



UOC-UNITAR Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy

and related qualifications



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A Message from UNITAR

In an increasingly interconnected, globalised 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, this innovative online Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning 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 programme 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 benefiting from the best of university education and UN executive training.

Rabih El-Haddad

Director, Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, UNITAR

A Message from UOC

The Open University of Catalonia is delighted to offer the Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning 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 curriculum to diplomats and government officials involved in international affairs as well as academics interested in gaining a thorough understanding of diplomacy and international relations and acquiring soft skills to thrive in their careers.

The master's programme 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 programme, students will gain a thorough understanding of international affairs and diplomacy, whilst also allowing them to advance in their professional career.



Dr. Mariona Cardona-Vallès

Director, UOC-UNITAR Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy
Faculty of Law and Political Science, Open University of Catalonia





About the Programme

This master's programme represents a unique opportunity for both students and professionals interested in upgrading their studies in order to work in international and regional organisations to understand international affairs, and to strengthen their capacities in the practice of diplomacy. The official title of the Master is Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in International Affairs and Diplomacy. The Master is a UOC-Certified Master's Degree (awarded according to the rules and regulations set by the Spanish education system).

- **Online programme** for students and full-time professionals
- **Flexible schedule** and asynchronous teaching
- **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** and the chance to learn from a broad range of experts across several fields
- **Diverse participants** from international and regional organisations (United Nations, African Union, European Union – among others), governmental and non-governmental institutions, and academia
- **Optional field visits** to Geneva (Switzerland) and The Hague (Netherlands) where students will visit different international organisations, network with international civil servants and diplomats, and participate in skills-based sessions for a successful international career



About UNITAR

Established in 1963, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is the training arm of the United Nations, serving approximately 560,000 beneficiaries annually by conducting more than 1,400 different training and knowledge sharing events per year online and around the world.

Our mission is to develop capacities of individuals, organisations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level action for shaping a better future.

- More than 60 years of experience
- Cutting-edge training for, inter alia, personnel from non-state sectors, governments, the United Nations and other international and regional organisations
- Served 559,083 beneficiaries and delivered 1,442 events in 2024

About UOC

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) is an internationally renowned online university which offers courses and degrees with the benefits of personalised 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).

- Excellent university education
- More than 90,400 registered students in 132 countries
- UOC is leading OpenEU, an initiative involving 27 academic and non-academic organisations — including ten open and distance universities — working to create the first pan-European open university, offering flexible, inclusive, and lifelong digital higher education



Invest in Your Future



Learn from Highly Experienced Experts

Courses are led by UNITAR or UOC and are taught by high-level experts in the fields of international relations, diplomatic practice, and regional studies from academic and international circles - including practitioners from both within and outside the UN system.



Immerse Yourself in the Field of Diplomacy

Students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in diplomacy and international law through optional field trips to Geneva (Switzerland) and The Hague (Netherlands). These trips include visits to international organisations, networking with diplomats, and practical skills sessions.



Take Advantage of Asynchronous Learning Methods

This programme is designed to suit the needs of working professionals through a flexible, asynchronous format. It combines self-paced modules with interactive elements and optional live components to support individual academic and professional development.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the Master, 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.





Structure of the Master's Programme

To receive the Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in International Affairs and Diplomacy, students must successfully complete the course list on the next page equivalent to 60 ECTS in one year (full time) or two years (part time).

Given its specificity, the Master does not give general access to Doctoral studies (Ph.D. and similar). Universities around the world have different requirements and we are not in a position to certify that all universities will accept the master's degree as sufficient. Validation of credits for access to such programmes can be requested from competent institutions.

Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
Introduction to the United Nations System		Mandatory	Online
Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management		Mandatory	Online
International Diplomacy - Theory and Practice		Mandatory	Online
Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks		Mandatory	Online
Public Diplomacy in a Multipolar World		Mandatory	Online
Field Visit to Geneva, Switzerland		Optional	Face-to-face
Field Visit to The Hague, Netherlands		Optional	Face-to-face
International Law and Institutions		Mandatory	Online

Course Title	Entity	Type	Methodology
International Relations System and Theories		Mandatory	Online
International Political Economy		Mandatory	Online
European Union and Eastern Europe in World Politics		Mandatory	Online
Latin America in World Politics		Mandatory	Online
Asia-Pacific in World Politics		Mandatory	Online
Africa and Middle East in World Politics		Mandatory	Online
Master's Thesis		Mandatory	Online
Internship		Optional	Face-to-face or Online

Related Qualifications

For those seeking a shorter or more focused academic pathway, the UOC-UNITAR collaboration also offers Specialization Diplomas and Expert Diplomas.

These qualifications provide targeted study in key areas of international affairs and diplomacy, allowing participants to enhance their knowledge and professional profile while providing a flexible pathway to the Master should the student wish to continue.

- Specialization Diplomas: one year (two semesters), 30 ECTS
- Expert Diplomas: one semester, 15 ECTS

Both options include Master-level courses which can be applied to the Master or can be standalone programmes, in which case students will receive a certificate of Specialization Diploma or Expert Diploma.



Specialization Diploma in Multilateral Diplomacy and International Institutions

To receive the Specialization Diploma in Multilateral Diplomacy and International Institutions students must complete the following courses equivalent to 30 ECTS in one year.

Courses delivered by UNITAR:

- 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 to Geneva, Switzerland (optional)
- Field Visit to The Hague, Netherlands (optional)

Courses delivered by UOC:

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

Specialization Diploma in Regional Studies and International Institutions

To receive the Specialization Diploma in Regional Studies and International Institutions students must complete the following courses equivalent to 30 ECTS in one year.

Courses delivered by UNITAR:

- Introduction to the UN
- Field Visit to Geneva, Switzerland (optional)
- Field Visit to The Hague, Netherlands (optional)

Courses delivered by UOC:

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

Expert Diploma in International Institutions

To receive the Expert Diploma in International Institutions students must complete the following courses equivalent to 15 ECTS in one semester.

Courses delivered by UNITAR:

- Introduction to the UN System
- Field Visit to Geneva, Switzerland (optional)
- Field Visit to The Hague, Netherlands (optional)

Courses delivered by UOC:

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

Expert Diploma in Multilateral Diplomacy

To receive the Expert Diploma in Multilateral Diplomacy students must complete the following courses equivalent to 15 ECTS in one semester.

Courses delivered by UNITAR:

- Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management
- International Diplomacy - Theory and Practice
- Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks
- Public Diplomacy in a Multipolar World
- Field Visit to Geneva, Switzerland (optional)
- Field Visit to The Hague, Netherlands (optional)

Expert Diploma in Regional Studies

To receive the Expert Diploma in Regional Studies students must complete the following courses equivalent to 15 ECTS in one semester.

Courses delivered by UNITAR:

- Field Visit to Geneva, Switzerland (optional)
- Field Visit to The Hague, Netherlands (optional)

Courses delivered by UOC:

- EU and Eastern Europe in World Politics
- Latin America in World Politics
- Asia-Pacific in World Politics
- Africa and Middle East in World Politics

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:

This course critically analyses current events, challenges and trends in international and regional conflicts. It also examines the negotiation process among states as well as international and regional organisations to solve international crises.

International Diplomacy – Theory and Practice:

This course helps students understand the theory and practice of diplomacy and to effectively discuss 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.





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.

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.

EU and Eastern Europe in World Politics:

This course investigates the nature, goals, members, institutions, and laws of the European Union and Eastern Europe, as well as analyses their relationship with emerging world powers.

Latin America in World Politics:

This course explores and analyses the history, economics, and politics of Latin America.

UOC Courses

Asia-Pacific in World Politics:

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

Africa and Middle East in World Politics:

This course explores the role of Africa and the Middle East in the global order, addressing key issues such as demographic transition, inequality, agricultural transformation, political fragility, regional cooperation, and climate change adaptation in Africa. It also examines political dynamics in the Middle East and the influence of EU and US foreign policy in the region.

Master's Thesis:

Students will be supervised on an individual basis during the in-depth study and research of a topic related to international affairs and diplomacy.

Internship (Optional):

Students who provide confirmation of past work experience or do an internship can request to be exempted from one of the subjects from the block of regional studies. In all cases, the practical experience must amount to at least 100 hours and be related to international relations in the wider sense.







Optional Field Visits

To Geneva (Switzerland) and The Hague (Netherlands)

Available to students enrolled in the UOC-UNITAR Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy and the related qualifications

During this activity, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the very hearts of diplomacy and international law and justice, visit different international organisations, and network with diplomats, personnel of permanent missions accredited to the UN, civil servants of international organisations and civil society representatives.

Students can sign up for one or both field visits (Geneva, Switzerland and The Hague, Netherlands) if they wish to do so. The fee for each five-day field trip is USD 1,500. If students register for both field visits, the fee is USD 3,000. The fee does not include travel, accommodation, food, or visa expenses.

Who Can Apply?

The Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy and its related qualifications are geared towards diplomats as well as staff of governmental and non-governmental organisations. Additionally, the Master 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 make a significant contribution to the learning experience. We seek candidates who are dynamic, motivated, creative, and who not only have an excellent academic background and/or professional experience, but also have interpersonal skills enabling the participants to make the most out of this programme.



Fees and Payment

€ 7,410

UOC-UNITAR
Master's Degree

- ✓ 60 ECTS
- ✓ Available full-time or part-time
- ✓ Perfect for working professionals

€ 3,810

UOC-UNITAR
Specialization Diploma

- ✓ 30 ECTS
- ✓ Perfect for working professionals

€ 1,975

UOC-UNITAR
Expert Diploma

- ✓ 15 ECTS
- ✓ Perfect for working professionals

Unfortunately, scholarships and financial assistance are not currently available. However, we offer a payment instalment programme for the UOC-UNITAR Master in International Affairs and Diplomacy and related qualifications which differs depending on your chosen itinerary (full/part time).

How to Apply?

In order to be considered for the Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in International Affairs and Diplomacy and related qualifications, candidates must be fluent in English, possess a valid passport or national identity card, and either hold an undergraduate degree or have at least two years of relevant professional experience if they do not hold an undergraduate degree.



**Scan to view the
UOC academic
access
requirements.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

Each year there are two cohorts (October and March). The deadline for the October cohort is usually late September, and the deadline for March is usually late February. Admission is granted on a rolling basis. Early application is recommended given the limited number of spaces in the programme. We encourage working professionals to opt for the part-time itinerary (two years) due to the heavy workload. Admission is valid for two intakes.



**Scan to learn
more about this
programme
and to apply.**



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