PROPOSAL FOR UPEACE Africa MA Programme

MA in Peace, Governance & Development in Africa
(MAGPD)

August 31, 2011

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DETAILED OVERVIEW OF MA PROGRAMME

a. Programme Description

The Online MA in Peace, Governance and Development in Africa is envisaged to advance the development of the full spectrum of knowledge, skills and related capacities of students. The programme will offer a holistic selection of courses that critically examine the academic concepts, theories, contemporary debates and practices of the interdisciplinary studies of peace, conflict, governance and development in Africa. Students will have the chance to follow a tailored set of courses with an emphasis either on governance and security or development and peace building within the programme. They will explore relevant theoretical frameworks, analyze and critique policy and practice, explore case examples and reflect on the political, economic, social and cultural contexts to find innovative ways to invest in the prevention and transformation of violence, for sustainable development and peace to emerge.

b. Programme Objectives and Deliverables

The MA programme is designed to meet the needs of scholars and students interested in peace and conflict studies with a distinct focus on Africa. To arrive at the afore-mentioned goal, the educational purposes and objectives of the MA programme include:

- To introduce students to the key concepts and applications in the field of peace and conflict, and its nexus with governance, security and development in Africa
- To guide students to develop their functional competences of advance reflection and critical analyses of various theoretical and practical applications in governance and development
- To encourage praxis – the complex and holistic ‘action-reflection’ process necessary for synergy in theory and practice
- To enhance conceptual thinking and espouse multiple pedagogies – holistic, dialectical, dialogical, innovative, critical – all relevant perspectives in a globalized and rapidly changing world
To develop students’ familiarity with the conventional guidelines for the creation, interpretation and dissemination of academic material including using content in the form of a problematique.

- To encourage empirical research and develop a critical mass of researchers whose objective is to nourish the formulation of policy in the varied and complex area of African peace, security, governance and development.

- To accord French speaking African students the opportunity to study this discipline in their language of choice.

The above objectives presume measureable deliverables including among others:

- Active participation, reflection and presentation of view points and perspectives

- Essential skills in leadership, non-violent communication, conflict transformation and project management for sustainable development

- Advanced written essays as final course papers for each of the modules, including policy briefs, project proposals and critical essays

- A well written final dissertation based on empirical research or thematic analysis of a problem

**c. Programme Structure and Timeline**

The programme will offer 12 courses over 12 months, totaling 36 academic credits. A final 15000 word research paper (Dissertation) worth 6 credits will be mandatory for the award of Master of Arts.

Each student will be expected to attend a 3 weeks face to face course on Research methods and Introduction to Peace and conflict.

After that students will take a maximum of 4 courses online per semester. The course will be completed with a final dissertation which will be presented during the period of residency and graduation.

Given the various professional commitments of students, the MA programme can be completed via two routes:
UPEACE Africa Programme MA in Peace, Governance and Development

a. Full time online-only (FO): This corresponds to completion of all required credits online, and a Dissertation within 12 months from the date of registration;

b. Part time online only (PT): Completion of all required credits and a Dissertation anytime from 18 months amount to part time study.

18 months is the maximum time period to validate all academic requirements, after which the student will only be eligible for a Certificate of Completion.

Admission to the MA will be open throughout the year, and enrolled students can begin in January or September.

**d. List of Courses**

1. RESEARCH METHODS (3 CREDITS)

2. Introduction to peace and conflict studies (3 CREDITS)

3. Conflict management, mediation and negotiation in Africa (3 CREDITS)

4. Human rights, Justice and Peace in Africa (3 CREDITS)

5. Gender peace and human security in Africa (3 CREDITS)

6. Peace education and conflict transformation (3 CREDITS)

7. African political and economic governance (3 CREDITS)

8. Governance and transformative leadership (3 CREDITS)

9. Environmental Security and Governance (3 CREDITS)

10. Approaches to Development in Africa (3 CREDITS)

11. Post conflict reconstruction and Development (3 CREDITS)

12. Project management, Social media and development (3 CREDITS)

**RESEARCH PROJECT (THESIS) – 6 CREDITS**

**1. Methodology**

A strong grounding in proactive, student-centered learning is the envisioned pedagogical philosophy of the MA programme. To ensure that all students get the full benefits as face-
to-face learning, interactive, participatory, task-based methodology will be fostered, to enable critical reflection while leaving room for creativity and validation of multiple points of views.

i. **Teaching Methods:**

The proposed MA programme will primarily use a variety of e-learning methods for teaching. Students on the combination mode will have face-to-face teaching in the first six weeks, and then continue the programme modules virtually. An interactive distance learning platform adapted to local internet capacity will be created to incorporate and accommodate written and audio materials, discussion forums and online conferencing. All materials will be composed of scientifically sourced and originally-authored work by in-house and external academic contributors. For all modules, students will be supported by faculty and tutors (facilitators) who will provide course materials and feedback on their work and will be available to them by email. All modules will have mandatory ‘day sessions’. These are day-long conferencing at the start and end of each course module, which all students must attend in order to pass the module.

ii. **Assessment methods:**

Learning will generally be self-directed, applied and collaborative. However, several aspects of the learning process will be assessed to contribute to students’ final grades, including – substantive participation in online discussion forums, individual and group written assignments, applied (creative) project development and presentation. All grades will reflect the UPEACE established grading system.

iii. **Language:**

The MA programme will be taught primarily in English; French will be a second language. Applicants from French speaking countries will therefore be encouraged to have an intermediate or higher level of English to partake in English language discussions if they wish. All discussions will be conducted in French alongside the English language sessions, where a synopsis of the main points will be translated and shared by a French-speaking facilitator. Students will be offered all course guides and syllabi in both languages, however reading materials will be in their original language. As much as possible, course instructors will make available material in French language. All course assignments and
papers will be written in the student’s preferred language. French-speaking students will be assigned bilingual academic supervisors.

2. Application and Selection process

For eligibility and admission into the MA programme, the following criteria will apply:

*Education:* A 3 or 4 year Bachelor degree in Social or Behavioral Science, and Humanities

*Skills:* A functional knowledge and familiarity with e-learning tools – internet search engines, Microsoft Word and Powerpoint, (internet access is implied)

*Language ability:* Proof of advance ability in either English or French is mandatory. For the primary language, this implies either having completed undergraduate study in that language or attended tertiary education in any native-speaking French or English country. French speakers must demonstrate intermediate level English competence through a phone interview. Speakers of other languages must demonstrate ability in either English or French through an established professional language exam (English: TOEFL and IELTS Academic, and French: DELF-B2 or DALF).

To apply, candidates will send the following to the Addis Ababa Office:

- A Completed Application form
- University transcripts (certified)
- University Diploma (certified)
- A 1000 word Statement of Purpose
- Proof of English or French language competence
- An updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Three recommendation letters (ideally sent electronically or if in hard copy, must be signed, sealed and dated, with valid contact information. Valid referees include former/current professors, and employers)
- A Statement of Need for those applying for tuition waivers, explaining why they should be given one, what percentage and how they plan to fund the balance.
- Passport size photographs

Once successful candidates are selected, Admission Letters will be sent to them detailing the financial terms available for them. They must confirm such terms in signature and pay
the non-refundable enrolment fee to confirm their place in the programme. Once payment is made, they will be issued a UPEACE student ID and password to access the ‘Classroom’.

3. **Tuition**

The complete cost of the programme is $5500, which covers:

- A non-refundable Enrolment\(^1\) fee: $1500
- MA tuition fee: $4,000
- PT Extension charge: $1000 per term\(^2\)

Programme costs are applicable to candidates as follows:

- FC - (12 months): $5500 + all related costs for face-to-face learning in Addis Ababa
- FO - (18 months): $5,000
- PT - (18): $7,000 + PT extension charge

**Notes:**

1. Complete tuition fees can be paid at the beginning of the study period or in 2 (FC) or 3 (FO and PT) installments at the beginning of each term via Bank Transfer.
2. Corporate applications from staff of government and International institutions (a minimum of 5) to the full time combination route will be given a 10% tuition discount.

**PROJECT ORGANIZATION**

**Location:** The MA programme will be administered entirely from the UPEACE Africa Programme Office in Addis Ababa. Academic accreditation, including diploma awards will be handled by the upper management of the University in San Jose.

**Programme Coordination:** Academic coordination will be overseen by Prof. Samuel Kale Ewusi. Programme management will be carried out by Ms Kidest Dawit and Rahel

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\(^1\) This fee covers administrative costs related to matters of admission processing, thesis supervision, translation, and graduation (transcripts and diploma priority shipping – San Jose-Addis-home country).

\(^2\) A term refers to a half annual year. The year has 2 terms, January and September and for each extended term, the student pays an extension charge.
Getachew. This team will liaise closely with the Office of the Vice Rector, the Library and the Department of Academic Administration at UPEACE Headquarters as needed.