M.A. Programme in International Law and Human Rights

Is it for you?

Are you a legal professional or field practitioner working with vulnerable persons or groups in fragile, conflict or post-conflict settings and wish to learn more about the international legal framework for the protection of human rights?

Do you wish to equip yourself with knowledge and skills on human rights-based approaches required for working with the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations in the fields of peacebuilding, humanitarian relief, or sustainable development?

Would you like to study and network in a truly multicultural environment with students from around the world and engage with resident and visiting faculty comprising some of the world’s leading academics and practitioners?

Would you like to benefit from a graduate programme that builds in courses taught by United Nations agencies and other international organizations providing the unique opportunity of receiving certificates of training in addition to academic credits?

What will you learn?

The Master’s degree in International Law and Human Rights provides you with a holistic, rigorous, and critical understanding of the complex interface between international law and human rights and prepares you for human rights practice and advocacy in a diverse range of professional and informal settings. Through this programme, you will:

- Build a solid foundation in legal and non-legal theories related to human rights
- Gain specialized training in the procedures and practices of international and regional human rights bodies and courts, as well as in the questions of interpretation, the development of international human rights standards, and enforcement
- Learn a range of practical tools and skills necessary for human rights field work, including analysis, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation
- Gain a solid understanding of the challenges and threats posed to human rights as a result of rapid globalization and explore solutions to contemporary problems

M.A. in International Law and Human Rights: University-Wide Courses

You will receive, along with your peers from other programmes, courses on Peace and Conflict Studies and the United Nations System and will participate in the UPEACE Model United Nations Conference. You will also receive practical training on working in conflict areas along with students from a few other M.A. programmes. For more information about these courses, follow this link to consult the Detailed Academic Calendar (in table format): https://bit.ly/2WLHg9U.

M.A. in International Law and Human Rights: Programme-Specific Courses

In addition to the university-wide courses, students in this programme will take 7 programme-specific courses. Previous courses include:

- Public International Law
- International Human Rights Law
- Universal System for Protection of Human Rights
- International Law Related to Armed Conflict I: Jus Ad Bellum
- International Law Related to Armed Conflict II: Jus in Bello
- Regional Mechanisms for Human Rights Protection
- Human Rights Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation
- International Law and Diplomacy
- Globalization and Human Rights
- Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age
- Protection of Refugees
- International Labour Law
- Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
- Introduction to Humanitarian Work
- Thesis/Capstone/Internship: In the final months of the M.A. programme, you will produce a research-based thesis or a capstone project. You will also have the option to choose an internship at a relevant organization to complete your M.A. programme requirements.
The programmes within the Department of International Law provide students with a rigorous understanding of the role of law in today’s complex global society. These programmes provide an introduction to this dynamic field, as well as the opportunity to gain a solid and critical understanding of public international law and its various underpinnings. Students can choose between two different programmes: Master of Arts in International Law and Human Rights and Master of Arts in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes. Instruction is provided by a group of leading scholars and expert practitioners in the field.

The University for Peace - established by the UN General Assembly in 1980 - has been training leaders for peace for the past four decades. It is the world’s leading educational institution in the field of peace and conflict resolution in its pursuit of the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, namely “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.”

How to Apply?

1. Go to www.upeace.org and find the programme of your choice by visiting the Programmes section. We recommend you read the “IS IT FOR YOU” cards for each programme, as they are designed to help you find the programme best suited to your professional profile.

2. Click on Requirements in the top menu bar within the programme of your choice to learn about the required documentation you’ll need to have on hand when filling out your application form.

3. Read the instructions and click on Apply Now to begin the application process.

4. Please take note of your application code before you begin filling out the form. The online application will automatically save your progress as you advance through the screens, but you will need this code to return to an unfinished application.

5. At any time during the Application Process, connect with the Admissions Team for assistance at admissions@upeace.org - UPEACE admissions notifications will come via email, so check your inbox.

6. Once your Application has been submitted, the Admissions Team will review it and inform you of your admissions status.

7. Once you’ve been accepted at UPEACE, make sure to review your Admissions Package and fill out the necessary documentation to complete your enrolment.

8. Once your first payment has been submitted, UPEACE will contact you regarding your visa application and housing options.

9. GET READY FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR AT UPEACE!
Tuition Fees

$17,000 TUTION + $2,500 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES = $19,500 USD

*The UPEACE M.A. programmes are designed to be completed in one year

Scholarships and Waivers

30%
- Citizen or national of a signatory country of the UPEACE Charter
- Students who have received an undergraduate or graduate degree from a partner university
- Peace Corps veterans
- ONLY for M.A. in Spanish (Resolución de Conflictos, Paz y Desarrollo): Citizens or nationals of countries where Spanish is the official language

50%
- Professors from a partner university
- Costa Rican citizens and residents (host country)
- Current, full-time UN employees and volunteers
- Members of the official diplomatic missions to the UN
- Documented refugee or asylee
- UPEACE Alumni

30 - 50%
- Merit Based Discretionary*