Master’s Degree and Certificate in Gender and Development
About the Programme

The Master of Arts in Gender and Development (hybrid) is a graduate programme that offers critical knowledge in gender studies in its intersections with development studies. In addition, this programme equips students with the required soft skills for a successful international career in this field. The programme is offered in hybrid format (online + face-to-face on the UPEACE campus in San José, Costa Rica). Students can also participate in optional field visits to Geneva, Switzerland, and/or The Hague, the Netherlands.

The M.A. in Gender and Development is offered by the internationally recognized Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of the University for Peace (UPEACE) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). During this programme, students will analyze different perspectives, which is necessary for nurturing gender consciousness in development work, focusing on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, women’s empowerment, queering development, gender in its intersections with environment and development, the interplay of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability, and other factors. Students will also attend skills development sessions that are designed to support their professional career and employability. Careers in this field can be very broad. Prospective employers include governments, international and regional organizations, think tanks, academia, human rights organizations, and the civil society.

Students can also pursue a shorter programme, namely the Certificate in Gender and Development (hybrid), or sign up for individual online courses offered as part of the Master of Arts in Gender and Development, or Certificate in Gender and Development.
Who is it for?

The programme is designed for graduate students, diplomats, government officers, NGO representatives, international civil servants, professionals, or anyone interested in and willing to strengthen their knowledge in gender and development.
Invest in Your Future

This unique programme, backed by the United Nations, is designed to give students first-hand experience in the fields of gender and development.

LEARN FROM HIGHLY EXPERIENCED EXPERTS

This programme is taught by practitioners, UN staff, diplomats and academics.

VISIT THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE UN

It includes a study field trip to Geneva and/or The Hague, where students will visit different international organizations, network with international civil servants and diplomats and participate in skills-based sessions for a successful international career.

BENEFIT FROM AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

This programme connects different disciplines to provide students with holistic knowledge.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FLEXIBLE LEARNING METHODS

It allows students to accommodate their needs for flexibility by offering diverse optional modules and weekly seminars.
Duration

Hybrid

Students are required complete the Master of Arts in Gender and Development in two semesters at the University for Peace in Costa Rica.
Learning Objectives

At the end of the master’s programme, students should be able to:

• Identify how gender functions in a variety of contexts and at different levels
• Engage with the intersections of gender and development
• Design and critically assess gender mainstreaming work
• Develop an in-depth understanding of the United Nations System and related organizations
• Critically analyse existing research
About UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was created in 1963 to train and equip young diplomats from newly-independent UN Member States with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate through the diplomatic environment. Over the years, UNITAR has acquired unique expertise and experience in designing and delivering a variety of training activities to individuals from both public and private sectors.

About UNITAR’s Work on Multilateral Diplomacy

UNITAR is a leading training provider in global and strategic challenges for professionals within and outside the United Nations system. UNITAR’s Division for Multilateral Diplomacy works closely with the United Nations Member States and an increasing number of other partners to strengthen the capacities of diplomats, government officials and other major actors, in view of actively supporting the overall efficiency of the multilateral system.
The University for Peace was established as a Treaty Organization with its own Charter in an International Agreement adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/55 on 5 December 1980, with the mission “to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.”
M.A. in Gender and Development: Hybrid

Students can obtain the Master of Arts in Gender and Development (hybrid) upon successful completion of 42 credits, including 34 credits for coursework and 8 credits for a master’s thesis or internship assignment. Students who choose Capstone as their Graduation Project must take an additional 3-credit course (37-course credits and 5 Capstone credits):

UPEACE 34 credits + UNITAR 8 credits = USD 19,500*  

(*) UN Staff and Costa Rican nationals will be eligible for a 50% waiver (9,750 USD). All other applicants may apply for a 20% waiver (15,600 USD) which may be granted in limited numbers by mutual decision of UPEACE and UNITAR to ensure equitable gender and regional representation.
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| Introduction to Humanitarian Work                 |                                           | On-Campus     | Optional |
| Gender and People on the Move: Trafficking, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migration |                                           | On-Campus     | Mandatory |
| Skills for a Successful International Career      | unitar                                    | Hybrid (On-campus and Online) | Mandatory |
| Gender, Environment, and Development              |                                           | On-Campus     | Mandatory |
| The UN System and UPMUNC - Part 2 (Model UN Conference) |                                           | On-Campus     | Mandatory |
| Graduation Project Internship/Thesis OR Capstone  |                                           | On-Campus     | Mandatory |

(Mandatory (Choice from Internship or Thesis)

(Mandatory (Choice of Capstone))
Certificate in Gender and Development: Hybrid

Students can obtain the Certificate in Gender and Development upon the successful completion of 12 credits.

The list of courses to be added to the certification can be chosen by the student from the existing courses of the M.A. in Gender and Development. The list must be approved by the programme coordinator to ensure it includes courses relevant to Gender and Development and it has to be approved by the programme coordinator, to make sure that courses relevant to Gender and Development are included in it.

Optional Field Visit to Geneva and/or The Hague

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

Students can sign up for one field visit or for both (Geneva and The Hague), if they wish to do so. Students will spend 5 days in Geneva (Switzerland), and 5 days in The Hague (Netherlands).

The fee for each five-day field trip is USD 1,500. If students register for both field visits, the ten-day field trip is USD 3,000. The fee does not include travel, accommodation, food, or visa expenses.
Apply Now
Hybrid Master’s Degree:
✉️ admissions@upeace.org

Online Master’s Degree and/or Certificate:
✉️ admissions@elearning.upeace.org