![UNITAR logo — United Nations Institute for Training and Research](image)

Factsheet
Online Learning and Education

👁 Our Vision

Education is not just a basic human right, but also a key enabler for achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda. It is crucial for countries to ensure equal and inclusive access to high-quality education and imperative for fostering the holistic development of individuals and cultivating mutual understanding, tolerance, and peace.

UNITAR's Online Learning and Education Unit is committed to forging partnerships that prioritise sustainability. Our goal is to establish purposeful networks that encourage engagement, foster deep connections, and drive innovation in the field of education. Guided by this global aspiration, we adhere to a five-pillar strategy: availability, accessibility, acceptability, adaptability, and gender equality. These pillars ensure that our partnerships and joint programmes uphold value and meaningfulness, while also promoting a creative and inclusive approach to global development and education for all.

We believe in interdisciplinary collaboration, leveraging diverse expertise, and inspiring professionals to make a positive impact in their communities. Through collective efforts, our vision is to create a world where education is universally accessible, transcending boundaries and empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.

🔄 Future Vision

Education stands as a cornerstone for peace, development, and the realisation of the United Nations 2.0 vision. Acknowledging its transformative power, education is deemed the most effective investment for fostering prosperous, healthy, and equitable societies, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 16, and 17 of the 2030 Agenda. This underscores the importance of access, equality, inclusion, quality, and lifelong learning.

Within the framework of sustainable development, UNITAR's Online Learning and Education programmes provide high-quality capacity-building solutions, ensuring the universal right to education. These programmes are crafted to offer transformative learning experiences, broadening perspectives and mindsets for sustainable impact. Embracing eLearning as a flexible approach, adaptable to various models and educational philosophies, UNITAR aims to enhance global educational outcomes.

Recognising education as a catalyst for social change and sustainable development, these programmes empower learners to actively contribute to building a better future, aligned with the UN 2.0 vision.

Our Master's Degrees and Partnerships:

MA in Conflict, Peace and Security
in partnership with Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

MA in Electoral Policy and Administration
in partnership with Scuola Superiore Sant'Ana and International IDEA.

MA in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding
in partnership with Oxford Brookes University.

MA in Global Sustainability Leadership
in partnership with Technological University Dublin.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as a specialized training agency of the United Nations, is committed to promoting the UN's New Agenda for Peace. Focusing in innovative curricular opportunities and pedagogical approaches, UNITAR empowers individuals, organizations, and institutions to enhance global decision-making, aligning with the principles of SDG 16 and 17, and contribute to the establishment of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

UNITAR's extensive expertise is evident in the design and delivery of diverse online training and development activities in collaboration with higher education institutions. Rooted in a unique methodology, these initiatives create powerful learning and collaboration spaces, both online and face-to-face. This success has positioned UNITAR as a leading institute, attracting individuals from higher education institutions, as well as the public and private sectors.

By leveraging our expertise and collaborative approach, UNITAR strives to equip individuals and organizations with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to address the complex challenges of our time and actively contribute to the realization of the UN's New Agenda for Peace. Through our training programmes and initiatives, we foster a culture of peace, inclusivity, and justice, promoting sustainable development and a harmonious global community.

Flagship Projects

Online Master Degree Programmes

UNITAR's Master degrees, offered in collaboration with prestigious higher education institutions, are specialised academic programmes crafted to enhance knowledge and capacities in peace and security, aligning with SDGs 4, 16, and 17 for sustainable development. Delivered primarily online, these programmes cater to mid-to-upper-level professionals, offering flexibility for those currently working in the field or involved in extensive travel. Comprising modular components adaptable to individual preferences, these advanced academic modules contribute directly to capacity-building, enabling participants to contribute significantly to sustainable peace.

The impact of our (Online) Master Degrees, certificate, and diploma programmes extends beyond individual capacity-building, influencing stakeholders and institutions dedicated to peacebuilding. Emphasizing community involvement, these programmes equip learners with tools and knowledge, ensuring a positive impact on various interventions. Aligned with SDGs, our programmes aim to develop expertise and frameworks, contributing to lasting peace. Prioritising the UN's Our Common Agenda and UN 2.0 vision, UNITAR strives to empower professionals and institutions, fostering positive change and sustainable peace globally.

Open Online Courses

The free and open online courses are a great choice, and opportunity, for anyone willing or needing to get familiar with the basic concepts and topics in the areas of conflict, peace and security as well as other thematic areas addressed by the SDGs, including but not limited to gender equality (SDG 5), climate action (SDG 13) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16). The 25 self-paced courses are for anyone seeking fundamental insights that span diverse themes from trauma and gender to conflict analysis and resolution. Offered in English, French, and Spanish, these courses do not require prior knowledge. The MOOCs aim to deliver an inclusive and quality learning experience, aligning with SDG 4 for inclusive and equitable education. Participants gain tools to analyse, understand, and explore concepts and frameworks within diverse themes, fostering engagement through creative asynchronous methods.

UNV Online Courses

This joint project was developed and is implemented by UNITAR and the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV). It offers all assigned UN Volunteers the opportunity to take part in a series of courses on topics ranging from Women, Leadership and Peacebuilding to Electoral Security and Conflict Prevention. These self-paced online courses provide in-depth insights and advanced knowledge meant to develop professional skills and key competences in the areas of gender, conflict, peace and security, environment, and mental health. The programme, therefore, aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of all UN Volunteers as part of their learning journey, as well as to present some important frameworks and tools in areas relevant to the fulfilment of their responsibilities while in deployment.

"I am currently enrolled for a Master's in Electoral Policy and Administration (MEPA). For seven (7) years I worked with local Civil Society Organizations in West Africa to issue grants to promote country-specific electoral security programmes. To enhance my knowledge on Electoral Security, I came across the MEPA programme which is very flexible for my work schedule. As a West African, I have experienced first-hand the impact of weak governance institutions and the ripple effect it has on a nation. I have come to understand and affirm elections remain the only instrument for the peaceful transfer of power in a democratic institution, therefore it is important to ensure the electoral process is seen as transparent, unbiased, credible and acceptable by the citizens. The MEPA courses on Managing Electoral Conflicts and Managing Elections in Public Emergencies have been of immense value to me as I managed the grants activities." - *Chijioke Ogbogu, Program Manager, Nigeria*

7.297
Individuals enrolled in our Online Education programmes

170
Students enrolled in our Postgraduate Courses and Master's Degrees

4.402
Learners benefitted from

25
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) - in three languages

Out of
400
Volunteers

151
completed one or more of our

15
advanced online courses