



BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY (BAU)

The Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University

The professional development certificate in peace and development studies is a multidisciplinary one-year program grounded in theory and practice for sustainable Positive Peace in the Middle East and North Africa. It is designed to train future changemakers who are from the region, have worked in the region, have worked elsewhere around the world with communities or initiatives related to the Middle East or North Africa, or demonstrate a compelling interest in learning about peacebuilding approaches within the region. The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong commitment to, and substantial background in, peace or development issues. Fellows will learn how to use their experience to create meaningful change in societies through groundbreaking ideas based on participatory approaches.

“Bahçeşehir University, with its strong academic foundation and global partnerships, offers a peace and development certificate program that equips fellows with in-depth knowledge of peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region. Through academic training, fieldwork, networking, and collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul, the program fosters a platform for peacebuilders to share experiences and work together to preserve the region as the cradle of civilizations.” — **Assoc. Prof. Yüksel Alper Ecevit**, executive director of the Rotary Peace Center at BAU, associate dean of Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences

Program overview

Location: Istanbul, Türkiye

Specialization: Professional Development Certificate in Peace and Development Studies

Departments and centers: Faculty of Economics, Administrative, and Social Sciences and the Graduate School of Global Politics and International Relations in partnership with [CIFAL Istanbul of UNITAR](#) (International Training Centres for Local Authorities and Local Actors) and [ULMER/HLO](#) (International Leadership Research and Application Center/School of Government and Leadership)

Program: Fellows will focus on issues of particular relevance to the Middle East and North Africa, including, among others, land and identity disputes, climate change, food insecurity, refugee integration, and economic and community development. By the end of this program, they will be equipped with the conceptual and analytical tools they need to design and implement projects related to conflict transformation and/or sustainable development together with communities in crisis situations.

Curriculum: The program is composed of a single module that concentrates on four interrelated subjects: theories and methodology of peace and development; sustainable development (prosperity, people, planet); conflict resolution; and diplomacy/cooperation. Training, seminars, and workshops related to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) are offered in cooperation with UNITAR and CIFAL Istanbul.

Field study: Visits to Ankara (policymaking in peace and development); Giresun (sustainable development); Gaziantep, Mardin, and Hatay (disaster management and cultural heritage); and Nicosia (frozen conflict area)

Activities: Workshops, cultural events, and visits to nongovernmental organizations and foundations in Istanbul

Notable professors: Esra Albayrakoğlu, Yüksel Alper Ecevit, Damla Bayraktar-Aksel, Ebru Canan-Sokullu, Nilüfer Narlı, Ulaş Sunata, UNITAR

Language of instruction: English

Fellows: Up to 20 per cohort, two cohorts per year

Length: The one-year program includes a one-week online preliminary course; a 10-week on-site course with specialized trainings, community engagement activities, and field studies; a nine-month implementation period for a social change initiative (with interactive online sessions) to be carried out in fellows' home or host countries; concluding with an on-site capstone seminar.

Website: rpc.bau.edu.tr

Social Media: @baurpcenter

Contact: rotarypeacecenter@bau.edu.tr

Learn more about Rotary Peace Centers and how to apply at rotary.org/peace-fellowships.