



University for Peace



**SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME
FOR UKRAINIAN PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN: WORKING ON
PEACEBUILDING**

8 June 2022



General Information

Project title: “Special Scholarship Programme for Ukrainians Professionals: Working on Peacebuilding”

Summary: The number of refugees who have fled Ukraine has surpassed fourteen million. At the same time, more than 8 million persons are currently displaced inside the Ukraine¹. By June 2021, UNHCR estimates 82.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced, meaning that 1 in every 95 people on earth has fled their home because of conflict or persecution. The biggest concentration of donor support comes in the form of humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, relegating education for human development to a secondary plane. Thus, for many, the only option is to wait for peace to arrive to be able to return to their countries or, in some cases, hope for the possibility of beginning a new life in a new (host) country.

To this end, the University for Peace (UPEACE) is attempting to contribute by creating a scholarship fund with the purpose of providing post-graduate education on matters of peace, conflict resolution and transformation, environment, climate change, and security-related issues for 50 women from Ukraine at its campus in San Jose, Costa Rica. UPEACE will collaborate with other UN agencies, and each participant will choose from one of the University’s master’s degree programmes. Of particular attention is the psychological accompaniment for participants and their families throughout the programme.

Thematic focus: Peace, conflict, and security-related issues, including human rights, gender and peacebuilding, environment, and sustainable development.

Proposed timeframe: 24 months

Geographical focus: Ukraine and neighbouring countries

Target Population: 50 women from Ukraine

Partners: UPEACE will partner with other United Nations agencies and programmes with a humanitarian mandate, like the UNHCR, IOM and UN Women, among others. There is the possibility of working with the International Committee of the Red Cross to identify possible candidates working in military operations and other organizations working in the field.

Results: (1) Refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for finding and implementing durable

¹ BBC. 6 June 2022. How many Ukrainians have fled their homes and where have they gone? Visited on 07 June 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60555472>



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solutions to the challenges they will face in their host countries and countries of origin; **(2)** Development of the kind of global leadership capable of dealing with the complex challenges facing today's globalized society; **(3)** Strengthened capacities of refugees and internally displaced persons in peace-related issues that can contribute to meaningful and effective dialogue; **(4)** Equipping participants with tools for reintegration into labour, professional, and social life; **(5)** Improvement of refugees' and IDPs' health by providing psychological and clinical accompaniment.

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1. Introduction

The UN University for Peace (UPEACE) was established in 1980 as a Treaty Organization with its own Charter in an International Agreement adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 5 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 worldwide movement of education for peace.”

The General Assembly of the United Nations approved the last report on the work of the University for Peace - presented by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres – through its resolution [A/RES/76/73](#), which received a record 128 co-sponsorships, ratifying the mandate of the institution to promote peace through education. In point 8 of its resolution, the UNGA “*Encourages intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, interested individuals and philanthropists to contribute to the programmes and core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work worldwide.*”

The mission of the University for Peace is implemented, at the academic level, through four main areas of study: Peace and Conflict Studies, International Law and Human Rights, Environment and Peace, and Regional Studies (MA programmes in Spanish). The list of M.A. programmes can be found below.

Environment and Development:

1. M.A. in Environment Development and Peace
2. M.A. in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development
3. M.A. in Water Cooperation & Diplomacy (in collaboration with Oregon State University and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education)
4. M.A. in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (in collaboration with American University)
5. M.A. in Development Studies and Diplomacy (in collaboration with UNITAR)
6. M.A. in Ecology & Society (in collaboration with Pace University)

Peace and Conflict Studies:

7. M.A. in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies
8. M.A. in Gender and Peacebuilding
9. M.A. in Peace Education
10. M.A. in International Peace Studies
11. M.A. in International Peace Studies with Specialization in Media, Peace, and Conflict Studies

International Law:

12. M.A. in International Law and Human Rights
13. M.A. in International Law and Settlement of Disputes



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14. M.A. in International Law and Diplomacy (in collaboration with UNITAR)
15. M.A. in Transnational Crime and Justice (in collaboration with UNICRI)
16. M.A. in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies

Regional Programmes in Spanish:

17. M.A. in Conflict Resolution, Peace, and Development
18. M.A. in International Law and Human Rights (in collaboration with the Costa Rican Bar Association)
19. M.A. in Conflict Resolution, Peace, and Development (in collaboration with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali)

Its academic activities include Doctoral Programmes, Diploma Programmes, short courses, and academic partnerships with institutions both within and outside the United Nations System, including prestigious universities in North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

The University for Peace signed an Agreement with the Government of Costa Rica in 1982, providing the University with all the necessary conditions to accomplish its objectives. Of particular importance is Article 9 of the Host Country Agreement (Ley de Creación UPAZ 6754- 4 de mayo 1982), which states:

"The Government shall take all necessary measures to facilitate the entry to all foreign and non-resident students, their spouses and relatives dependent on them. The facilities provided for in this paragraph include granting of visas and the furnishing of a residence identification card valid for the duration of their studies."

Based on the UN General Assembly's resolution [A/RES/70/79](#), recommending that UPEACE "further strengthen and expand the scope of its programmes and activities to cooperate with Member States and strengthen their capacities in the areas of prevention and conflict resolution and the consolidation of peace," the University for Peace has joined forces with other institutions to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

One of these institutions is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Costa Rica, with whom it has been working over the last four years on two specific programmes:

1. In 2013-2014, UPEACE successfully implemented a pilot programme for refugees in Costa Rica. Under this model, UPEACE selected the participants from a list of eligible candidates provided by UNHCR, selecting three students from Colombia, Cuba, and Georgia who were invited to complete a master's degree of their choice at UPEACE. Two of the students accepted the invitation, graduating in 2014 with an M.A. in International Law and Human Rights. The experience was well



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evaluated by all the partners involved and UPEACE received an award from a local NGO that works in supporting refugee-related work in Costa Rica in collaboration with UNHCR.

2. In 2016, the University for Peace began the execution of the Protection Transfer Arrangement programme, in partnership with UNHCR and IOM, which seeks to create alternatives in response to the increased protection needs of the Northern Triangle of Central America. The University, as an implementing agency, offers a curricular programme, which includes **(a)** bilingual psychosocial assistance; **(b)** English-language courses; **(c)** integral wellness attention; and **(d)** extracurricular activities. This programme is offered to families from this region previously identified for resettlement to a third country. At the same time, the University is responsible for food, shelter, medical care, protection needs (in conjunction with UNHCR), special classes, English-language classes, and psychological support. This project is currently active.
3. In preparation for both programmes, UPEACE has developed a series of protocols designed for the beneficiary population. These protocols, evaluations, and monitoring practices have been presented and accepted by UNHCR and include:
 - a. Protocols for receiving the beneficiary population
 - b. Health, safety, and emergency protocol
 - c. Hosting protocol
 - d. Food safety protocol
 - e. Psychological assistance protocol
 - f. Protocols for evaluation of the programme and its activities
 - g. Protective monitoring protocols and needs
 - h. Admissions protocol
 - i. Accounting monitoring
 - j. English-language curricular programme
 - k. Psychosocial curricular programme
 - l. Comprehensive wellness curricular programme

UPEACE is currently diversifying its "Special Scholarship Programme for Conflictive or Unstable Countries," presented in New York and Geneva, with which it intends to increase the chances of successful resettlement of refugees, as well as the increase of positive leadership in regions affected by conflict.



2. Background and Justification

Ukraine has triggered what experts have called the “fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II.” Millions have already fled to Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and a host of other countries in a matter of days, not months.

The number of nationals having to leave their homes due to both internal and international wars in countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic increased significantly. However, the numbers do not stop there; rebound conflicts in neighbouring countries have resulted in refugees from Ukraine and Yemen, among others, significantly increasing the number of people around the world in desperate need of stability.

The conditions in which these refugees and IDPs live vary from well-established camps and collective centres to makeshift shelters or no shelters at all. According to UN Women,² the war has severely impacted social cohesion, community security and the resilience of local communities, especially women and girls. Lack of access to social services, including schools and strained community resources, have increased the care burden of local women, who are responsible for the care for children and disabled and elderly family members.

Recent estimates indicate that 54% of people in need of assistance from ongoing crises are women. More than 2.3 million refugees from Ukraine – the vast majority women and children – have fled to neighbouring countries, while others remain displaced within the country. These numbers are expected to increase significantly as the conflict continues.

As women continue to bear different and additional burdens during wartime, they must be represented in all decision-making platforms on de-escalation, conflict prevention, mitigation, and other processes in pursuit of peace and security.

While the University recognize the comparative advantages of the durable solutions under refugee law, the goal is to achieve a more sustainable solution, in a holistic manner, that contributes to the consolidation of peace, recovery, stability, and adaptation. All these will culminate in a collective effort, from the international community and organizations, to close the gap between emergency relief and longer-term development. There is both a need and a demand for postgraduate programmes aimed at providing refugees with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to take up leadership positions in post-conflict nations and within peacebuilding initiatives. Said programmes would ensure longer-term, trans-

² UN Women. 2022. In Focus: War in Ukraine is a crisis for women and girls. Visited: 03 May 2022. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/03/in-focus-war-in-ukraine-is-a-crisis-for-women-and-girls>



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disciplinary capacity building aimed at refugees, thus enhancing the diversity of networks as well as increasing the critical mass of experts capable of participating in leadership positions across the globe.

To this end, the University for Peace is attempting to contribute to the solution by creating a scholarship fund with the purpose of providing post-graduate education on matters of peace, conflict resolution and transformation, environment, climate change, and security-related issues to 50 women (including their families, if applicable) from Ukraine, for a period of 2 academic years, on its campus in Costa Rica. UPEACE will collaborate with other United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as with other international organizations, to find and select participating students. Each participant will be able to choose from one of the University's M.A. programmes in English. Of particular attention is the psychological accompaniment provided to participants (and their families) throughout the programme. The University for Peace works closely with UNESCO and different organizations within the UN System "in view of its special responsibilities in the field of education,"³ as well as its past and present collaboration on projects related to peace and sustainable development.

This programme goes hand in hand with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and seeks to tackle different challenges, such as the role of education to eradicate poverty and the promotion of prosperity and wellbeing by investing in people through education. The partnerships created through this initiative would enhance and multiply its range, combining the expertise of all institutions involved to benefit an even larger population in the various regions of focus, to contribute to a more secure, sustainable, and equitable world.

UPEACE has both a wide understanding of and practical experience in conflict mitigation, transformation, and resolution, and firmly believes conflict is not solved by merely educating people in conflict resolution and mediation but by taking into account fundamental variables ranging from gender, human rights, climate change, and natural resource management, to name a few. For this reason, its academic programmes target the diverse and root causes of conflict in a transversal manner. This has allowed UPEACE to successfully train academicians, civil servants, military personnel, researchers, policymakers, peacekeepers, journalists, diplomats and members of civil society through workshops, curricular design training, and opportunities for local capacity-building facilitation, in addition to its regular academic programmes.

Furthermore, the University has experience in implementing regional scholarship funds through a variety of training activities and initiatives, including a scholarship programme sponsored by the Nippon Foundation of Japan for young Asian

³ Article 4, Charter of the University for Peace.



professionals; a capacity-building programme with universities in the Great Lakes Region of Africa sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands; and other such programmes in Uganda and Kenya in the region known as the Karamoja Cluster.

UPEACE has designed, implemented, and developed programmes with more than 30 partner institutions in the aforementioned regions. At the same time, the University has worked in Central America training public and judicial officials in Honduras with the support of the European Union and USAID. These successful large-scale projects demonstrate a proven track record with donors and with obtaining the desired results.

3. Objectives

General Objective:

The general objective of this programme is to provide capacity-building in the fields of peace, conflict, and security-related issues to 50 women from Ukraine.

Specific Objectives:

1. Train 50 women with leadership potential.
2. Develop the capacities of refugees at the post-graduate level in the areas of peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and peace-related issues.
3. Develop the participants' practical skills for peacebuilding through valuable internship placements.
4. Increase the exchange of good practices and lessons learned between participants and promote the development of networks among participants and trainers.
5. Prepare participants for reinsertion within their home countries or the countries that have granted them refugee status.
6. Implement a follow-up process that involves the creation of an Alumni network specifically for project beneficiaries and participating institutions.
7. Support the integral and psychological wellbeing of participants by providing psychological accompaniment throughout the programme.
8. Develop leadership and empowerment skills to support participants' reintegration into professional and personal life.

4. Target Population

The University for Peace has chosen to begin its scholarship programme by choosing participants from the following groups:

- Refugees from Ukraine
- IDPs from Ukraine
- Asylum seekers from Ukraine
- Students from Ukraine that explain their personal situations
- Students with regional roots with expertise in peacebuilding



This target population are professional women with academic credentials and experience with little or no possibilities of expanding their academic knowledge and professional experience, as well as those who left their countries in 2022 because of human rights violations and persecution and are currently looking for academic opportunities.

Participants will be able to pursue one of UPEACE's M.A. programmes and will be provided with leadership skills, psychological support, and other specialised workshops to support their resettlement and promote their adaptation and self-reliance in either their home or host countries.

The programme has been designed with a gender perspective. Because the current migration wave due to the current conflict is mostly comprised of women and children, the programme has been designed to host participants and their families, including children of all ages.

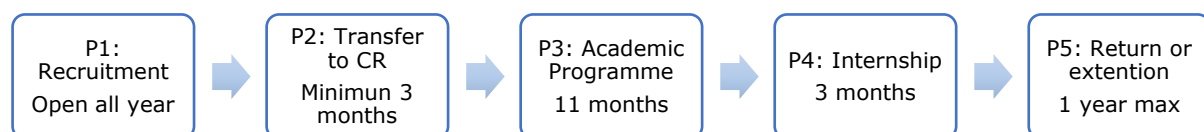
5. Expected Impact

The programme aims to provide refugees and IDPs with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for finding and implementing durable solutions to the challenges they will face in both their country of origin and host countries. It will also provide them with an opportunity to develop the kind of leadership needed for and capable of dealing with the complex challenges facing today's globalized society.

In particular, the programme serves to strengthen the capacities of refugees and internally displaced persons by providing them with expertise in peace-related issues that can contribute to meaningful and effective dialogue. Finally, participants will have the opportunity to work with a psychologist throughout the duration of the programme, thus improving their overall wellbeing.

6. Phases

The programme will contemplate five phases:



PHASE 1: Recruitment

UPEACE will carry out the selection process with the support of selected partners. UPEACE and partners evaluators will narrow down candidates, during which time applicants will indicate the M.A. programme of their choice and will follow an



abbreviated application process, which will be open all year to accommodate the circumstances of these particular groups. The selection process will include the support of UPEACE's Regional Offices with regards to the visa application process. It is important to highlight that UPEACE has permanent staff members dedicated to processing visas for its students and beneficiaries.

PHASE 2: Transfer to Costa Rica

- 2.1. Psychological accompaniment: each candidate will receive psychological support once they arrive in Costa Rica, which will continue throughout the duration of the programme. At the same time, a medical file will be created, and clinical attention will be provided as needed.
- 2.2. Cross-Cultural Training: topics will include culture clash, cross-cultural management, and conflict resolution for contrasting cultures, among others.
- 2.3. Leadership Techniques Workshop: this workshop will allow candidates to develop their leadership skills under the guidance of leadership experts.
- 2.4. Additional workshops: workshops will be tailor to promote adaptation and self-reliance in host countries.

PHASE 3: Academic Programme

UPEACE M.A. programmes have a duration of 11 months at its Costa Rica campus.

PHASE 4: Internship

Candidates will begin their internship at the end of the academic year; this practicum will have a minimum length of three months.

PHASE 5: Return to host country or region of origin/extension of stay

With the support of the international community – particularly UN agencies and an extensive NGO network – UPEACE will develop a follow-up plan that includes creating an Alumni Network specific to the beneficiaries of this fund and participating institutions. Participants that cannot leave Costa Rica upon the completion of their academic work (phase 3) can apply for the extension of their stay for a maximum of one year while they work on their thesis or complete their internship.

The programme's development plan depends on the available resources and the University's logistical capacity at any given time.

7. Partners

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- International Organizations for Migration (IOM)
- UN Women



UNHCR, IOM and UN Women will provide technical cooperation to the programme by identifying possible candidates. At the same time, they will support fundraising efforts by identifying and connecting UPEACE to possible donors. The University will also issue an open call for support from other organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Using a logical framework model, ongoing monitoring reports will be used to share information with project staff, collaborators, and donors. Additionally, the involvement of local staff members, specialized in monitoring and evaluation processes, will ensure the inclusion of informal communication channels and the ability to take measures to mitigate risks as they arise.

An ongoing Monitoring and Outcome Evaluation Reporting Plan will be implemented several times throughout the duration of the programme. This feedback mechanism will be used incrementally to monitor the programme's responsiveness to the concerns and needs of both beneficiaries and stakeholders, in addition to ensuring the efficient implementation of programme activities.

9. Programme Cost

The total cost of the programme, for 50 participants, will be US\$ 1,420,980, which will cover all costs related to transportation, accommodation, academic tuition, and psychological support for participants and their families.

UPEACE will waive 50% of the regular academic cost and 50% of the overhead costs in solidarity with programme participants and donors.

Participants will be expected to remain in Costa Rica for a minimum of 11 to 14 months, during which time the programme will cover their living expenses, tuition, and internship-related costs, totalling approximately US\$ 28,419.60 per participant.



10. Budget

Special Scholarship Programme for Professional Ukraine Women: "Preparing for Peacebuilding"

50 participants

Budget in USD Dollars (US\$)

Administrative cost	Unit	Months	Total
Programme Assistant	\$ 1,200.00	24	\$ 28,800.00
Psychologist	\$ 2,000.00	24	\$ 48,000.00
	\$ 3,200.00		\$ 76,800.00

Academic Cost		# Participants	
Enrolment per student with a 50% tuition waiver	\$ 11,000.00	50	\$ 550,000.00

Accommodation			
Accommodation expenses for 50 participants	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 540,000.00	\$ 1,166,800.00

Travel Expenses			
Per participant	\$ 2,500.00	50	\$ 125,000.00

		Sub total	\$ 1,291,800.00
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Unforeseen			
5%			\$ 64,590.00

Overhead			
5%			\$ 64,590.00

\$ 1,420,980.00

Cost per participant
\$ 28,419.60