The United Nations University enjoys an unparalleled position within the global academic community as the only United Nations organ mandated by the General Assembly to grant academic degrees. This enables UNU to provide a unique educational opportunity unavailable anywhere else in the world: students are offered first-hand research experience at the heart of the United Nations.

The University offers a growing range of master’s and doctoral degree programmes that equip the leaders of tomorrow with the necessary academic foundations to effectively address pressing global problems. UNU postgraduate programmes are interdisciplinary and problem-focused. Over the course of their studies, students will undertake research that links directly with the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as with numerous intergovernmental processes.

The University brings together scholars from both developing and developed countries to form a truly international academic community. Together with UNU’s global student body, this vibrant community ensures an uninterrupted flow of ideas and knowledge across borders, pushing the boundaries of sustainable thinking.

UNU is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, and includes 15 issue-oriented research and training institutes in 13 countries. For more information about UNU degree programmes, we invite you to visit us at unu.edu.
CURRENT PROGRAMMES

Master’s Degrees

UNU master’s students undertake research alongside expert United Nations researchers in areas mandated by the United Nations University Charter. The UNU master of science (MSc) degree prepares students for advancement to doctoral studies as well as professional employment with the United Nations and other international organizations.

DEGREE AWARDED: MSc in Environmental Governance with Specialization in Biodiversity
INSTITUTE: UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
LOCATION: Yokohama, Japan
LENGTH: 2 years

Protecting and preserving biodiversity is one of our most important global environmental challenges. With growing international interest in environmental governance and the role of biodiversity in regional and national development, there is increasing demand for biodiversity experts with empirically and conceptually grounded training. Students in this programme are provided the intellectual foundation and practical field experience necessary for understanding environmental governance regimes. Graduates of the programme will have acquired the skills necessary to forge new frontiers as researchers and practitioners with an interdisciplinary and systemic understanding of biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable development. Students are expected to undertake coursework and successfully complete a master’s thesis.

Tuition is USD 10,000 per year for full-time students; limited scholarships are available for low-income students from developing countries on a competitive basis.

DEGREE AWARDED: MSc in Sustainability, Development and Peace
INSTITUTE: UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP)
LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
LENGTH: 2 years

This master of science programme addresses pressing global issues of sustainability, climate change, development, peacebuilding and human rights through an innovative interdisciplinary approach that integrates the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The programme equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to solving these issues as experts in the public and private sectors. Students are expected to undertake coursework and successfully complete a master’s thesis.

Tuition is USD 10,000 per year for full-time students; limited scholarships are available for outstanding applicants from developing countries on a competitive basis.

DEGREE AWARDED: Double MSc in Public Policy and Human Development
INSTITUTE: UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG)
LOCATION: Maastricht, Netherlands
LENGTH: 1 year

This master of science programme aims to produce skilled public policymakers and analysts through intense training in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policy. Students are provided with a variety of skills, tools and knowledge that will enable them to work in public and private institutions at local, national and international levels, as well as in academia. The programme consists of a general, shared semester, a specialization semester and a master’s thesis. Specializations are offered in a variety of topics and in collaboration with leading experts and institutions: social protection policy (ILO and Maastricht University); migration (Maastricht University); innovation, institutions and development (UNU-MERIT); trade and development law (Maastricht University); risk and vulnerability (UNU-EHS); and regional integration and multi-level governance (UNU-CRIS).

Tuition is approximately EUR 1,740 for European Economic Area students or EUR 12,000 for non-European Economic Area students.
CURRENT PROGRAMMES

Doctoral Degrees

UNU doctoral students pursue problem-oriented studies, utilizing advanced research methods to address real-world problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. UNU doctoral programmes equip students with the skills necessary to become specialists in their respective area of focus, laying a strong foundation for a career in academia or as experts within the international community.

DEGREE AWARDED: Double PhD in Information Communication Technology for Sustainable Development
INSTITUTE: UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST)
LOCATION: Macao, China, and Pisa, Italy
LENGTH: 3.5 years

This doctoral programme is designed to train expert researchers in the emerging field of information communication technology (ICT) for sustainable development. The programme emphasizes issues of sustainability closely linked to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the ways in which current and future ICT may be able to contribute to these global priorities. Coursework covers the essential concepts of sustainable development as well as cutting-edge ICT. Students will pursue research within UNU-IIST’s multidisciplinary environment, which boasts a wide range of opportunities for hands-on research. The programme includes both coursework and research, and culminates in the writing and defence of a doctoral thesis.

Scholarships are available for outstanding applicants. Tuition and registration fees are waived for holders of UNU scholarships; scholarship holders are expected to work on research projects assigned by a UNU-IIST Principal Investigator.

DEGREE AWARDED: PhD in Sustainability Science
INSTITUTE: UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP)
LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
LENGTH: 3 years

Focusing on environmental sustainability as a central theme, this programme provides young scholars and researchers with comprehensive multidisciplinary knowledge to understand sustainability problems in a holistic sense. The programme also fosters a deeper understanding of sustainability science through the analysis of current issues related to global change with perspectives from peace and development fields. The programme emphasizes the acquisition of quantitative and qualitative research skills, as well as technical literacy in addressing problems in the field of sustainability.

Tuition is USD 10,000 per year for full-time students; limited scholarships are available for outstanding applicants from developing countries on a competitive basis.

DEGREE AWARDED: Joint PhD in Public Policy, Innovation and Development
INSTITUTE: UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG)
LOCATION: Maastricht, Netherlands
LENGTH: 3 years

This joint programme focuses on research skills and methods, training students to become both scholars and practitioners in the fields of governance and the economics of technology.

The joint programme has three specializations:
- Public Policy and Policy Analysis (MGSoG)
- Economics & Policy Studies of Technical Change (UNU-MERIT)
- Structural Change and Industrialization (in cooperation with UNIDO)

During the first year, students complete a basic, compulsory training programme taught by leading scholars of the host and partner universities. All courses are taught in Maastricht in English and are spread across two semesters. Tuition is EUR 7,000 for the first year and EUR 2,500 for each subsequent year. A limited number of scholarships are available each year.
Forthcoming Programmes

Several new UNU postgraduate degree programmes will be launched soon. Make sure to check unu.edu for updates about these and other forthcoming educational opportunities at UNU, as well as programme start dates, application procedures and deadlines.

DEGREE AWARDED: Joint MSc in the Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security
INSTITUTE: UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the University of Bonn
LOCATION: Bonn, Germany
LENGTH: 2 years

There is an increasing global trend in the manifestation of environmental disasters brought about by the combination of global environmental change (including climate change), increased population growth, urbanization and poverty. There is a clear need for experts with specialist training who are able to address these important challenges in an integrated manner. Graduates of this joint master of science programme will come away with an integrated understanding of all areas of environmental risk and human security. The course draws from several core research areas: vulnerability assessment; resilience analysis; risk management and adaptation strategies within linked human–environment systems; and environmentally induced internal displacement and trans-boundary migration.

Students undertake their studies in Bonn at both UNU-EHS and the University of Bonn and will be expected to complete an internship in a United Nations agency or an international organization. The programme is scheduled to launch in September 2013. Information on tuition and scholarships will be announced in the near future.

DEGREE AWARDED: Joint PhD in Development Economics
INSTITUTE: UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and the University of Ghana
LOCATION: Helsinki, Finland, and Legon, Ghana
LENGTH: 4 years

UNU and the University of Ghana combine their expertise in economics to offer this joint programme, which endeavours to provide future leaders in the field of development economics with the analytical tools necessary for analysing the economic dimensions of development issues, while focusing on the unique characteristics and challenges of developing economies. Graduates will be able to draw on a range of analytical techniques and econometric methods in the development of coherent and timely economic policy. The programme consists of both coursework and research components, and culminates in the writing and defence of a doctoral thesis.

Students undertake the majority of their research in Ghana at one of Africa’s premier universities. The programme is expected to launch in September 2013. Information on tuition and scholarships will be announced in the near future.

Visit UNU online!
For the latest updates on academic offerings at the United Nations University please visit the UNU website at unu.edu, a one-stop gateway with details about the structure, admissions and curriculum of each of the University’s academic programmes, as well as useful links to faculty profiles and instructions on contacting University staff.

United Nations University
The mission of the United Nations University is to contribute, through collaborative research, capacity development and advisory services, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States.

The UN University comprises a worldwide network of institutes, presently located in 13 different countries and coordinated by the UN University Centre in Tokyo.

Office of Academic Affairs
The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) is the University’s central administrative office tasked with overseeing the strategic management and coordination of all postgraduate teaching activities in the UNU system. Contact information for individual programme focal points is available at unu.edu. If you have a general inquiry about UNU’s postgraduate programmes, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs at academicaffairs@unu.edu.

Created: June 2012
Copyright © 2012 United Nations University. All Rights Reserved.