Unitar Online Catalogue

UPEACE - UNITAR MA in Development Studies and Diplomacy - Field Visit - Geneva 2026

Multilateral Diplomacy

Deadline: 18 Jun 2026

Type:	Course
Location:	Geneva, Switzerland
Date:	13 Jul 2026 to 17 Jul 2026
Duration:	5 Days
Thematic Area:	Multilateral Diplomacy and Negotiation, , International Law and Treaty Implementation, , Rule of Law and Justice, , Human Rights
Website:	https://upeace.org/ma-development-studies-and-diplomacy/
Price:	$1,500.00
Event Focal Point Email:	info.ilp@unitar.org
Partnership:	University for Peace

BACKGROUND

!!! Only UPEACE - UNITAR students enrolled in MA in Development Studies and Diplomacy programme can register for this activity !!!

UNITAR is an autonomous institution within the United Nations system with a mission to deliver innovative training and conduct research on knowledge systems to develop the capacities of its beneficiaries. As the training arm of the United Nations, UNITAR’s mission is to develop capacities to enhance global decision-making and to support country level action for shaping a better future.

The University for Peace (UPEACE) is an institution of higher education dedicated to the study of peace. Created by UN General Assembly Resolution 35/55, the University for Peace has been training leaders for peace for the past four decades. Through its Master’s and Doctoral degree programmes, UPEACE trains future leaders to explore and formulate strategies and practices in various contexts to address the causes of multiple problems affecting human and global wellbeing, and thus contribute to the processes of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

From the UPEACE-UNITAR field visit, participants can expect the following:

- Attend lectures from policy practitioners and decision-makers
- Visit UN facilities in Geneva, including UNHCR, WTO and others
- Experience of a real UN conference at one of the UN facilities in Geneva
- Private Guided Tour of the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva (UNOG)
- Network with high-level officials, UN personnel and diplomats

EVENT OBJECTIVES

As part of the MA in Development Studies and Diplomacy, offered in cooperation with the University for Peace (UPEACE), UNITAR designed a 5-day field visit to Geneva, Switzerland, offering participants a full immersion into the city's international working environment.

In line with UNITAR’s mandate, the field visit's main purpose is to enhance participants’ knowledge and skills related to international affairs and diplomacy. This will enable them to work more effectively and efficiently in any multilateral setting.

UNITAR lastly intends to strengthen the participants’ conviction of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, especially multilateralism. In the long term, this does not only result in participants’ more favourable view on the organisation, but also in a higher willingness to cooperate across borders.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Hosting 35 international organizations and more than 250 NGOs, the city of Geneva offers a variety of formative experiences to enhance visitors' understanding of diplomacy and world affairs. UNITAR hosts the field visit in the historic Palace of Nations and provides a nuanced balance between the following different components:

Expert Lectures:

UNITAR’s professional network across Geneva allows it to organize a series of 1-2-hour expert lectures, in which participants can directly learn from UN personnel or other high-level officials. Previous programmes have included lectures from the following organizations:

- United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Training Workshops:

As its core activity and raison d’être, UNITAR provides several face-to-face workshops to the participants. Delivered by experts such as retired ambassadors, previous programmes have included the following workshops:

- Negotiation Skills
- Public Speaking Skills
- Workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Guided Tours:

Geneva is rich in historic buildings important to international affairs. Thanks to its access across the city, UNITAR can provide a series of private guided tours. Previous programmes have included tours through the following facilities:

- The United Nations’ Palace of Nations (3-hours extensive private guided tour)
- The Museum of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- The Maison de la Paix, housing the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)

Career Development Sessions:

UNITAR also provides several 2-3 hour sessions on how to advance your professional career and find a solid footing in the world of international organizations. These sessions can include the following components:

Information session on internships and other entry positions in the UN system
Training workshop on application to a UN job opening and interview skills in the UN context
Review of application material, including CV, motivation letter, personal history form, Inspira profile, LinkedIn profile

Cultural Activities:

Students will have the chance to participate in cultural events, such as a dinner cruise in Lake Léman.

METHODOLOGY

Given the complexity of Geneva's multilateral environment, UNITAR will cover a series of different thematic areas during the course of the Programme. These will include the United Nations, conference diplomacy, core diplomatic skills, humanitarian affairs, trade and commerce, sustainable development and other topics of interest.

The UPEACE-UNITAR field visit is designed to be highly interactive and participatory. Activities will include a high level of direct exposure to policy practitioners and diplomatic settings, thereby allowing participants to gain a thorough knowledge and understanding of the United Nations.

All of the activities will take place in the English language. Should there be any component, such as a multilateral conference or an expert lecture, not available in English, UNITAR will ensure the participants will be provided with simultaneous interpretation.

At the end of the field visit, participants will be awarded a certificate of participation. They will also be asked to complete a feedback questionnaire to evaluate the success of the field visit in achieving the learning objectives.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

!!! Only UPEACE - UNITAR students enrolled in MA in Development Studies and Diplomacy programme can register for this activity. In case you are not enrolled in this programme, kindly refer to the UN Immersion programme (www.unitar.org/immersionprogramme) !!! !!!

At the end of the field visit, each participant will be awarded a certificate of participation. They will also be asked to complete a feedback questionnaire to evaluate the success of the field visit in achieving the learning objectives.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Participants are responsible for complying with Swiss immigration and travel policies to enter the country. In addition, participants must have a health insurance plan that is valid in Switzerland and comply with Swiss health rules and recommendations during their stay in the country.

UNITAR will be responsible for the overall design, coordination and implementation of the field visit.

The participants are responsible for purchasing their own travel tickets to and from Geneva as well as applying for a visa to Switzerland (if applicable). UNITAR can provide an official invitation letter to support students who may need a visa to enter Switzerland. Participants will also be responsible for securing their own accommodation and covering their daily meals.

UNITAR will sponsor a welcome dinner for the participants as well as provide a welcome package, including relevant training materials and entry tickets to sights and museums.

I understand that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) does not insure participants in the above-described activity and I am advised to arrange at my own expense insurance against sickness, accident, permanent or temporary disability, death, and third-party risk for the period of the meeting, including travel time.