United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Unitar Online Catalogue

VUCA Diplomacy - 2026

Multilateral Diplomacy

Deadline: 13 Nov 2026

Type:	Course
Location:	Web-based
Date:	16 Nov 2026 to 13 Dec 2026
Duration:	4 Weeks
Thematic Area:	Peace, Security, Law and Multilateral Diplomacy, , Conflict Prevention, Mediation and Peacemaking, , Multilateral Diplomacy and Negotiation
Website:	https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/multilateral-diplomacy/our-por…
Price:	$600.00
Event Focal Point Email:	mdp-elearning@unitar.org
Contact Number:	+41 (0) 22 917 8810

BACKGROUND

VUCA diplomacy is an emerging field that addresses the challenges arising from Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity (VUCA) of the global political landscape. As the world faces constant political, economic, social and

technological shifts, there is an increasing need for skilled diplomats and leaders who can navigate these changes.

VUCA diplomacy aims to create professionals who think strategically, act flexibly and work effectively when there is a lack of clarity. At its core, VUCA diplomacy involves adapting to global disruptions, understanding their implications for international affairs, and developing solutions that reflect an ever-changing environment. These concepts are vital for future diplomats, leaders, and policymakers who will need to respond swiftly and effectively to the unpredictable nature of world affairs, understanding this is the norm in today's world.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

This course aims to equip participants with strategic and adaptive skills to navigate the volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA) of today's global political landscape. It will help learners think critically, act flexibly, and respond effectively to global disruptions in order to make informed decisions and lead successfully in unpredictable international environments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Define key terms related to VUCA in the context of diplomacy and explain the implications of VUCA conditions on traditional diplomatic strategies;
- Apply VUCA concepts to analyze current international conflicts and diplomatic challenges;
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of diplomatic strategies used in historical VUCA scenarios;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing diplomatic approaches in managing VUCA environments;
- Develop essential skills to create a comprehensive diplomatic strategy tailored for a hypothetical VUCA situation.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

An effective training on VUCA diplomacy is crucial in the current climate as diplomats are increasingly required to lead in crisis settings, respond to geopolitical shocks, and adapt to rapidly shifting realities. The online course on *VUCA Diplomacy* offers a flexible, self-paced programme to introduce VUCA diplomacy and re-shape how diplomacy is approached and utilized. The course offers participants the opportunity to develop and strengthen their practical skills through learning how to be an international professional in a VUCA world.

The course is split into four modules:

Module 1: Understanding VUCA in Diplomacy

Module 2: Think like a VUCA Diplomat

Module 3: Skills and Tools for Effective VUCA Diplomacy

Module 4: Applying VUCA Diplomacy (Simulation exercises and developing VUCA-informed strategies)

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted in English over a period of four weeks, each week consisting of a module focusing on a different topic. The course will be delivered via UNITAR's e-Learning platform. This pedagogical tool will help the student meet the course's learning objectives through a self-paced study routine supported by multimedia, optional and required readings, discussion forums, assessment quizzes, and a wealth of other information.

The course is fully online and asynchronous, moderated by senior international experts, and places emphasis on online discussions and self-paced learning. The participants will be primarily responsible for their own learning over the time span of the course. The course will consist of the following components:

- Compulsory and optional reading material, intended to teach the basic concepts and principles of the lesson's subject-matter;
- External links to additional books, articles, documents, and websites related to the lessons;
- Quizzes and case studies at the end of each module. To be eligible for the course certificate, a passing grade of 80% on both quizzes and case studies

is required;
- A Community Discussion Board will be available for participants to post questions or comments visible to the instructor and other participants. This discussion board will be moderated by the course director and UNITAR

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The course is aimed at staff of the United Nations, mid- to senior-level government officials, as well as staff of other intergovernmental/nongovernmental organizations. It also targets entry-level and mid-career diplomats working in a multilateral setting. Private sector specialists and students whose work or studies are related to this subject are also encouraged to apply.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Payment information

We highly recommend credit card payments. Registration will be closed as soon as the course is full and your place will be secured once your payment is **confirmed**.

For more information, please consult the UNITAR Multilateral Diplomacy Programme website or contact mdp-elearning [at] unitar.org (mdp-elearning[at]unitar[dot]org)

Admission requirements

There are no specific admission requirements. Participants who wish to enrol in one particular course without being awarded a diploma can still do so.

- Have a good command of the English language
- Be at ease with Zoom, Office 365, and basic computer skills

Technical requirements

UNITAR recommends the following as a minimum in hardware and software to take our e-Learning courses. Please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 10 or 11; MacOS 10.15 Catalina, 11 Big Sur, and 12 Monterey; Linux
- Software: Adobe Acrobat Reader, Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
- Browser: Microsoft Edge; Safari; Google Chrome; t works better with Firefox 3.6 or higher.

Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled.