M.A. Programme in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies

Is it for you?
Do you want to solve today’s global crises facing humanity by transforming outdated paradigms?

Are you inspired to learn how Indigenous knowledge and Western science can be employed across disciplines and professions to transform crises and conflicts, and build peace?

Do you want to spend a year studying in an academically challenging environment, at a global university with students, faculty, and Indigenous Elders drawn from around the world?

What will you learn?
Steeped in Indigenous Knowledge Systems and methodologies, the Master’s degree in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies (ISPS) will train you to be an insightful and self-reflective researcher and practitioner who understands central epistemological, ontological, and ethical issues that impact diplomacy, policymaking, and community work. You will become a reflexive communicator, trained to transform the global development field in ways that align our future societies with the values and resources rooted in the earth.

Through this programme, you will obtain:

- A synthesis of indigenous scientific research and theory relevant to the transformation of conflicts and current development paradigm, as well as a diversity of perspectives that impact peace, justice, security, sovereignty, and reconciliation.
- Detailed knowledge of the United Nations System and related institutions, procedures and instruments that affect decision-making regarding Indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge relevant for work in the field.
- Skills and practices for effective scholarship honoring both Indigenous ways of knowing and emergent Western sciences; profound self-reflections as part of a renewed understanding of self and identity; and policy formulation, peacebuilding and humanitarian work.
- Knowing who you are in your complex cultural and ethnic identity, understanding the place and history of where you live and work, and understanding the integrative power of holistic and transrational processes (such as dreams and visions) is part of the programme. This process provides a unique framework and educational foundation to explore and resolve some of the world’s most critical problems. It enables students to become more effective policy makers, community workers, diplomats, activists, and communicators who create change to renew life on earth.

M.A. In Indigenous Science and Peace: University-Wide Courses
You will receive, along with your peers from other programmes, courses on Peace and Conflict theories and practices, the UN system, the relationship of identity politics and peacebuilding, and research methods. The students of this M.A. programme will also receive practical training on working in conflict areas. 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 Indigenous Science and Peace: Programme-specific Courses
In addition to the university-wide courses, students in this programme will take programme-specific courses.

- Ethnoautobiographical Inquiry – Ancestral and Historical Research 1
- Bridging Paradigms – The Role of Dreams and Dreaming
- Indigenous Knowledge & Research Methodologies
- Colonial History, Decoloniality, & Sovereignty
- Indigenous Science Methods
- Ethnoautobiographical Inquiry – Ancestral and Historical Research 2
- Representing Indigenous Mind – Decolonial Representation in Publications and Media
- The Science of Archaeoastronomy & Indigenous Star Knowledge
- Interventions – Capstone Project Preparation
- Model UN Conference: Committee on Indigenous Rights
- Thesis/Capstone/Internship
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Where will you be studying?

The M.A. in Indigenous Science and is offered by the internationally-recognized Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of the University for Peace. As a leading center of peace and conflict research and education, the department offers various other M.A. programmes on International Peace Studies, Media and Peace and Peace Education. It caters to a diverse, global body of students. 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 TUITION + $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 oficial 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*

*These waivers will depend on the evaluating committee. Prospective students interested in a merit-based scholarship must send a separate statement indicating their interest and why they deserve the scholarship.