M.A. Programme in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies

Is it for you?
Are you a peace practitioner working with local or international organizations and want to understand more about how religious and cultural issues should be considered in peace and conflict situations?

Are you a religious scholar interested in expanding your perspectives on how religions can be used as tools for building peace?

Are you a student or graduate and envision yourself involved in peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts while being conscious of religious and cultural sensitivities surrounding this work?

Are you interested in learning the skills needed to connect communities through interfaith initiatives?

Do you want to study the nuances of conflicts through an intersectional lens and explore them in relation to structural aspects such as those of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, and class, among others?

Do you want to spend a year in a Master’s programme that supports you in engaging with scholarly debates within the field of Religion, Culture, and Peace Studies at a global university where students and faculty members are drawn from every corner of the world?

What will you learn?
Established by the Dr. ALISSA Fellowship Program, the Master’s in Religion, Culture, and Peace Studies programme will allow you to delve into a rigorous scheme of studies. With the co-sponsorship of the Muslim World League, the Pontifical Lateran University and the World Jewish Congress, this programme has been designed to nurture your critical thinking abilities, foster your research skills, and provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to be an intersectional scholar who is being mindful of the religious and cultural dimensions of conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Through this programme, you will:

- Engage in research that enables you to critically analyze religion and culture as they manifest themselves in a variety of contexts;
- Understand how historically religion has been employed to justify violence, and has been used as resource towards restoring peace;
- Analyze conflict situations considering the religious and cultural influences involved;
- Learn conflict transformation skills that would allow you to carry out interfaith initiatives in diverse communities;
- Perform an intersectional analysis with a gender conscious lens and propose strategies for achieving sustainable peace.

M.A. in Religion, Culture, and Peace Studies: 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 Religion, Culture, and Peace Studies: Program-specific courses
In addition to the university-wide courses, students in this programme will take 10 programme-specific courses. These courses include:

- Tools for Conflict Transformation
- Identity Politics, Inclusion and Peacebuilding
- Perspectives on Religion and Society
- Religions, Cultures, and Peacebuilding
- Religion, Culture, and Ecology
- Religion and Diplomacy
- Countering Hate Speech
- Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace
- Education for Sustainability

University for Peace
M.A. Programme in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies

Identity Politics, Inclusion, and Peacebuilding

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.

Where will you be studying?

The M.A. in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies 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, Peace Education, Indigenous Science and Peace Studies, Media and Peace and Gender and Peacebuilding. 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 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*

www.upeace.org            admissions@upeace.org            +506 2205 9000