If you want peace, work for peace.
ABOUT UPEACE

Created by UN General Assembly Resolution 35/55, the University for Peace has been training leaders for peace for the past 38 years. It is the world’s leading educational institution in the field of peace and conflict studies in its pursuit of the mandate given to it by the UN General Assembly in 1980, 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. The University continues its pursuit of academic excellence through the systematic and critical study, understanding, and analysis of the causes of multiple problems affecting human and global well-being. Through its rich Faculty body of Resident and Visiting Professors, UPEACE trains future leaders for peace to explore and formulate strategies and practices in various contexts to address such problems and contribute to the processes of peacebuilding and peace formation. The UPEACE Experience is experiential and unique, empowering, transformative and cultivates critical thinking in its students.

OUR CAMPUS

UPEACE’s Rodrigo Carazo Campus, located in Costa Rica, is named after its founder, a former Costa Rican President whose vision and passion for training future leaders for peace materialized with the creation of the University for Peace in 1980. It consists of 300 hectares located within a secondary forest reserve, home to mammals such as monkeys and deer, over 300 species of birds, and more than 100 species of trees. It is truly an example of Costa Rica’s biodiversity, and can be enjoyed by both members of the UPEACE community and outside visitors, as it includes hiking and mountain biking trails, three lakes, a lookout point, playground areas, a soccer field, and a restaurant.
Department of Distance Education

M.A. Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World
Online Courses

Doctoral Degree Programme

Doctoral Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies

The University for Peace has been a member of the National System of Accreditation of Higher Education of Costa Rica (SINAES) since 2013. The degrees granted by the University for Peace have been verified by the International Association of Universities/UNESCO (IAU/UNESCO), for their academic credentials, as having been obtained from an educational institution that is recognized or sanctioned by a competent national authority. The inclusion of UPEACE in the IAU/UNESCO list can be verified through their official database (under its official name in English – University for Peace).

“My experience at UPEACE has given me additional knowledge and confidence in peace and conflict resolution and has equipped me for strategic-level military participation in peace support operations.”

— General Ibim Morrison Lawson, Nigeria’s Defence Adviser in Beijing and UPEACE Alumnus (International Law and Human Rights, 2013)

The UPEACE Holistic Centre provides a space for meditation, yoga, and other activities aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle.
M.A. in Environment, Development and Peace
The Master of Arts Degree in Environment, Development and Peace provides comprehensive training in issues of sustainable development, environmental governance, natural resource management, and environmental conflict management from both ecological and social perspectives. It includes themes like Food Systems, Water Management, Forestry, Coastal Resources, Climate Change, Urban Ecology and Social Movements. Within this programme, the following specializations are offered: Sustainable Food Systems, Climate Change Policy, Environmental Security and Governance, and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

M.A. in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development
The Master of Arts Degree in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development emphasizes economic and management perspectives of peace while focusing on the concepts of sustainability and responsibility. Its creation was based on the belief that, to better contribute to the promotion of sustainable peace, it is imperative to explore what role the economy plays in the world today and its impact on our environment and societies' well being. Issues of rural and urban poverty, growing inequalities and disparities, environmental degradation, financial crises and globalization are challenging political economic stability and social cohesion in all societies. Modern society faces the growing challenge of sustainability and that of finding solutions that will maintain and protect social systems for future generations. Students from the RMSED Programme will become responsible managers with a strong emphasis on sustainability, who will be able to work in the corporate sector, public sector or social sector, both in industrialized and developing countries.

M.A. in Gender and Peacebuilding
The Master of Arts Degree in Gender and Peacebuilding offers critical knowledge and training in gender studies, which is a crucial aspect of any and all peace efforts. The programme deals in depth with the diverse and international aspects of gender as they relate to violence, peace negotiations, peacebuilding and peacekeeping in different locations on the planet. The programme also encompasses the many fields of knowledge in which gender plays a crucial role. The needs and interests of students and professionals are carefully considered in the design and implementation of the programme.

M.A. in International Peace Studies
The Master of Arts Degree in International Peace Studies provides an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the causes and consequences of a wide range of contemporary conflicts and violence that impact on global, international and human security. Topics to be explored include militarization, armed conflicts, violent extremism, economic, social and gender injustices, cultural and religious identity conflicts, and competition over environmental resources. An in depth understanding of peacebuilding and peace processes in response to these issues is built.

M.A. in Media and Peace
The Masters of Arts Degree in Media and Peace is for students interested in gaining in-depth knowledge of what role media can and does play in peace and conflict issues of our times. Current or would-be practitioners interested in gaining useful and deep knowledge in media best practices in mitigating conflict and promoting peace will also benefit from this course. In this programme, the students gain a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of relevant research, and evidence-based best practices, related to how media can (but often does not) contribute to peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Students will acquire expertise in critical analysis of media's role in peace and conflict, as well as in impactful application of media for peacebuilding and humanitarian purposes. The aim of the program is to train students to be insightful researchers, effective policymakers and reflexive communicators, who can make a positive impact in the global humanitarian field. The course will set students on the path to pursuing research-focused, and policy or practice-oriented careers focusing on media's role in peace and conflict.

M.A. in Peace Education
The Master of Arts Degree in Peace Education seeks to develop and strengthen the capacity of formal and informal educators to build a peaceful world on all levels and in all dimensions of life. Through coursework and independent research or internship experiences, complemented with a unique and cooperative learning environment at UPEACE, students will enhance their values formation, knowledge and skills for living in and building cultures of peace. An understanding of the roles education, educators
and institutions can play in resolving and transforming conflicts and violence towards holistic cultures of peace is explored.

**M.A. in International Law and Human Rights**
The Masters programme in International Law and Human Rights provides students with a thorough knowledge and understanding of the role of international law in today's complex global society, and its impacts, successes and challenges in the 'quest' to promote human rights at all levels. This highly interactive and stimulating programme, which attracts students from all parts of the world, is carefully designed for both lawyers interested in human rights practice on the ground, as well as for field practitioners interested in human rights protection, strategic litigation, and advocacy. Thus, the programme aims to ensure that all its graduates are equipped with the tools necessary for working in the various aspects of the interface between international law and human rights, including with inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes**
The Masters Programme in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes provides students with a rigorous understanding of the role of international law in the settlement of disputes having an international, regional, or a national character. This unique and cutting-edge programme has been carefully designed to provide both lawyers, and those already working or aspiring to work in the broad transdisciplinary field of conflict resolution or in global policy making, to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for resolving contemporary disputes within the contours of international law. Thus, the programme aims to ensure that all its graduates are equipped with tools for conflict resolution through the use of the language and techniques of international law, including in the regional and international courts and tribunals, in diplomacy, and in alternate dispute resolution methods such as negotiation, mediation, and truth and reconciliation.

**M.A. Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development (Maestría en Resolución de Conflictos, Paz y Desarrollo - taught in Spanish)**
This programme aims to train future leaders using an integral approach. The core of this training process is focused on providing students with the tools necessary to recognize, understand, transform and resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner as a fundamental element for peacebuilding and sustainable human development. This vision is aligned with that of the United Nations, which holds that the analysis of peace, human development and conflict transformation and resolution must include, transversally, elements related to gender equality and the principle of non-discrimination of any kind, which are essential not only for development but for the very survival of our planet. It is for this reason that the University for Peace has placed particular emphasis on three of the four fundamental pillars of the United Nations, namely Peace, Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Climate Change.
Executive M.A. in International Law and Human Rights (Maestría en Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos - taught in Spanish)

This M.A. programme—the first of its kind at UPEACE and developed in conjunction with the Costa Rican Bar Association—aims to provide participants—most of them working professionals in the fields covered by the programme’s curriculum—with the necessary skills to understand and apply the main theoretical and practical aspects of Public International Law and the national, regional and universal mechanisms for the protection of human rights, coupled with the review and analysis of Costa Rican legislation on the matter. Considerable attention is paid to the role of international law on peace and conflict, particularly the queries related to collective security agreements, international humanitarian law and peacebuilding. The programme consists of four modules that can be taken independently or sequentially towards an M.A. programme.

Online M.A. in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World

The online MA programme in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World engages competent professionals and researchers in resolving pressing and complex global problems that concern humanity. Every course in the programme shares a commitment to ethics, fundamental human values, gender sensitivity and multiculturalism. The content of the online M.A. moves from a study of the origins of conflict at the personal, local, internal, and international levels to the promotion and practice of peace. The programme discusses the responsibilities and capacities of all social sectors, including key political and economic institutions, as well as civil society and individuals, and their potential impact on the environmental and social aspects of peace and conflict. Skills for the maintenance of peace are emphasized throughout the programme, including analysing and understanding conflict from multiple perspectives. This is an interdisciplinary online programme, drawing on learning and methodologies from across academia. The complexities of today’s world, and the developments of the last thirty years in understanding peace and conflict, demand an approach that crosses boundaries while seeking to create new progressions in the main field of study. All courses are well-integrated within the programme, bringing together modern theories, and concepts, in-depth case studies, best-practices from around the world, sound methodologies and the valuable contributions of course-takers. The courses can be taken individually or can be combined towards the online M.A. in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World.

Doctoral Degree Program in Peace and Conflict Studies

The UPEACE Doctoral Degree Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies seeks to provide candidates with a holistic and interdisciplinary understanding of diverse themes and problems in peace and conflict studies, as well as strategies in peacebuilding. The Doctoral Programme also offers a broad range of research concentrations and specializations, including all those covered by our regular M.A. programmes. Upon successful graduation, professionals will be prepared for university teaching, research, or advanced positions in peace and conflict studies-related professional fields, will have internalized sound scholarly values and academic integrity and will have begun to develop a record of published research and conference presentations. Furthermore, graduates of these programmes will have the opportunity to contribute to and enhance UPEACE’s existing programmes by teaching at the M.A. level during their time within the programme.

“UPEACE offered me a great platform for intellectual and personal development. The M.A. programme helped me notice the intersections between Human Rights and Media, whereas the Doctoral Degree Programme allowed me to continue my research in that field.”

— Mariateresa Garrido, Venezuela
M.A. International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (2014)
Doctoral Degree Peace and Conflict Studies (2018)
With the support of the Nippon Foundation, the University for Peace (UPEACE) and AdMU have created a programme aimed at students in Asia called the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship (APS). The objective of the programme is to train young Asian professionals to become peacebuilding practitioners, ready to take up leading positions in organizations across the globe. In particular, the programme serves to strengthen the representation of Asian professionals with expertise in Asian issues. The programme offers intensive, specialized language training to facilitate participation of professionals with lower levels of English proficiency at the UPEACE campus in Costa Rica, as well as hands-on design and implementation of an intensive field project in Asia. Scholars obtain two M.A. degrees, one from the University for Peace (UPEACE) in an area related to peace building and the second from AdMU in Political Science with a major in Global Politics.

**APS Alumni: What they do**

1. NGO
2. Government
3. Private sector
4. UN/Int’l Org
5. UN/Research Institution
6. Related field
7. Job interview process

“I think APS was a milestone for me, it provided great opportunities for learning and exposure. The academic programme helped me combine theory with practice. It helped me increase my knowledge and gain a broader perspective.”


The University for Peace offers internship opportunities on campus, on projects related to the areas of expertise covered by our academic programmes.
JOINT ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

- **American University, USA:** M.A. International Affairs (AU) + M.A. Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (UPEACE)
- **Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines:** M.A. Global Politics (AdMU) + M.A. degree of their choice from UPEACE
- **Brandeis University, USA:** M.A. Coexistence and Conflict (Brandeis) + M.A. International Law and Human Rights (UPEACE)
- **Costa Rican Bar Association, Costa Rica:** M.A. International Law and Human Rights (UPEACE - taught in Spanish)
- **FELADE-Foundation for Asset Laundering and Financial Delinquency:** M.A. Prevention of Asset Laundering and Financial Delinquency (UPEACE - taught in Spanish)
- **Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea:** M.A. degree from each institution in the fields of law, communications (media) and sustainable development, depending on the students’ area of interest
- **Innsbruck University, Austria:** M.A. Peace, Development, Security and International Conflict Transformation (UI) + M.A. degree of their choice from UPEACE
- **International University of Monaco, Monaco:** M.A. Sustainable Peace through Sports (IUM)
- **Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia:** M.A. Human Rights and Culture of Peace (Javeriana - taught in Spanish) + M.A. degree of their choice from UPEACE
- **Pace University, United States:** International Environmental Law
- **The Hague University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands:** MBA Responsible Management for a Sustainable World (THUAS)
- **UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and Oregon State University:** M.Sc. Water, Cooperation and Peace (OSU) + M.A. Environment, Development and Peace with a specialization in Environmental Security (UPEACE)
- **Uganda Police Force, Uganda:** M.A. Peace, Governance and Security (UPEACE)
- **Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, Spain:** M.A. International Cooperation or Human Rights (UAX) + M.A. degree of their choice from UPEACE
- **Universidad del Rosario, Colombia:** M.A. International Law (URosario) + M.A. Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development (UPEACE - taught in Spanish)
- **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Italy:** Master of Laws (LL.M.) Transnational Crime and Justice (UPEACE)
Our Alumni work in a variety of organizations and institutions across the globe, including: United Nations Agencies, International Criminal Court, Inter American Court of Human Rights, Global Brigades, Inc., Intel Corporation, Deutsche Bank, Wildlife Conservation Society, Government Institutions, World Organisation Against Torture, Coralive, ASRC Federal, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Trees for the Future. To find out more or contact some of our Alumni, visit our LinkedIn page at: https://bit.ly/2qmx5cF

“Since the creation of the University at the request of the government of Costa Rica, the principles that have prevailed at this University, in this country, and on which my studies were based, are those of respect, harmony, understanding, tolerance, and cooperation. This University is exceptional and unique.”

— H.E. Mercedes Peñas Domingo, Spain, Former First Lady of Costa Rica (2014-2018), Former Member of the UPEACE Council and UPEACE Alumna
WHY STUDY AT UPEACE?

1. EXPERIENTIAL learning

2. DIVERSE, MULTINATIONAL AND MULTICULTURAL community

3. FACULTY: Renowned experts & practitioners in their fields of expertise — 19 Resident & more than 50 Visiting Professors from around the globe

4. Our Campus: 300 hectares of PROTECTED TROPICAL FOREST

5. COSTA RICA: peaceful country that champions human rights, no army since 1948, 90% renewable energy sources, ecotourism, and voted the happiest country on Earth!

6. Meet and network with HIGH-PROFILE PERSONALITIES in the fields of peace and conflict, environment and development, international law and diplomacy

7. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES at UN agencies, renowned international organizations and other UPEACE offices around the world
“At UPEACE, I learned that peace is not only studied, but that the recognition and respect for all people around us is constructed on a daily basis. Peace, in this sense, is born and cultivated from within and strengthened through empathy and understanding of our own and other people’s differences, and accepting that in these differences lies our value as one single society.”

— Juan José Vásquez, Costa Rica
Spanish M.A. Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development (Resolución de Conflictos, Paz y Desarrollo) (2017)
The Sustainable Development Goals represent a global agenda designed to deal with development and inclusion. As an academic institution, UPEACE works to contribute to all 17 SDGs from the theoretical point of view, with specific attention paid to certain individual topics, such as Gender Equality (Goal 5), through our M.A. Programme in Gender and Peacebuilding; Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), through our M.A. Programme in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy in partnership with UNESCO-IHE and Oregon State University; and Climate Action (Goal 13), through our M.A. in Environment, Development and Peace, with a specialization in Climate Change Policy. Furthermore, UPEACE works tirelessly to contribute, in a much more profound manner, to the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning, Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, and Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

At the University for Peace, we aim to effect change through expanding the body of knowledge on topics related to the fields of peace and conflict by developing our research capacity. Our objectives include:

- Creating links among scholars, policy experts, public officials, and community advocates.
- Illuminating conditions and offering solutions to the biggest issues plaguing our planet and posing the biggest threats to peace and security.
- Increasing the availability of focused research with an emphasis on education.

Our faculty's innovating and relevant research shapes how we understand, analyse, and address issues that affect all communities around the world, particularly those related to the areas covered by our academic programmes, namely international law, human rights, conflict resolution, peace education, gender, environment and development, media and conflict, responsible management, and sustainable development. Through Ideas for Peace, an in-house academic paper series, both members of our Faculty and external collaborators, focus on relevant topics on the international agenda, posing innovative solutions based on their personal and professional experience in the field of peace and conflict studies.
The Earth Charter Centre for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at the University for Peace

The Earth Charter Centre for Education for Sustainable Development, located on the University for Peace campus, was created to forge new paths in education for sustainable development, global citizenship education, and emerging leadership paradigms. The Centre offers a variety of capacity-building opportunities (executive programmes, online certificate programmes and workshops) which place special emphasis on the importance of the values and principles of sustainability in processes of learning and decision-making. The Centre coordinates a UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter with the aim of implementing educational programmes and research activities in the field of education for sustainable development specifically on the intersection of sustainability, ethics and education. The ultimate purpose of these efforts is to build the capacity of educators to incorporate the “knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life” in schools, colleges, and higher education, as well as in non-formal education.

“The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this.”

Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter Laudato Si; Paragraph 207, June 18, 2015

UPEACE Centre for Executive Education

The Centre for Executive Education was launched in 2006 to deliver workshops, seminars and training courses that complement the regular UPEACE offerings. This is carried out through two principal channels: unique professional development courses and customized university group programmes. The Centre’s capstone programme is a Diploma in Social Innovation, which consists of five online courses taken during an 18-month period. Courses focus on social entrepreneurship and innovation, providing participants with the skills necessary to transform a dream into a live social venture. They can choose to learn about social media marketing, measuring outcomes and impact, or the skills for negotiation in both professional and personal life, or they can focus on education or design thinking. Brought together, the teachings provide the platform necessary to convert participants into actors in the global world.

Human Rights Centre

The Humans Right Centre was created within the contours of the stated mission of the University as spelled out in its Charter. In particular, the mission of the Centre is to promote understanding, respect and enjoyment of human rights. The Centre carries out this mission through specialized human rights education, training, capacity building and awareness raising activities. The Centre takes a practitioner-based approach to the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights and promotes the integration of theory and practice. The Centre also takes a multi-disciplinary approach to human rights and attaches equal importance to all human rights. The Centre complements the core mandate of the University, which is to provide higher education for peace through post-graduate and doctoral programmes by catering principally to professionals working within inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments and academia, through a range of short specialized online, face-to-face and field courses.
The headquarters of the University for Peace are located in San Jose, Costa Rica. UPEACE works with its regional offices and representatives on consolidating partnerships and implementing programmes around the world to enhance its mandate. The University is permanently working on expanding its mandate to other regions and countries.