

Cross-Cultural Negotiation

Background

Culture is a powerful factor in shaping how people think, communicate and behave. It therefore affects how they negotiate. Taking participants from the simple to the complex, this compact and practical course will look at the cultural dimension of negotiation. The course builds upon UNITAR's research on the cultural dimension of negotiations when looking at communication, dealings and discussions among UN member states. This course is a foundation course developed to help professionals - in full time work - understand the elusive dimension of culture in relation to international negotiations. The skills and techniques which are exposed in this course are designed to help officials from all sectors, including public, private, civil society and the academia. This course forms part of a series of Negotiation Training courses that UNITAR is developing for a worldwide audience of officials and professionals.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, the participants should be able to:

- Identify and state the influence of cultural dimension in international negotiations;
- Utilize time-tested cultural concepts and theories in relation to negotiation;
- Develop a negotiation plan applicable to a particular culture; and
- Appraise his/her readiness to negotiate with culturally diverse counterparts.

Content and Structure

This course consists of the following modules:

Module 1: Overview of the Dimension of Culture in International Negotiations.

Module 2: Cultural Approaches to Negotiation.

Module 3: Practical techniques for improving Cross-Cultural Negotiation.

Module 4: Online Discussions and Peer-to-Peer Exchanges.

Methodology

In order to ensure the best possible outreach, the course will be delivered through e-learning. Through a multiple-instructional setting, the goal is to achieve the

learning objectives by means of learning technologies that match personal learning styles and by the inclusion of non-linear learning that aims at the development of just-in-time skills of adult learners. At the same time, in order to allow participants maximum flexibility of scheduling, the learning will be conducted in an asynchronous manner. Using a state-of-the-art training architecture, UNITAR will combine self-learning with assessments and online discussions. The pedagogy - adapted specifically to professionals in full-time work - will help train participants through various experiences: absorb (read); do (activity); interact (socialize); reflect (relate to one's own reality).

Targeted audience

This foundation course is designed for professionals from all sectors and professions, including: government, public finance, investment, trade, corporate finance, project management, treasury, as well as academic circles and civil society.