DIPLOMACY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GLOBAL AFFAIRS COURSE

Introduction

The Executive Course in Diplomacy, International Relations & Global Affairs equips senior government officials, diplomats, corporate executives, development practitioners, international organization professionals, policy leaders, NGO executives and other senior professionals with the strategic knowledge and practical capabilities required to navigate complex international environments, manage strategic relationships, negotiate competing interests and advance institutional objectives. Diplomacy and international engagement are no longer confined to traditional state-to-state relations. Governments, corporations, development organizations, NGOs and international institutions increasingly operate across borders and within environments shaped by geopolitical competition, regional integration, economic interdependence, regulatory and political uncertainty, international negotiations, conflict, climate and development pressures, and rapidly evolving global power relationships. Effective leadership in such environments requires more than technical expertise; it requires the ability to interpret geopolitical developments, understand interests and power, build strategic relationships, communicate across institutional and cultural boundaries, negotiate effectively and exercise influence. The programme develops practical executive capabilities in geopolitical and global-affairs analysis, diplomatic engagement, strategic negotiation, mediation, stakeholder management, strategic communication, international partnerships, economic and development diplomacy, multilateral engagement and contemporary global affairs. Participants will examine how diplomatic and international-relations principles can be applied to real institutional challenges involving governments, businesses, development organizations, civil society, international institutions and other stakeholders. The programme is designed to strengthen the capacity of leaders and institutions to navigate complexity, manage competing interests, build influence and pursue effective

international engagement in an increasingly interconnected worl

Course Objectives

- Analyze geopolitical developments, global power shifts and international trends relevant to institutional decision-making.
- Assess the strategic interests, influence, relationships and risks of international and domestic stakeholders.
- Apply diplomatic principles and strategic engagement approaches to complex institutional and international environments.
- Develop effective negotiation strategies that account for interests, power, leverage, alternatives and cross-cultural dynamics.
- Apply mediation, dialogue and preventive-diplomacy approaches to managing conflict and competing interests.
- Strengthen strategic communication, public diplomacy and stakeholder engagement in complex international environments.
- Evaluate opportunities for economic, corporate, development and partnership diplomacy.
- Navigate multilateral institutions, regional organizations and international cooperation frameworks.
- Assess emerging global issues and their implications for organizations, governments and development priorities.
- Develop strategic international-engagement approaches that align diplomatic relationships, partnerships and global opportunities with institutional objectives.

Course Modules

> Module 1: Diplomacy, International Relations & Global Affairs in a Changing World

- Contemporary diplomacy and the changing international system
- Global power structures and the evolving role of state and non-state actors
- Diplomacy beyond traditional state-to-state relations
- Emerging global trends and their strategic implications

> Module 2: Geopolitics, Global Power Shifts & Strategic Intelligence

- Geopolitical analysis and strategic decision-making
- Global power shifts, competition and emerging centers of influence

- International political, economic and security risks
- Strategic intelligence, horizon scanning and scenario analysis

> Module 3: Foreign Policy, Global Governance & International Institutions
- Foreign policy, national interests and international engagement
- Global governance and multilateral diplomacy
- International institutions, regimes and policy influence
- Coalition-building and strategic multilateral engagement

> Module 4: Contemporary Diplomacy, Strategic Engagement & Influence
- Contemporary diplomatic practice and strategic engagement
- Stakeholder diplomacy, relationship management and influence
- Diplomatic protocol, etiquette and professional conduct
- Cross-cultural diplomacy and international partnership development

> Module 5: Strategic Negotiation, Mediation & Conflict Management
- Negotiation strategy, interests, leverage and strategic options
- Power asymmetries, cross-cultural and multi-party negotiation
- Conflict analysis, mediation and preventive diplomacy
- Dialogue, consensus-building and agreement implementation

> Module 6: Public Diplomacy, Strategic Communication & Reputation
- Public diplomacy and strategic influence
- Strategic communication and executive diplomatic briefing
- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Institutional reputation, trust and digital engagement

> Module 7: Economic, Corporate & Development Diplomacy
- Economic diplomacy, trade and investment relations
- Corporate diplomacy and government relations
- Development diplomacy and international cooperation
- Strategic partnerships, investment relationships and institutional positioning

> Module 8: Regional Integration, Multilateralism & International Cooperation
- Regional integration and strategic cooperation
- East African and African regional integration, trade and strategic cooperation
- Regional peace, security and cross-border cooperation

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- South-South cooperation and international partnerships

> Module 9: Climate Diplomacy, Global Development & Emerging Global Challenges

- Climate diplomacy and international climate negotiations
- Development cooperation, conflict-sensitive development and international partnerships
- Energy, resource and transition diplomacy
- Technology, migration, peace and security and other emerging cross-border challenges

> Module 10: Strategic Diplomacy & International Engagement Framework

- Strategic international engagement and institutional objectives
- Stakeholder, influence and geopolitical opportunity mapping
- International negotiation, partnership and engagement strategies
- Developing an institutional Strategic Diplomacy & International Engagement Framework

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