



# University for Peace



## **M.A. Indigenous Science and Peace Programme Philosophy**

If real peace is to have a chance today, the reciprocal and interconnected sovereignty and self-determination of *all* peoples is needed. For modern people to recover connections with their indigeneity in any real sense requires not only the honoring of Indigenous rights and sovereignty, but also their own recovery of sovereign and sustainable practices that heal the shadows of their colonizing histories and traumatic splits from indigenous roots.

The **Master of Arts Degree in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies (ISPS)** was founded in the peace-making traditions of the Haudenosaunee peoples and ancient council traditions in Northern Europe. Present and past Indigenous traditions the world over hold generations-tested ways of making peace and creating balanced societies. This path facilitates balanced exchanges of knowledge, equalized notions of civilization, sovereignty, or democracy, and a roadmap to prosperity that respects individual and collective rights, local development models and environmental solutions.

To sustain genuine and durable peace, the sovereignty and self-determination of all peoples must be respected. The UN has made numerous statements affirming the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and the rights of Indigenous peoples. In this paradigm, all people can celebrate and honor their identity as part of a sustainable world of stories and cultural practices connected to a particular place or ecology. Indigenous notions of sovereignty prioritize people before institutions, and they emerge from a place where all relations are valued and honored. Self-determination, as codified in the Charter of the United Nations, respects the freedom and authority of a people to decide their individual and collective fates. Together these principles decolonize the standard operating paradigm, a set of reductionist and supremacist practices that sever people from their roots and core values for the sake of economic and political control.

For people of Western and other non-indigenous societies to recover a way of life connected to enduring earth-based values, the honoring of Indigenous principles of sovereignty and self-determination must join hands with a process of one's own recovery of values and practices that heal the shadows and traumas of a colonized past. It is the initiatory confrontation of both one's ancestral origins and the wounds of history that opens the heart to a holistic vision of healing, and therefore peace. This process is not only transformative and ethical, but profoundly personal and spiritual.