


# ONLINE LEARNING AND EDUCATION



**6.432**  
Individuals enrolled in our  
Online Education programmes



**1.747**  
Learners benefited from



**25**  
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) - in three languages



Out of **394** Volunteers



**82** Completed one  
or more of our

**15** Advanced Online  
Courses



**1.032**  
Students  
enrolled in our  
Postgraduate  
Courses and  
Masters Degrees

## Our Master Degrees and Partnerships:

- **MA in Conflict, Peace and Security**  
in partnership with Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
- **MA in Electoral Policy and Administration**  
in partnership with Scuola Superiore Sant'Ana and IDEA International
- **MA in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding**  
in partnership with Oxford Brookes University

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – a specialized training agency of the United Nations – provides innovative curricular opportunities and pedagogical approaches to individuals, organizations, and institutions to enhance global decision-making and support the (re-) establishment of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies (SDG 16) by enabling individuals and organizations to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of sustainable peace.

Over the years, UNITAR has cultivated unique expertise and experience in designing and delivering a vast scope of online training activities in collaboration with higher education institutions. At the core of this success is our specific methodology that allows for creating powerful and inspiring spaces, products, and services (online and face-to-face) for high-quality learning and collaboration. We have become a leading institute for individuals from higher education institutions, public and private sectors.

## Our Vision:

Education is a fundamental human right and an enabling right. To fulfil it, countries must ensure universal access to inclusive and equitable quality education and learning. It is imperative to aim at the full development of the human personality and promote mutual understanding, tolerance, and peace. The Online Learning and Education Unit envisages partnerships with sustainable thinking at their core. We aim to build purposeful networks that promote engagement opportunities, foster a deep connectedness, and strive toward innovative learning. Guided by this global aspiration, a continued focus on a five-pillar strategy, namely, availability, accessibility, acceptability, adaptability, and gender equality ensures the value and meaningfulness of our partnerships and joint programmes in providing a creative and inclusive approach to global development and access to education for all. We collaborate across disciplines to mobilize diverse expertise, generate knowledge, and inspire professionals to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

## Future Vision:

As emphasized by the United Nations, education is the basic building block of every society and essential driver for peace and development. Education is a fundamental human right and is recognized as the single best investment that countries can leverage to build prosperous, healthy, and equitable societies. The new vision for education is essentially motivated by Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) of the 2030 Agenda which focuses on access, equality and inclusion, quality and learning outcomes, with a lifelong learning approach in mind. It requires a collective commitment from governments, civil society, the private sector, UN and multilateral agencies to tackle educational challenges and build systems that are suitable for all learners. The Online Learning and Education programmes at UNITAR provide high-quality capacity-building solutions designed to ensure the right to education for all learners within the context of sustainable development. At UNITAR, we create learning experiences meant to transform mindsets and broaden perspectives on how to visualize and achieve a sustainable impact. We define e-learning as a means of implementing education that can be applied within varying educational models (for example, face-to face or distance education) and educational philosophies such as behaviorism and social constructivism.

## Flagship projects:

### Online Master Degrees

UNITAR Master degrees are advanced academic programmes, offered in partnership with leading higher education institutions and designed to strengthen knowledge and capacities in the field of peace and security under the auspices of SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The programmes are mostly delivered online, offering a high degree of flexibility for mid-to-upper-level professionals currently working in the field or whose assignments involve a lot of traveling. Each programme has in-built advanced academic modules, which can be taken separately based on individual needs and preferences.

Our (Online) Master Degrees programmes directly contribute to the capacity-building of individuals as they have an opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge, and resources; indirectly empower relevant stakeholders and institutions focused on building sustainable peace, through the learners who joined the programs; and draw attention to the importance of including local actors and communities in the design and implementation of peace and security related programs, projects and initiatives, while providing tools for ensuring (positive) community impact in different interventions.

Our programmes' rationale and aims, within the different thematic areas that they cover, are the contribution to developing relevant expertise and frameworks in achieving lasting peace, focused on the implementation of the SDGs, to help create a more peaceful world.

### Massive Open Online Courses

The free and open online courses are a great choice, and opportunity, for anyone willing or needing to get familiar with the basic concepts and topics in the areas of conflict, peace and security as well as other thematic areas addressed by the SDGs, including but not limited to gender equality (SDG 5), climate action (SDG 13) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

The 25 self-paced courses are offered in English, French and Spanish. Course topics range from Confronting Trauma and Gender to Environment, Natural Resources and UN Peacekeeping Operations, Protection of Civilians and Conflict Analysis and Resolution. These courses are on-going and can be accessed at a time that is suitable for participants and no prior knowledge is required. The rationale behind these MOOCs is indeed to provide an inclusive and equitable quality learning opportunity for all interested – in line with SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

These MOOCs provide participants with tools for analyzing, understanding, and exploring concepts and frameworks within the respective themes that the course addresses, through different interesting and creative asynchronous methods.

### UNV Online Courses

This joint project was developed and is implemented by UNITAR and the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV). It offers all assigned UN Volunteers the opportunity to take part in a series of courses on topics ranging from Women, Leadership and Peacebuilding to Electoral Security and Conflict Prevention. These self-paced online courses provide in-depth insights and advanced knowledge meant to develop professional skills and key competences in the areas of gender, conflict, peace and security, environment, and mental health. The programme, therefore, aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of all UN Volunteers as part of their learning journey, as well as to present some important frameworks and tools in areas relevant to the fulfilment of their responsibilities while in deployment.



*"My name is Angelo Gianturco Coletta, I recently obtained my MA in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding, a programme possible thanks to the joint effort of Oxford Brookes University and UNITAR. My dissertation revolved around refugee protection measures implemented by the Colombian government in favor of the Venezuelan migration crisis in the LATAM region, focussing on the reach of these measures from the displaced Venezuelan perspective. Researching migration would not have been possible without the support offered to me by the HAP programme. I had the great opportunity of counting with the supervision of a UNITAR professional, who stood by me in every step of the way, helping me navigate through the ethical approval, the structure and design of the primary data collection tool and its analysis, and advice on the operational execution of the research itself. I had a marvelous experience throughout the master's course, discovering research capabilities I did not know I possessed. I highly recommend the Oxford Brookes-UNITAR HAP programme to all my colleagues in the humanitarian field or anyone interested in a better and deeper understanding of the humanitarian and peacebuilding structure."*

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