If you want peace, work for peace.
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.

President Rodrigo Carazo Odio (1978-1982)
Avenida Universidad, El Rodeo, Mora
San Jose, Costa Rica

Costa Rica
Panama
Nicaragua
UPEACE

Avenida Universidad, El Rodeo, Mora
San Jose, Costa Rica
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Department of Environment and Development
- MSc. Ecology and Society
- M.A. Environment, Development and Peace
  - Specialization in Environmental Security and Governance
  - Specialization in Sustainable Natural Resource Management
  - Specialization in Climate Change
  - Specialization in Sustainable Food Systems
- M.A. Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development

Department of Peace and Conflict Studies
- M.A. Gender and Peacebuilding
- M.A. Indigenous Science and Peace Studies
- M.A. International Peace Studies
- M.A. Media and Peace
- M.A. Peace Education
- M.A. Religion, Culture and Peace Studies

Department of International Law
- M.A. International Law and Diplomacy
- M.A. International Law and Human Rights
- M.A. International Law and the Settlement of Disputes

Department of Regional Studies
*Taught in Spanish
- M.A. Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development*
- M.A. International Law and Human Rights*
- M.A. Leadership and Conflict Management*
Department of Distance Education

M.A. Development Studies and Diplomacy
M.A. International Law and Diplomacy
M.A. Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World
Online Courses

Doctoral Degree Programme

Doctoral Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies
Doctorate Degree in Leadership and Sustainable Development*

*(Offered by the UPEACE China Centre)

“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 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).

The UPEACE Holistic Centre provides a space for meditation, yoga, and other activities aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle.
**MSc. in Ecology and Society**
This Master of Sciences Degree in Ecology and Society has been designed in response to the currently recognized global need for Master’s-level trained Ecologists to address local to international level environmental issues. Students will gain the knowledge and skills to characterize, understand, restore, manage and maintain the planet’s ecosystems, and determine the correlations between healthy, sustained habitats and the ecosystem services they provide to benefit society and the rest of the biosphere.

**M.A. in Environment, Development and Peace**
The Master of Arts Degree in Environment, Development, and Peace (EDP) provides comprehensive training in issues of sustainable development, environmental governance, natural resource management, and environmental conflict management from both ecological and social perspectives. It encompasses a broad range of subjects and themes, including Food Systems, Water Management, Forestry, Coastal Resources, Climate Change, Urban Ecology and Social Movements.

**M.A. in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development**
The Master of Arts Degree in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (RMSED) 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’ wellbeing.

**M.A. in Gender and Peacebuilding**
The Master of Arts in Gender and Peacebuilding (GPB) 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.

**M.A. In Indigenous Science and Peace Studies**
The confluence of cutting edge Western and Indigenous science and knowledge has opened the doors to a new paradigm of peace and development. The Master of Arts in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies (ISPS) brings these two ways of knowing together to challenge a failing framework with time-tested methodologies that sustain life and create transformative opportunities amidst the global catastrophes we face right now.

**M.A. in International Peace Studies**
The Master of Arts Degree in International Peace Studies (IPS) 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 armed conflicts, violent extremism, (de)militarization, economic, social and gender injustices, cultural and religious identity conflicts, and competition over environmental resources.

**M.A. in Media and Peace**
The Masters of Arts Degree in Media and Peace (MP) 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.
**M.A. in Peace Education**
The Master of Arts Degree in Peace Education (PE) 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.

**M.A. in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies**
Established by the Dr. ALISSA Fellowship Program, the M.A. in Religion, Culture, and Peace Studies has been designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in contexts related to peace and conflict studies that are entangled with aspects of religious and cultural traditions. Acknowledging the critical role that religion and culture play in being a motivation for or a factor in the resolution of conflicts, this programme takes an interdisciplinary and dynamic approach to deal with a range of issues belonging to the domains of religion and culture.

**M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy**
The Master of Arts in International Law and Diplomacy is a graduate programme permitting students to specialize in the interface between international law and diplomacy. It will not only broaden students’ knowledge in the field of international law and its various foundational dimensions but will also equip them with knowledge and skills to work in the field of diplomacy and related international careers.

**M.A. in International Law and Human Rights**
The Master of Arts Degree in International Law and Human Rights (ILHR) offers students an in-depth review of the procedures and practice of international human rights bodies, at the global and UN level as well as at the regional level. Students will gain an understanding of the various judicial and non-judicial bodies that are at the frontline of questions of interpretation, the development of international human rights standards, and enforcement.

**M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes**
The Master of Arts Degree in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (ILSD) offers students an understanding of the role that international law and institutions play in the settlement of international and transnational disputes. This specialization examines the role of national and international courts and tribunals in contributing to the settlement of disputes.

**M.A. in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development (taught in Spanish)**
The Master of Arts Degree in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development (RCPD) aims to train leaders with the elements of integral human development for the 21st century. The essential core of this training will allow us to understand that the conflicts we face must be transformed and resolved peacefully, because only in this way can the foundations for peace be laid.
M.A. in International Law and Human Rights (taught in Spanish)
The Master of Arts Degree in International Human Rights Law (DIDH) aims to provide participants with the necessary skills to understand and apply the main theoretical and practical aspects of Public International Law and the universal, regional and national mechanisms for the protection of Human Rights, in conjunction with the study of the regulation of the Republic of Costa Rica.

M.A. in Leadership and Conflict Management (taught in Spanish)
The Master’s Degree in Leadership and Conflict Management aims to train leaders with a projection of integral human development and a vision of corporate responsibility and sustainability. Topics explored in this course include negotiation and leadership, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, corporate social responsibility, and organised crime and conflict.

M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy
The Master of Arts Degree in Development Studies and Diplomacy is an interdisciplinary and holistic programme that will not only broaden student’s knowledge in the field of development studies, sustainability and diplomacy but it will also equip them with the required soft skills for a successful international career in any of these areas of expertise.

Online M.A. in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World
The online Master of Arts Degree 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.

Doctoral Degree Programme 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.

Doctoral Degree Programme in Leadership and Sustainable Development (taught in Chinese)
The divide between rich and poor, environmental degradation, financial crises, trade frictions, new epidemics and the contradictions between globalization and localization are affecting the foundations of political and economic stability and cohesion, and making the global community increasingly confronted with sustainability challenges. Focusing on these issues, the University for Peace offers a special doctoral degree programme for business leaders, corporate executives, and participants from relevant ministries.
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 a 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 UN
3 Government
4 Academic/Research Institute
5 Private Sector in Related Fields
6 INGO
7 Other

*Data for APS Alumni

“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.”

— Deepak Kumar Bhattarai, Nepal (International Peace Studies, 2013)
Studies (UPEACE) - Canada: M.A. Indigenous Science and Peace

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva: M.A.

Resolution, Peace and Development (UPEACE - M.A. International Law (URosario) + M.A. Con/flict Human Rights (UAX, Spain: Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, Netherlands & USA

The Ugandan Police Force, Uganda: M.A. Peace, Governance and Security (UPEACE)

Pace University, United States: M.A. International Environmental Law (Pace) + M.A. International Law and Human Rights (UPEACE); joint MSc. Ecology and Society (UPEACE)

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia: M.A. Human Rights and Culture of Peace (Javeriana - taught in Spanish) + M.A. degree of their choice from UPEACE

The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands: MBA Responsible Management for a Sustainable World (THUAS)

Ugandan Police Force, Uganda: M.A. Peace, Governance and Security (UPEACE)


Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, Spain: M.A. International Cooperation on Human Rights (UAX, taught in Spanish) + 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 (UNICRI), Italy: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Transnational Crime and Justice (UPEACE)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva: M.A. International Law and Diplomacy (UPEACE - UNITAR) and M.A. Development Studies and Diplomacy (UPEACE - UNITAR)

World Indigenous Science Network, Canada: M.A. Indigenous Science and Peace Studies (UPEACE)
UPEACE ALUMNI: What they do

2500 ALUMNI around the globe

Operations
Community and Social Services
Business Development
Education
Consulting
Program and Project Management
International Cooperation & International Relations
Legal
Arts and Design
Research
Administrative

“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
The Masters of Arts Degree in Media and Peace (MP) is for students interested in gaining in-depth knowledge of what role security plays in contemporary conflicts and the consequences of violence. Topics to be explored include armed conflicts, violent extremism, (de)militarization, economic, social and gender perspectives on violence.

The Master of Arts Degree in International Peace Studies (IPS) provides an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the causes of violence, peace negotiations, peacebuilding and peacekeeping in different locations on the planet. It focuses on understanding the role that economic and management perspectives play in peace while focusing on the concepts of sustainability and responsibility.

The Master of Arts in Gender and Peacebuilding (GPB) 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.

The Master of Arts Degree in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (RMSED) emphasizes the importance of understanding the role the economy plays in the world today and its impact on our environment and societies' wellbeing.

The Master of Arts Degree in Confl ict Resolution, Peace and Development (RCPD) aims to train leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to characterise, understand, restore, manage and maintain the planet's ecosystems, and determine the elements of integral human development for the 21st century. The essential core of this training will allow us to understand that conflicts we face must be transformed and resolved peacefully, because only in this way can the foundations for peace be laid.

The M.A. in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes (ILSD) offers students an understanding of the role that international law and institutions play in the settlement of international and transnational disputes. This specialization examines the role of national and international courts and tribunals in contributing to the settlement of disputes.

The Master of Arts Degree in Development Studies and Diplomacy is an interdisciplinary and holistic programme that will equip them with the required soft skills for a successful international career in any of these areas of expertise.

The Master of Arts Degree in International Human Rights Law (DIDH) aims to provide participants with the necessary skills for living in and building cultures of peace.

The Master of Arts Degree in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in contexts related to peace and conflict.

The Master of Arts Degree in Peace Education (PE) seeks to develop and strengthen the capacity of formal and non-formal education providers in the workplace and community to contribute to the promotion of sustainable peace.

The 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 addressing these issues.

The UPEACE Doctoral Degree Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies also offers a broad range of research concentrations and specializations, including peacebuilding. The Doctoral Programme also offers a broad range of research concentrations and specializations, including peacebuilding. The programme also provides opportunities for participants from relevant ministries.

The Master of Arts in Leadership and Conflict Management (taught in Spanish) is a graduate programme permitting students to develop and strengthen leadership skills and knowledge in the field of conflict resolution.

The Master of Arts in Leadership and Sustainable Development (taught in Spanish) is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in contexts related to peace and conflict.

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. in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development, 2017)
In 2021, the University for Peace was named a United Nations Academic Impact Hub for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Among other programmes, UPEACE offers a Master's Degree programme in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (RMSED), which emphasizes economic and management perspectives of peace while focusing on the concepts of sustainability and responsibility. The University hosts the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development, with the objective of offering a variety of online and on-site education programmes that highlight the importance of incorporating sustainability values and principles into decision-making and education. Over the years, UPEACE has promoted extensive research and study on the right to development, intended to train stakeholders on the normative, theoretical and practical importance of and mechanisms for operationalizing the right to development in the implementation of the SDGs. UPEACE is currently an active member of the Costa Rican Network of Sustainable Institutions, has in place a system to reduce the water footprint, adopted a single-use plastic ban and an innovative waste management protocol, and hosts the student-led UPEACE Green Office, focused on food waste, renewable energy and circular economy, and part of the SDSN-Youth Initiative.

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.

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 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
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.