planning, and nurturing professional relationships among others, with the objective to foster productive cooperation across organizations, governments, and other key actors.

Participants will be trained to effectively employ dialogue and other facilitating skills across sectors in order to generate mutual benefits and a more efficient project delivery.

Conference Diplomacy and Multilateral Negotiations

The training provides participants with an opportunity to review the challenges of contemporary conference diplomacy, and will familiarize them with the structure and form of UN resolutions as well as improve drafting skills. Participants will get to know the procedure and practices of decision making at the United Nations and process leading to the adoption of UN resolutions. At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to analyze the dynamics in negotiation more effectively; improve preparation for and participation in negotiations; and identify the interplay of intercultural differences.

Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

The overall objective of the workshop is to provide participants with skills and knowledge in order to communicate effectively and confidently; in particular, when speaking in public and engaging in multilateral settings. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in simulated situations of public speaking and receive feedback from the group and the trainer. During the course, participants will be presented with communication strategies, techniques and skills, as well as exercises to put theory into practice.

Digital Diplomacy and Artificial Intelligence

This workshop will explore how digital technologies and AI impact and change the agents of diplomacy, including facilitating the participation of new actors in international debates. It will explain how diplomats and other professionals are increasingly using digital technologies and AI in securing their objectives in the international environment, and the challenges and dangers this can bring. The workshop will explore the international problems that digital technologies and AI are generating, including in the context of cybersecurity and disinformation operations, and how diplomats and other professionals can use diplomacy to manage these agendas. In this context, the workshop will also look at the context created by the geopolitics of digital technologies and AI.



Learn from Renowned Experts

The Executive Diploma is taught by selected experts in the fields of international relations, diplomatic practice, and international law, including practitioners from both within, and outside of, the UN system.



Jérôme L'Host

is a dedicated Senior Consultant working internationally with both Public and Private Sectors. Over the last sixteen years, he has delivered presentations and motivational speeches for numerous public and private entities. Mr L'Host has managed more than 40 large-scale international projects in more than 30 different countries.

Public Speaking and Presentation Skills



Meritxell Martell Lamolla

is the founder and director of Merience, a consultancy company focused on risk communication and stakeholder engagement strategies. With over 20 years of experience as an international consultant in such issues, she has successfully participated in and coordinated several European projects and is an expert consultant to many international organizations. She is also executive director of an association of nuclear municipalities and secretary of the SHARE platform on social sciences and humanities in ionising radiation research.

Stakeholder Engagement and Cooperation



Shaun Riordan

is the Chair for Diplomacy and Cyberspace of the European Institute for European Studies and a Senior Visiting Fellow of the Clingendael Institute. He obtained an MA Hons in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge, and served in the British Diplomatic Service and the UN, Counter-terrorism, and Eastern Adriatic Departments in the Foreign Office. He teaches in various diplomatic academies and advises companies and governments on geopolitical risk analysis.

[Digital Diplomacy and Artificial Intelligence](#)



Dr. Jack R. Williams

is the President of the Institute for Global Negotiation, and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po Paris and teaches negotiation and conflict resolution as an External Consultant in various programmes for UNITAR. Previously, Jack was an Assistant Professor of International Relations and Acting Dean of the College of International Studies at the American University of Kurdistan in Northern Iraq. He received his PhD in Political Philosophy from the University of Zurich, during which time he was a visiting researcher at Princeton University.

[Negotiation Skills and Techniques](#)



H.E. Miloš Strugar

is the Executive Director of the Conflux Centre and UN Senior Mediation Adviser, and currently supports UN efforts on the Syrian ceasefire and leads the UN delegation at the Astana talks. With over 20 years in UN peacekeeping across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, he is an experienced mediator, adviser, and crisis communicator, lecturing widely and contributing to international media.

[Effective Writing in Multilateral Diplomacy](#)



Christine Petersen

has over 36 years of experience in multinational companies, working as both a project manager, director, trainer, coach and consultant. She speaks 6 languages and provides a large range of workshops for in-house and virtual trainings, including recent clients like WHO, IOM, WTO, UEFA, Mettler Toledo, Richemont, VF Corporation and Maire.

[Leadership Skills and Assertiveness](#)



Ted Bikin-Kita

has extensive experience in the academic, private, and public sectors. In the early 1990s, he advised government officials on diplomatic and legal matters, participating in high-level international negotiations. He has taught Diplomatic Practice, Economics, International Relations, Law, and Political Science at universities in Switzerland and Ireland. Currently, he is an Independent Consultant with UNITAR involved in Core Diplomatic Training. Ted is a graduate of Sciences Po and ENA, specializing in Diplomatic Practice, Economics, Law, Management, and Political Science.

[Conference Diplomacy and Multilateral Negotiations](#)

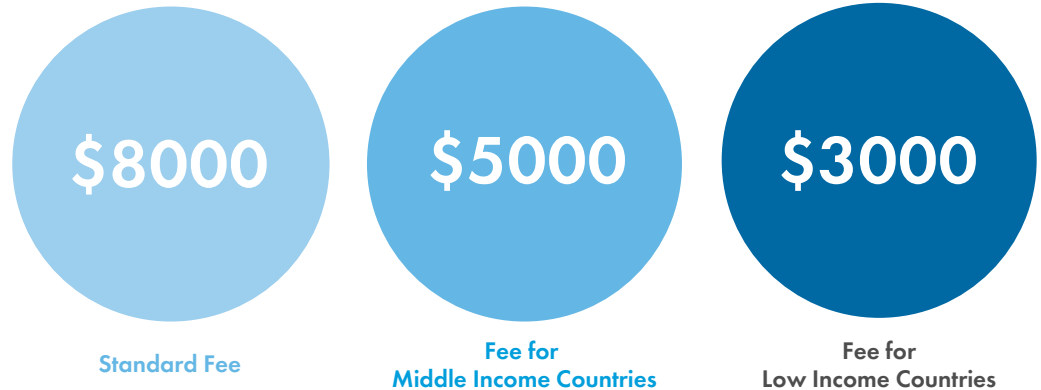


Bertrand Louis

is a former Swiss diplomat with a distinguished career. He served as Ambassador to Cuba, Jamaica, and Haiti (2004-2009), and to Morocco (2009-2015). He was Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva and the UN Environment Program in Nairobi, and Deputy Chief of Protocol in Berne. Since retiring in 2015, he has been President of the Swiss Forum for International Affairs, facilitating dialogue on international relations and geopolitical issues.

[Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette](#)

Programme Cost and Fee Reductions



UNITAR is pleased to announce that participants from low and middle income countries* are eligible for a limited number of fee reductions upon request. For more information, contact us at diplomacy@unitar.org

** According to the World Bank Country Classification Method*





Contact Us



unitar.org/cdt



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