



University for Peace

United Nations - mandated University



“Supporting New Professionals in Conflict Transformation and Building Sustainable Peace”

February 2016

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General Information

Project title: "Supporting New Professionals in Conflict Transformation and Building Sustainable Peace"

Dimension: Graduate-level education on peace-related issues (irenology)

Thematic focus: Education on peace-related issues, including Human Rights, Gender, Conflict Transformation and Sustainable Development.

Proposed timeframe: 18 months

Budget: US \$ 433,216 for 10 students / US\$ 785,792 for 20 students

Beneficiaries: 10-20 students

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1. **Context**

The end of the Cold War and the fundamental changes taking places within the international system has altered the nature of armed conflicts. Since the late 1980's, the main threat to regional and global peace has not come from major inter-state confrontations, but internal conflicts, conflicts occurring within the borders of individual states. These internal conflicts often involve ethnic and cultural tensions, religious and tribal rivalries, as well as domestic power struggles for governance. Internal conflicts reflect fundamental clashes between peoples of different ethnic groups, different cultures, and even different civilizations. Distorted images, excessive fear and distrust, and fundamental divergences on political, economic and religious values are all in play. Most of the time, the absence of a clear battlefield and the involvement of multiple parties with uneven force make these situations even more problematic. Therefore, internal conflicts are rather difficult to manage and resolve. Furthermore, the nuclear threat remains ever-present.

The current international context demonstrates the increase of new types of threats, all of them more complex and interrelated, in which non-state actors have a greater weight than at any time in history. This requires new skills, and the training of professionals with the highest qualifications in conflict resolution. With the aim of addressing the current situation within the international system, the general principles that govern the United Nations and which

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constitute the foundations of the University for Peace are still valid and more necessary than ever before. This should be highlighted given the current context of globalization and interdependence. Only through education, as a fundamental platform, can we achieve a respect for human rights, sustainable development, and ultimately, peace.

Late Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo was a visionary, whose idea for combatting the beginning of the civil war crisis in Central America was to seek support from the world in creating a University for Peace, in an effort to contribute, through its graduates, to the analysis, transformation and resolution of conflicts with the aim of building sustainable peace based on genuine collaborative actions by states and individuals.

Thus, the United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) was established in 1980 as a Treaty Organization with its own Charter in an International Agreement adopted by the General Assembly on 5th December 1980. United Nations Resolution 35/55 called for a treaty organization to “support the central Peace and Security Objectives of the United Nations through a World-Wide Movement of Education for Peace.”

The main goals of UPEACE are implemented through three main areas of study: Peace and Conflict Studies (including M.A. programmes in International Peace Studies, Peace Education, Media and Peace, and Gender and Peacebuilding), International Law (including M.A. programmes in Human Rights and the Settlement of Disputes) and Environment and Peace (with specializations in Natural Resources and Peace, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, Environmental Security and Peace, Climate Change and Water Security). Its academic activities include Master's programmes, diplomas, short courses and academic partnerships with institutions from the United Nations system and other academic institutions.

UPEACE Mission

“To provide humanity with an international institutions 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 main campus of the University is located in Costa Rica, with regional offices in New York (United States), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and The Hague (The Netherlands), which allow UPEACE to implement partnerships, projects and training initiatives around the world.

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In order to support the efforts carried out by the UN and its agencies, UPEACE seeks to provide 10 to 20 scholarships per country for post-graduate education in peace-related issues for students from the Global South. As part of their academic programme, each scholar will be able to choose from one of the M.A. programmes offered by the University.

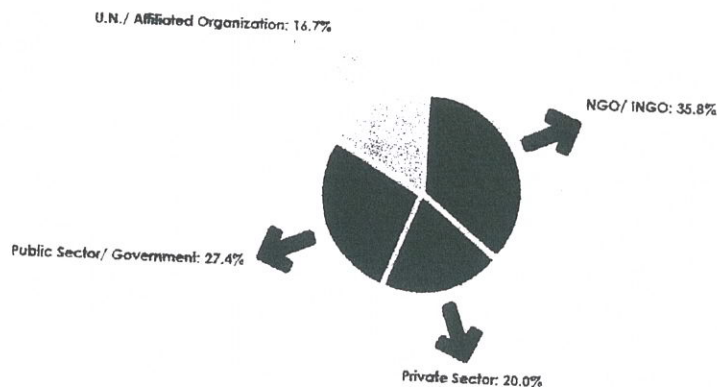
2. Background and Justification

The University for Peace is looking to increase the intake of highly-educated students to its M.A. programmes. The University has amassed 1685 Alumni over the years with strong skills that have allowed them to succeed in their future professional projects. As a general rule, our students already have a few years of professional experience before they come to UPEACE and many are seasoned professionals with international careers. They come from all cultures (over 100 countries represented among our Alumni body) and our classrooms are highly-interactive multicultural environments.

Most of our students choose UPEACE due to its academic excellence, international recognition, affiliation to the United Nations, multicultural environment, solid academic partnerships and networks and its programmatic focus in peace and conflict studies (irenology).

They have opted for a variety of careers after leaving UPEACE, including academia, the private sector, international organizations and UN-affiliated agencies.

ALUMNI CAREERS



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Some of our Alumni include:

- Napak Tesprasith from Thailand (International Peace Studies 2011), current Project Manager at USAID in Thailand.
- Niina Toroi from Finland (Peace Education 2011), currently working for UNOSDP in Geneva.
- Rawle Small from Guyana (Gender and Peacebuilding 2008), current Director at Habitat for Humanity in Guyana.
- Celine Mukamurenzi from Rwanda (Peace Education 2011), current Program Director for an American NGO in Rwanda.
- Mucyo Mulinzi from Rwanda (International Peace Studies 2014), currently serving the Ministry of Internal Security of Rwanda.

The majority of our applicants from the African and Asian continents are female; however, due to lack of funding, most applicants from developing countries are not able to finance their tuition, travel and living expenses, which results in them having to decline their acceptance to UPEACE.

This project, “Supporting New Professionals in Conflict Transformation and Building Sustainable Peace”, goes hand-in-hand with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically with regards to tackling different concepts such as the role of education in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment, ending poverty and promoting prosperity and wellbeing by investing in people through education.

The University for Peace has ample experience in the implementation of regional scholarship funds through various training activities and projects, including a scholarship programme sponsored by the Nippon Foundation (Japan) for young Asian professionals and capacity-building programmes with universities in the Great Lakes Region of Africa sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands, as well as in Uganda and Kenya region (known as the Karamoja Cluster).

3. Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4 (target 4.b), which hopes to “*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*” by substantially expanding, globally, the number of scholarships available to developing countries by 2020, in addition to Goal 16, which seeks to “*promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*”.

Specific Objectives:

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1. Provide post-graduate education in peace, conflict and security-related issues to 10 to 20 students from the Global South.
2. Provide students with specialized theoretical and practical instruction to contribute to the work of building international peace.
3. Help participants develop skills in conflict prevention, resolution and mediation and provide them with the tools to participate in post-conflict intervention.
4. Develop the practical skills required of professionals in the field of peacekeeping through valuable internship placements.

4. Expected Impact

The project aims to provide students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to create solutions to the challenges they face in their home countries or in the countries they choose to work in upon completing their studies at UPEACE.

It is our hope that this project will also provide participants with the opportunity to make a significant contribution to developing the kind of global leadership that is necessary to deal with the complex challenges facing the world today. In particular, the programme serves to strengthen theoretical knowledge with practical skills in peace, conflict and security-related issues to allow participants to contribute effectively and holistically to global peace and dialogue.

5. Phases and implementation

The project will contemplate seven phases:

Phase 1: Advertisement and application process: conducted by UPEACE. During this time, each applicant will select their preferred M.A. programme. The process will be open throughout the year in order to accommodate to the humanitarian circumstances of the candidates.

Phase 2: Selection process: conducted by UPEACE.

Phase 3: Arrangements for and travel to Costa Rica.

Phase 4: M.A. Programme: UPEACE M.A. programmes have a duration of 11 months and are conducted face-to-face in Costa Rica.**

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Phase 5: Internship: participants will begin their internship at the end of their academic year, for a period of approximately three months.

Phase 6: Conference and Graduation (not included in the budget).

Phase 7: Graduates will return to their home countries.

UPEACE will provide all the assistance required by participants throughout the entire process.

The scholarship will provide:

- Tuition
- Transportation (air travel)
- Health insurance
- Living expenses (lodging, meals, transportation to and from campus)
- Field study activities
- Internship

****The University for Peace can include an intensive language course for students who require it (this specialized training will start before the beginning of the academic year and will take place in Costa Rica, on the UPEACE campus, with a duration of at least four months).**

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6. Budget

University for Peace

Scholarship for 10 students for the new professionals in conflict transformation and build sustainable peace

Amount in USD

Budget item	No.	Unit Cost	Total
Academic			
Tuition fee. UPEACE financial support of 30%	10	11,900	119,000
Graduation, transportation and student temporary permit fee	10	2,500	25,000
Field Study Activities	10	2 days 350	7,000
Logistics			
Air tickets to Costa Rica	10	2,500	25,000
Visa arrangements	10	680	6,800
Student travel insurance	10	1,000	10,000
Air tickets for Internship	10	1,000	10,000
Student Stipend			
**Intermediate English training	10	2 months 800	16,000
MA programmes	10	11 months 800	88,000
Internship	10	3 months 800	24,000
Management			
Programme administration and coordination full time 18 months		3,000	54,000
Marketing and promotional materials		2,000	2,000
Total requested (rounded off)			\$ 433,216

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University for Peace
Scholarship for 20 students for the new professionals in conflict transformation and build sustainable peace
Amount in USD

Budget item	No.		Unit Cost	Total
Academic				
Tuition fee. UPEACE financial support of 30% Graduation, transportation and student temporary permit fee	20		11,900	238,000
Field Study Activities	20		2,500	50,000
	20	2 days	350	14,000
Logistics				
Air tickets to Costa Rica	20		2,500	50,000
Visa arrangements	20		680	13,600
Student travel insurance	20		1,000	20,000
Air tickets for Internship	20		1,000	20,000
Student Stipend				
**Intermediate English training	10	2 months	800	16,000
MA programmes	20	11 months	800	176,000
Internship	20	3 months	800	48,000
Management				
Programme administration and coordination full time 18 months			3,000	54,000
Marketing and promotional materials			2,000	2,000
Total requested (rounded off)			\$	785,792

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