



University for Peace



# Global Center of Peace Innovation

## Call for Fellowship Applications

The Global Center of Peace Innovation at the University for Peace (UPEACE) is now accepting applications for the ***DNA of Peace Fellowship Program***, a PhD fellowship program designed and led in partnership with the Peace Innovation Initiative (PII) to connect and equip top practitioner-scholars with the partnerships, spaces, education, and technology necessary to incubate and lead peace innovation from the ground up, starting in their own disciplines and communities of action. Just as the Human Genome Project was a collaborative global research project committed to “identifying, sequencing, and mapping all the genes of the human genome” to build a healthier world, the DNA of Peace Fellowship Project serves as our first official research project at the Global Center in Costa Rica: committed to the scientific identification, sequencing, and mapping of all elements that activate the “genes” for peace—the building blocks for a peaceful world.

Peace is far too often understood as a vague and idealistic concept incapable of propelling true change in the world. We are committed to shifting this narrative and transforming mere potential for peace into actionable practice with real world implications across sectors, communities, and disciplines. Since March 2021, we have been building a diverse body of scholars and practitioners to explore the role of positive disruption in peacebuilding, convening and synthesizing their insights through a series of global conferences and roundtable discussions in Central America, Europe, and the United States.

Through our collective data so far, we know peace innovation requires building partnerships and shared spaces across a diverse range of professions, personalities, identities, and global representation. It harnesses the power of connectivity to educate people, providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to co-design practical and transdisciplinary solutions to the seemingly intractable barriers to collective wellbeing today. We also know these systems-based solutions often include material products but are not exclusively rooted in peace tech. Social innovations are just as critical to innovative practice within and across disciplines.

Driven by the understanding that global peace requires personal, relational, organizational, national, and global wellbeing, we understand health as the most basic level of peace. Moreover, the health of humans is intrinsically connected to and impacted by the health of our planet. In developing a definition of peace innovation as our foundation for creating and enabling this new field and global practice, we are therefore launching our fellowship program for the 2023-2024 Academic Year to begin exploring the role of peace innovation in health.





As we begin to uncover what it means to research, study, and launch health-and-peace innovation, we are looking for **two practitioner-scholars** with expertise in a relevant health-related topic to join us as we launch this ground-breaking program at our research lab: the Global Center. Throughout the course of the three-year PhD program at UPEACE, they will begin developing the genetic map of peace within the field of health, collectively exchanging their diverse ideas with other pioneer bridge-builders and using data-driven research, testing, and analysis to scale their innovations for broader impact across disciplines.

## Important Dates

- Fellowship Term: July 2023 - August 2026
- Accepting Applications: 27 Jan 2023 - 25 March 2023
- Application Review: March 2023 - April 2023
- Selection Announcement: May 2023
- Beginning of the program: July 2023

## Program Offerings

As they transform academic theory and discourse into engaged practice, Fellows will receive ongoing guidance and support, relevant practical experience, and networking opportunities from PII, UPEACE and our partner organizations with the chance to further their work and share their academic findings through written publications and high-level talks.

Over the course of the 3 years of the program, fellows will receive:

- Comprehensive funding for academics, housing, and research at the Global Center of Peace Innovation;
- Access to educational and industry-relevant databases and cutting-edge technology for data collection and analytics, statistical analysis and secure data archiving;
- Mentorship from 1 global industry leader relevant to their specific research focus, with additional opportunities for advisership from local experts;
- Invitations and opportunities to participate in events and panel discussions at the UN and beyond;
- Publication opportunities with the University for Peace; and
- Teaching opportunities with the University for Peace (Master's level)

Upon graduation and successful completion of the Fellowship Program, fellows will gain:

- The title "Doctor of Philosophy"
- Placement in a global network to launch their peace innovations with relevant partners and in contexts best suited to their sustainable success.



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- Access to the global UPEACE professional and academic community, including in campuses and offices located in San José (Costa Rica), New York, Geneva, The Hague, Beijing, Manila, Addis Ababa, Bonn, and Tegucigalpa.

## Fellow Profile

Traditional PhD programs are designed to develop original research and train the next generation of academics within each field of study. The DNA of Peace Fellowship Program will provide PhD students with the unique opportunity to develop an actionable pathway for putting their research into action in ways that have impact beyond their academic disciplines and shape their diverse careers as peace innovators for years to come. The fellowship program is therefore designed for mid-level career professionals who have already developed a niche of study or practice within the field of health and are interested in building upon their existing knowledge and experience to develop and launch their peace innovations.

Understanding that global solutions must be co-designed with the people best positioned to lead the change on-the-ground, we prioritize the inclusion of leaders who have committed to playing active roles in broadening the scope of who gets a seat at the table, for themselves as equally as for others. Whether these previous roles have been primarily rooted in academia or organizational program design and operations, we are looking for experienced practitioner-scholars: individuals who are committed to the development of both scholarship and practice and believe in the importance of translating health-related research into practical and sustainable solutions.

We believe that any innovative solution is only as sustainable as the extent to which it integrates collaboration across fields, through a systems-based approach. With this in mind, we seek applicants who approach problems through a transdisciplinary lens, committed to understanding the intersections of health with armed conflict, environmental changes, and inequity, and illuminating the drivers of conflict and disease. Whether they are a peacebuilder, educator, doctor, environmentalist or public health professional, candidates should be experienced in developing comprehensive strategies for health and peace alongside other cross-sectoral professionals and excited about harnessing the power of intersectional research for the accelerated development of effective solutions in health.

## Research Criteria

Through the DNA of Peace Fellowship Program, we are collectively creating the first-ever body of knowledge on peace innovation to support meaningful and sustainable impact for our collective future. As part of this first Fellowship cohort, our two chosen fellows will be expected to produce original dissertation research that contributes to collectively answering the question: What is peace innovation in health, and what does it require? In tandem with their PhD programs at UPEACE, they will together





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uncover the fundamental elements of peace and peacebuilding to support their own development of peace innovations within the health sector.

With this in mind, the dissertation research criteria we expect from our fellows parallels the profile of our fellows, focusing on the theoretical and practical intersections of health, peace and innovation. The kinds of questions we expect fellows to ask include:

- How does strengthening the infrastructure of peace intersect with strengthening the infrastructure of health? How does lack of access to healthcare contribute to conflict?
- How do we create systemic structures that uplift the communities disproportionately impacted by violence and illness?
- How can health tech be designed to promote peace?
- What connections exist between public health and peacebuilding from a communication perspective? Is it possible to have a standard blueprint? (i.e. core principles of healthcare, conflict prevention, and humanitarian assistance)
- How can we use big data to connect health-related conflicts to other global problems (climate change, discrimination of people with disabilities, gender-based violence, protection of indigenous knowledge, etc.)
- What new methodologies can be developed to better understand the linkages between innovation, peace, and health?

Specific topics and research areas that address the intersection of health, peace, and innovation might include:

- Data Security, Data Governance, AI Ethics, Migration, Indigenous Solutions to Environmental Resilience, Drone Technology, Drought and Flooding, Illicit Trade and the Illicit Economy, Human Trafficking, Public Health and Wellbeing, Emotional Intelligence, the Green Economy and the new labour force, Functional Medicine, Decentralization of Medical Care

Fellows may pursue their research through methodologies that are relevant to (or have the capacity to be scaled for) multiple contexts across the globe, including but not limited to:

- Participatory research
- Action research
- Grounded theory research
- Comparative methodologies
- Multi-sited ethnography
- Case studies, given they are explicitly linked towards broader insight across contexts



As they develop their research and collectively synthesize insights into a broader framework for peace innovation in health, fellows will actively apply their findings towards the practical design and launch of a health-and-peace innovation. The resulting innovation may look like a product, program, or methodology that improves the quality of work within the fellow's area of expertise, profession, or organization, and has the capacity to be scaled for the advancement of progress towards the UN SDGs and wellbeing of people and the planet.

Recognizing and mapping the complexity and full picture of a problem requires interdisciplinary thought and taking effective and sustainable action demands active cross-sector collaboration. Therefore, in addition to working with scholars and materials from other fields throughout the research and design process, our expectation is that each fellow's research will take a systems-based approach to both understanding the problem they're addressing and building and launching the solution.

## Requirements

In addition to all required components of the PhD program, the DNA of Peace fellows will be expected to:

- Work with and learn from UPEACE Faculty across departments,
- Engage with local community stakeholders as they carry out their research or prepare to launch their peace innovations,
- Share regular reports on their research progress with fellowship partners, advisors, and mentors,
- Publish about the building blocks of peace at the Global Center,
- Deliver a draft framework for the continued study of health-and-peace innovation at and beyond UPEACE,
- Present research findings at a global conference at the end of the Fellowship,
- Continue the work developed throughout the course of the program in relevant contexts as they become peace innovators in health.

## Eligibility

The fellowship has been designed by uniting diverse minds with a similar disposition to peace, equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to create a program for real impact in the world. We celebrate, support, and thrive on the creative and innovative power of convening across divides and academic or sector-based silos. To us, "diverse minds" includes people who come not only from different identity backgrounds (i.e. gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, age, ideology, religion, etc.) but also from different intellectual and knowledge backgrounds who recognize the importance of innovation in their own fields and in the world. All dimensions of the selection process will be directed with this in mind, on the basis of equity, qualifications, merit, and organizational need.



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What we have created together is a representation of who we are, and we seek fellows who are interested in harnessing the power of collaboration and positive disruption to create and enable a global practice of peace through connectivity and education. Individuals are eligible to apply for this fellowship if they:

- Are a registered UPEACE PhD Student *or* if they are interested in applying for such a position in tandem with this application;
- Have 5-8 years of work experience in their field and a Master's degree, with research or active field experience at the intersections of health, peace and innovation;
- Demonstrate ongoing active public engagement in their particular niche within health and peace innovation;
- Already have a developed research question that has clear translatability into a peace innovation;
- Are actively seeking resources, connectivity, and digital support to further expand their network and pursue doctoral studies and research as they become leaders in peace innovation and their particular topic of study.

## Application Process

In addition to all components of the PhD process (<https://www.upeace.org/apply-admissions/doctorateform>), you'll include a short essay (1500 words or less) answering the following questions as a final component of your application. These will include:

1. How do you define peace innovation?
2. What is your peace innovation and how does that innovation get presented in scholarship versus practice?
3. How exactly does your peace innovation fit into (or how will it build upon) existing work in your field? Be specific.
4. Given that we're looking for practitioner-scholars who are one step away from an innovation, what is involved in that last step? Be highly specific, including skills, knowledge, and tools needed to complete it.
5. After you complete the dissertation, how do you intend to carry your work forward in other communities of practice? Be specific, including where, with which communities and leaders, etc.

This essay must be sent to [globalcenter@upeace.org](mailto:globalcenter@upeace.org) before the deadline. Please use FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION: YOUR NAME as the subject line of the email.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: 25 March 2023**





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## Selection Process

After closing the application period, the Selection Committee will review applications that fulfil the requirements. To adopt the decision, it will consider qualifications, merit, and organizational need, as well as equity.

The Selection Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed. No member of the UPEACE community, or the Selection Committee, is in the position to give advice on individual applications or to give feedback about the applications. Applicants cannot contact the decision makers in this process.

Only applicants that are considered for the fellowship will be contacted by the UPEACE Admissions Officer.

## About the Global Center of Peace Innovation

The Global Center of Peace Innovation was established in 2021 with the mission of creating a global culture of peace, where peace-inspired innovation serves as a foundation upon which our global systems of operation are built in a sustainable, efficient, ethical, and creative way. As civil society no longer exists solely within national or regional borders, the Center operates in a hybrid model, both in the physical and digital space, globally.

By bringing synergy and cohesion to the international community, the Global Center of Peace Innovation serves as a central hub for conflict transformation and system rebuilds. The Center is committed to the practice of our humanity, self-reflection, efficient problem-solving, and radical practicality, and it galvanizes multilateral efforts and exert a powerful muscle, pursuing innovation, being nimble and responsive in real time.

## Contact Information

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