



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice

Geneva, Switzerland



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Our Work in Multilateral Diplomacy

A 60-Year Legacy of Impact

Since the start of its operations in 1965, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has been supporting Member States, diplomats, and global leaders in strengthening multilateral processes and addressing global challenges, from peace and security to climate change, human rights, and global governance.



1963

Founding

In 1963, following a recommendation from the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly decided to create UNITAR.



1968

Expansion

Under Chief S.O. Adebo (Nigeria), UNITAR launched regional training seminars for junior diplomats from the Global South and fellowship programmes.



Today

Global Reach

UNITAR empowers decision-makers worldwide with knowledge and skills in diplomacy, international law, negotiation, and cross-cultural communication.

Why Choose the Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice?

Unmatched Expertise

Building on over 60 years of UNITAR's mandate to train global decision-makers in diplomatic practice, a core function anchored in the UN Charter and the Institute's founding mission.

Global Networks

Join a diverse cohort of diplomats, executives and professionals, and connect with an alumni community from 60+ countries.

Career Impact

Refine your diplomatic skills with guidance from seasoned UN and international practitioners, leveraging our long-standing experience in delivering Core Diplomatic Training (CDT), the Institute's flagship and founding programme.

On the UN, for the UN, by the UN

We have been delivering Core Diplomatic Training since our inception. Held annually, the Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice builds on this tradition, bringing together a series of practice-oriented workshops designed for diplomats and global decision-makers.

Rooted in the ethos of “on the UN, for the UN, by the UN,” the Diploma equips participants with advanced diplomatic skills, deepens their understanding of multilateral diplomacy, and facilitates the expansion of their global professional networks.



Scan to watch
past participant
testimonials.

Adebowale Lukanmbi

Manager, Social Investment Performance & Strategic Planning,
Chevron Nigeria & Mid-Africa Business Unit

Insights from Past Participants



The most relevant aspect for me was gaining a deeper understanding of the UN system and how large institutions work, along with the practical skills I have developed.

Satu Samira Hamed, Planet Diplomats
9th Edition Participant (2024-2025)



I found the training methodology smooth and highly effective, especially the practical exercises, which made it easier to internalise the lessons and apply them in real situations.

Rawad Jaber, UNHCR Lebanon
8th Edition Participant (2023-2024)

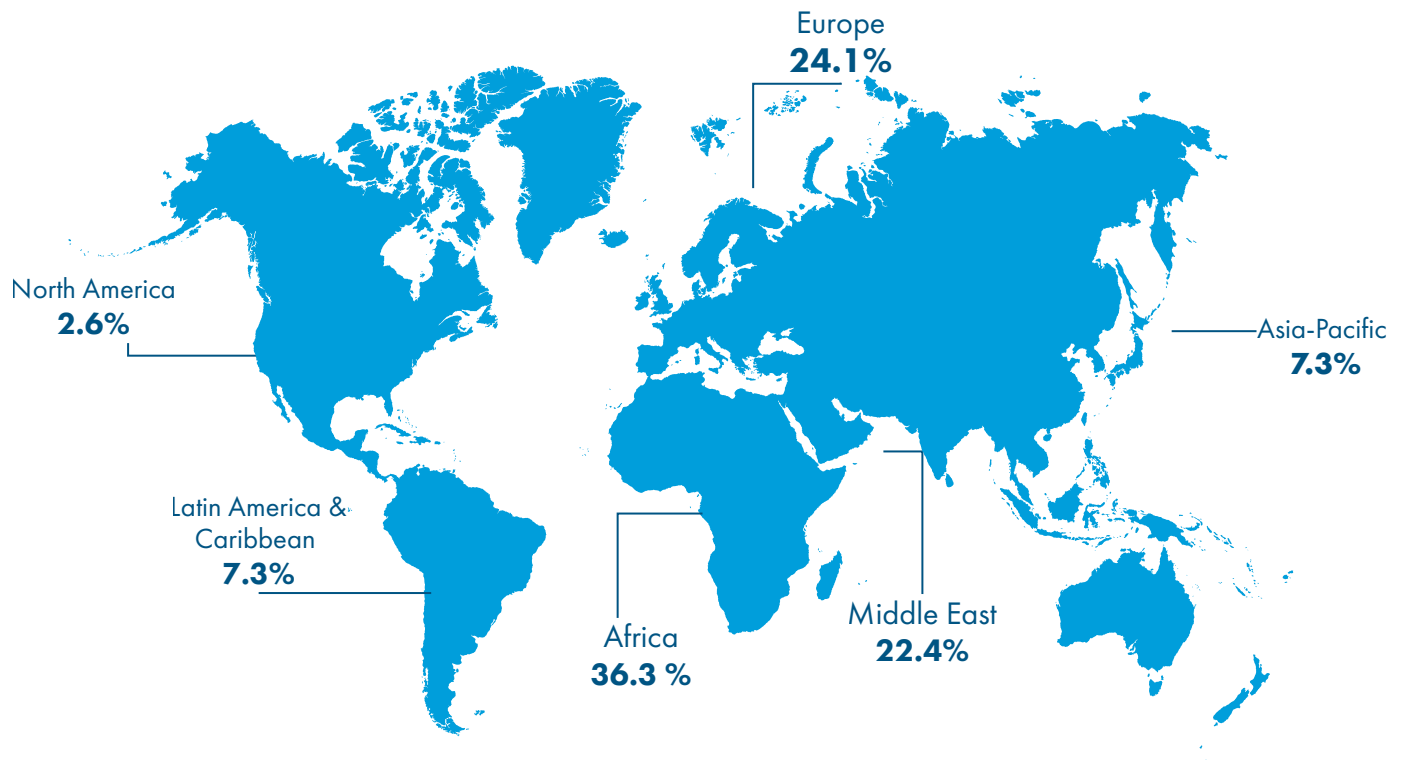


This Diploma not only allowed me to learn from experts and gain practical insights into multilateral processes, but also empowered me to lead locally while thinking globally.

Emmy Arsonval Maniriho, Mastercard Foundation
7th Edition Participant (2022-2023)

A Decade in Diplomacy

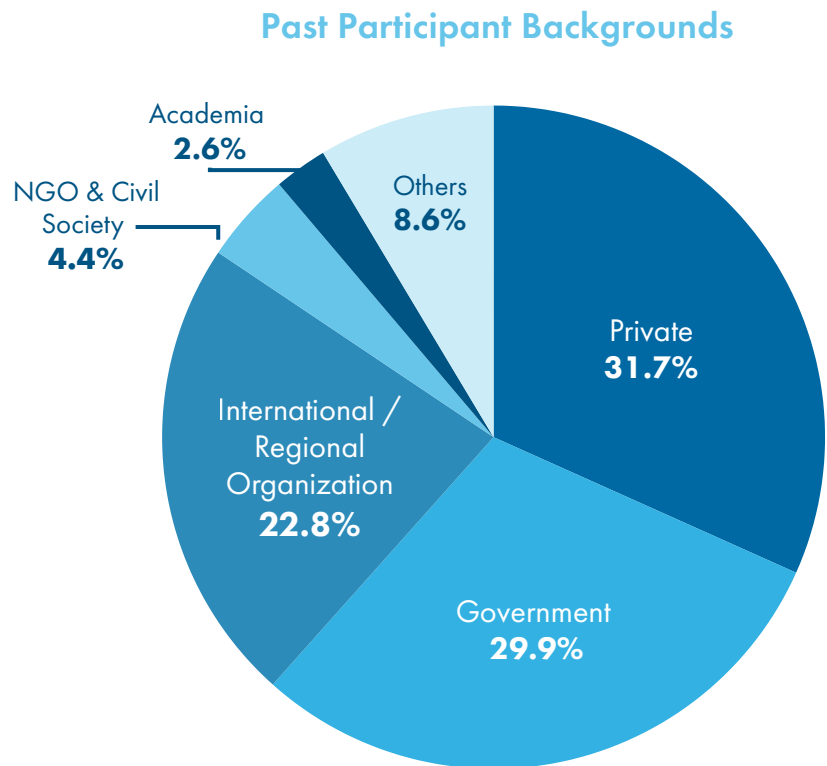
Since its launch in 2015, the Executive Diploma in Diplomatic Practice has grown into a globally recognised programme. By 2025, it has proudly welcomed over 100 participants from 60+ countries across the world, celebrating a decade in diplomacy.



Professional Backgrounds of Past Participants

The Executive Diploma is designed for professionals seeking to strengthen their knowledge and skills in diplomatic practice.

Participants come from a wide range of backgrounds, including international organizations, government, academia, and the private sector.





Diploma Structure

Date: November-August (annual)

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Format: 8x two-day workshops,
in-person

Estimated Duration: 150 hours (115
hours of teaching and 25 for
individual research and writing.)

In order to be awarded the Executive Diploma*, participants are required to attend at least 6 of the 8 workshops, after which they will have 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 programme.

**Please note that this programme will not provide ECTS credits.*

Application Requirements

In order to be successful in your application there are 3 key requirements you must meet. These are:

- Having a Bachelor's Degree;
- A minimum of 2-3 years of relevant professional experience;
- Proficiency in English.

Flexible Paths to Participation

In addition to the standard structure of the Executive Diploma, UNITAR offers flexible ways to participate, allowing professionals to adapt their learning to their schedules and goals. Participants may choose between two options: attending individual workshops on a standalone basis or completing the Diploma part-time over two years.

Attending Individual Workshops

Participants who prefer to attend individual workshops rather than the full Executive Diploma* are invited to learn more and apply at unitar.org/cdt.

Part-time Option

The Diploma may be pursued part-time over two years, with four workshops per year, providing a balanced and flexible approach to learning.

** In exceptional circumstances, participants who cannot attend all 8 in-person workshops in Geneva can instead take up to 2 of UNITAR's online courses offered in the field of multilateral diplomacy.*



Workshops

The Executive Diploma consists of eight mandatory workshops covering essential topics in multilateral diplomacy. Together, they form the core of the programme and provide a complete, structured learning pathway.

Workshop 1: Effective Writing in Multilateral Diplomacy

This workshop equips participants with practical tools to write clearly, concisely, and persuasively in multilateral contexts. Through presentations and interactive exercises, participants will strengthen their ability to draft impactful reports, summaries, and official communications that capture key outcomes of meetings and negotiations.

Workshop 2: Negotiation Skills and Techniques

This workshop builds participants' capacity to understand negotiation techniques and navigate complex multilateral discussions. Through practical exercises and simulations, they will explore key elements and procedures of international negotiations, practice effective strategies, and gain confidence to guide and support colleagues in achieving successful outcomes.

Workshop 3: Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette

This workshop provides an overview of UN and multilateral protocol and etiquette practices for professionals working at headquarters and field offices. Participants will learn to handle specific protocol situations confidently and acquire skills needed to organize successful state visits, ceremonies, and social events in line with official protocols.

Workshop 4: Leadership Skills and Assertiveness

This training will deepen participants' understanding of leadership theories and styles, especially in diverse cultural contexts. It covers effective communication and crisis leadership strategies, while encouraging reflection on personality and leadership style to improve assertiveness, self-awareness, and interpersonal skills.

Workshop 5: Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

This workshop will strengthen participants' skills in communication, consultation, planning, and relationship-building to promote cooperation across organizations and governments. Participants will learn to use dialogue and other facilitating techniques to achieve mutual benefits and improve project delivery.

Workshop 6: Conference Diplomacy and Multilateral Negotiations

This training builds participants' understanding of contemporary conference diplomacy and the processes behind UN resolutions. Through practical exercises and simulations, participants will learn to navigate formal procedures, engage effectively in group discussions, and understand the roles and perspective of diverse stakeholders.

Workshop 7: Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

The workshop equips participants with the skills and confidence to communicate effectively, especially in public and multilateral settings. Participants will engage in interactive presentations, explore key communication strategies, and receive constructive feedback to strengthen their public speaking, presentation techniques, and overall communication impact.

Workshop 8: Digital Diplomacy and Artificial Intelligence

This workshop will examine how digital technologies and AI are transforming diplomacy. It will address how diplomats use these tools to achieve their goals, while also exploring the challenges such as cybersecurity threats and disinformation. Additionally, the workshop will consider the geopolitical implications of digital technologies and AI in the global arena.

Knowledge to Lead

unitar.org



DISCOVER
OUR
COURSES



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.



Amr Aljowaily

is Director of the Citizens and Diaspora
ations Directorate at the African Union
Commission, with extensive diplomatic
and multilateral experience. He has
served in Belgrade, New York, Geneva,
and Washington, D.C., and was part of
Egypt's delegations to the UN, the AU,
Arab League summits and ministerial
meetings.



Ted Bikin-Kita

has over 35 years of experience as a civil
servant, diplomat, academic, and writer.
He has advised governments on
diplomacy and law, taught at universities
in Switzerland and Ireland, and is
currently an Independent Consultant with
UNITAR. A graduate of Sciences Po and
ENA, he has served in senior roles in
international negotiations and training.



Jérôme L'Host

is a dedicated Senior Consultant with extensive international experience across both the public and private sectors. Over the past sixteen years, he has delivered presentations and motivational speeches for numerous public and private entities, and managed more than 40 large-scale international projects in over 30 different countries.



Meritxell Martell Lamolla

is the founder and director of Merience, specializing in risk communication and stakeholder engagement. With over 20 years of experience, she has coordinated European projects and advised international ations. She also serves as Executive Director of the Association of Nuclear Municipalities and Secretary of the SHARE platform.



Miloš Strugar

is the Executive Director of the Conflux Centre and UN Senior Mediation Adviser, currently supporting UN efforts on the Syrian ceasefire and leading the UN delegation at the Astana talks. With over 20 years in UN peacekeeping across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, he is an accomplished mediator, adviser, and crisis communicator, and frequently lectures and contributes to international media.



Christine Petersen

has over 35 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.



Shaun Riordan

is Chair for Diplomacy and Cyberspace at the European Institute for European Studies and a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Clingendael Institute. A former British diplomat with experience at the UN and the Foreign Office, he advises governments and companies on geopolitical risk and teaches at several diplomatic academies.



Jack Williams

is President of the Institute for Global Negotiation and Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po Paris. Previously Assistant Professor and Acting Dean at the American University of Kurdistan, he holds a PhD in Political Philosophy from the University of Zurich and was a visiting researcher at Princeton University.

Programme Pricing and Fee Reductions

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Standard Fee | \$8000 |
| Middle Income Countries | \$5000 |
| Low Income Countries | \$3000 |

UNITAR is pleased to announce that participants from low and middle income countries* are eligible for a limited number of fee reductions upon request.

** According to the World Bank Country Classification Method*





Contact Us

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Scan to learn more
and apply