

# Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Joint Education Programme

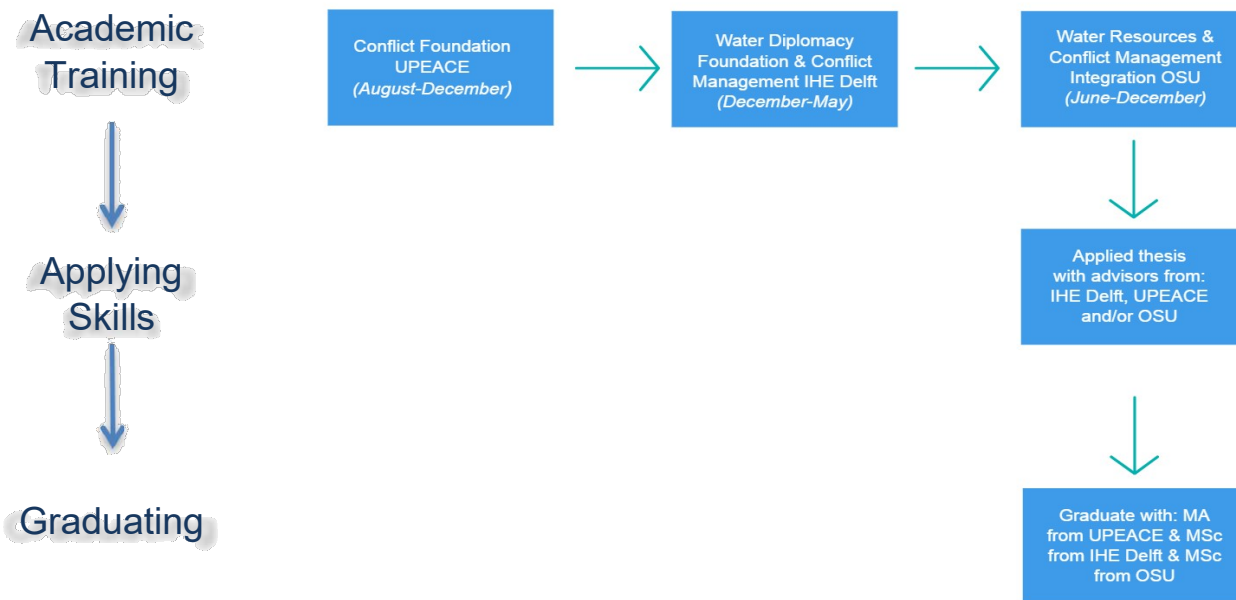


Water management *is* conflict management. Regardless of the scale, ensuring that the needs of the people and ecosystems that rely on this critical resource are met effectively requires comprehensive understanding of *both* water science and water diplomacy, including dispute mitigation, management, and resolution. To address these needs, the IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands, the University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica, and Oregon State University (OSU) in the USA, designed a joint education programme in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy. The goal of this initiative is to broaden the scope of approach to conflict and peace, provide a more theoretical dimension to conflict, engage multi-level scales of conflict dimensions and strengthen skills through highly experiential learning opportunities.

Launched in summer 2015, the programme provides tools and training in international settings, with a unique opportunity to undertake coursework and hands-on experiences in Costa Rica, the Netherlands, and the United States. Participants will engage with cutting edge research and practice in the field of water cooperation and diplomacy.

## **Key strengths of the programme include the following:**

- Exposure to theory followed by practical exposure to contemporary issues through field work at different scales
- Strong theoretical foundation in peace and conflict studies
- Particular emphasis on conflict management and diplomacy from different points of view
- Foundation in how to understand the nexus of environment and development: how to integrate water-related issues in a broader environment and development framework
- Focus on practical skills-training for communications and diplomacy as well as actual dispute resolution processes
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary project work
- Field experience in both the Global South and Global North contexts
- Extended networking opportunities from different but complementary fields (water-oriented experts, and peace and conflict experts). As part of the collaborative project at OSU, all students will jointly develop an “applied thesis” centred on a common geographic location. Then students will extend the group work into individual theses. Each student will develop her/his thesis with advisors from any of the three participating universities. Students will be awarded an MA and an MSc in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy.



Students receive academic training at all three institutions as a cohort. As students move through the programme, they will be introduced to the thesis component, which spans throughout the entire program; beginning at UPEACE and ending at OSU. Throughout the programme, students receive academic and logistical support from all three institutions.

## About the Institutions



IHE-Delft carries out educational, research and capacity development activities in the broad fields of water engineering, water management, sanitation and governance. It is the largest international graduate education institute in the field of water



UPEACE is a global leader in research and education related to peace, security and conflict and will take the lead in training students in the underlying theories of and approaches to peace, security and conflict. Through this unique partnership, UPEACE will provide a broader historical, legal and theoretical context to water conflict. UPEACE's geographical setting in the Global South will also expose students to water-related conflicts at different scales through field-based study and research.



Oregon State University has a strong graduate program in Water Resources that provides students access to a broad range of courses and faculty expertise, and the opportunity to earn a certificate in Water Conflict Management and Transformation (WCMT). Coursework at OSU includes a field-based component, addressing water conflicts ranging from local to international scales.

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