

Cultural Diplomacy in a Multipolar World

Background

Cultural diplomacy has long been the Cinderella of foreign ministries. But, as with its close relation, public diplomacy, interest in cultural diplomacy has increased with growing understanding of the significance of soft power in achieving states' objectives in the international realm.

This course examines the role of cultural diplomacy in the 21st Century. After first defining cultural diplomacy, the course discusses the concept of soft power and how this has informed the development of both public diplomacy and cultural diplomacy. There follows an account of the history of cultural diplomacy and of the influence of technological and societal change on its practice. Current practice in the field of cultural diplomacy will be analysed, along with the varied institutional arrangements in key countries. Finally, there will be an examination of cultural diplomacy as conducted in multilateral fora.

Event objectives

This online course aims to enhance participants' knowledge of the theory and practice of cultural diplomacy and understanding of its relevance to their own work.

Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- a) Define cultural diplomacy and the concept of soft power;
- b) Explain the relationship between public diplomacy and cultural diplomacy;
- c) Describe the historical development of cultural diplomacy and the impact of technological and societal change on its practice and analyse the current issues in the field of cultural diplomacy;
- d) Identify the varying institutional arrangements of a representative sample of states practising cultural diplomacy;
- e) Describe the practice of cultural diplomacy in the multilateral environment.

Methodology

E-Learning: The course is internet-based, moderated by senior international experts, asynchronous, and places emphasis on online discussions and self-paced learning. The participants will be primarily responsible for their own learning over the three-week span of the course. The course will consist of the following components:

- Compulsory and optional reading material, intended to teach the basic concepts and principles of the lesson's subject-matter;

- External links to additional books, articles, documents, and websites related to the lessons;
- Quizzes and case studies at the end of each module.
- A Community Discussion Board will be available for participants to post questions or comments visible to the instructor and other participants. This discussion board will be moderated by the course director and UNITAR;

Targeted audience

The course targets government officers in line ministries as well as staff of intergovernmental / nongovernmental organizations. It also targets entry-level and mid-career diplomats working in a multilateral setting. Private sector specialists and students whose work or studies relate to this subject are also encouraged to apply.