

Join the Universal Peace Academy and Inherit the Legacy, Build the Future

Man Ho Kim
January 23, 2015



FFWPU USA: *A Universal Peace Academy (UPA) cadet is someone who is actively seeking to make a difference in the world. UPA is a full time education program focused on spiritual growth, not just on amassing knowledge and learning new languages. Campus life puts intentional living and everyday training of the heart into practice. If you're looking to challenge yourself and step out of your box, UPA might just be the program for you.*



Growing a Generation of Peacemakers

Founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPA is a hall of learning where talented people passionate about inheriting and passing on the legacy of our True Parents can go to cultivate and strengthen their ability to spread the news of True Parents to the world.

Located in the heart of the mountainous beauty of the Chung Pyung Heaven and Earth Training Center,

cadets are able to grow themselves into a generation of peacemakers who can become, as True Mother put it, “the pillars of peace and the lamp to the world.”



The UPA Journey in Korea and Overseas

UPA has a diverse curriculum and education program. Daily study of scripture, holy ground pilgrimage tours and service activities in various local communities provide a basis for students to develop the healthy habit of serving others and invest in their spiritual growth. During regular holidays, many students choose to participate in fundraising activities, overseas service work and outreach programs.

Connect with People from All Walks of Life

Cadets also have the chance to plan overseas team projects. These trips are a chance to learn leadership skills, connect with other countries and peoples from all walks of life and assist in instilling a culture of tolerance and respect around the world. It is also a wonderful chance to experience Heavenly Parent’s beautiful creation.

UPA is a three year program provides language learning opportunities and a second year graduate internship program where students can apply what they have learned and gain hands-on experience in a real-world scenario

Serve the Community

UPA graduates move on to becoming pastors, public missionaries, Divine Principle lecturers, work in leadership development or for Mission Headquarters, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and other organizations.

Scholarships

With a commitment to the two-year master’s course and one year internship and by maintaining good grades and participation, applicants can receive the Wonmo Pyeongae scholarship (full coverage of tuition, dormitory fees, uniforms, and other fees).

Get to Know More about the Universal Peace Academy

UPA will begin recruiting for their 2016 program in July, 2015. If you’re interested in the opportunity to become a UPA cadet, now is a great time to learn more and build your application.

Universal Peace Academy Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic requirements for entering UPA?

You must be a Unificationist with a model life of faith, good physical health, and a clear understanding of the providence.

You must have graduated from a 4-year university, or have earned a degree of equal or higher status.

You need to have been born after January 1, 1975.

You should have a neat personal demeanor, and be without any physical or mental condition.

What kind of qualification does one receive after graduating UPA?

UPA offers a master's degree in ministry (M.Min.) from Cheongshim Graduate School of Theology as a qualification after graduation. This is an official degree acknowledged beyond the church organization.

Does graduation from UPA guarantee any position in the church organization?

The basic aim of the UPA cadets is to become Unification Church leaders in various countries. Ultimately they will be assigned by True Mother to a position in the church organization according to their grades and skills.

How long is the UPA course?

It was originally a 5-year course, but it recently was adjusted by True Mother to be a 3-year course. There is a two-year master's degree course, followed by a one-year internship abroad. Those entering UPA from the language course will study four years altogether, having one year of prerequisite Korean study before they can enter the graduate school course.

Is UPA only for Unificationist-born young adults?

No. Those who join the Unification Church as adults are also eligible, if they fulfill all the requirements.

When does the school start?

It starts at the beginning of March.

Is it possible to receive two master's degrees?

UPA offers only one master's degree.

Are there any holidays?

The vacation is usually two months, and during that period the cadets participate in special summer/winter programs, such as fundraising, witnessing, a pilgrimage, an overseas tour, camping, study workshop, hiking, martial arts workshop, etc.). They also will be given between 10 and 15 days off during summer and winter vacation periods, but the dates are subject to change.

What is the basic schedule for UPA students?

1) Lifestyle

UPA cadets attend Hoon Dok Hwe from 6 a.m., after which they do morning exercises at 7 a.m. Breakfast is at 8 a.m., and from Monday to Wednesday the graduate school classes usually begin from 9 a.m. The class schedule differs between individuals, and those who do not have classes will study on their own during that time. Thursday and Friday are open for various UPA-organized programs (special lectures, consultations, sports, etc.).

Dinner is at 6 p.m., and those who have evening classes attend them. The cadets clean the dormitory every evening, usually at 9:30 p.m., preparing for the roll call at 10 p.m. The official bedtime is 11 p.m., but some cadets stay up to study until midnight at least.

2) Extra schedule

The weekend programs vary, but they generally consist of special lectures, service work, or projects in different churches.

3) Regular semester programs

There are regular programs during the semesters. These include physical tests, pilgrimages, special lectures, activity presentations, English/Korean speech contest, practicing public performance, and many more.

Is it not possible to make UPA a BA (bachelor's) course?

There might be a possibility in the future.

Is it possible for those who don't have a full degree, for example, those who have a two-year degree or professional certification, to enter UPA?

UPA is a master's course, so by Korean law only those who have earned a bachelor's degree, or a degree of equal or higher status, are eligible to enter UPA.

What kind of job is available after graduation, aside from ministry?

True Mother's wish is first and foremost to raise public leaders in the area of ministry, but it also depends on the abilities and interests of each cadet. It is also important to note that UPA is basically aiming to educate those who wish to become a public leader, not an employee in a church-affiliated company.

Why is it not possible to receive the Holy Marriage Blessing while in UPA?

True Mother has prohibited the cadets from participating in any form of matching or Blessing while they are in UPA. This can be explained practically, as the UPA schedule is very tight and offers minimum individual time. Couples who already have had some time together and are strongly connected to each other may not struggle much. However, newly matched or blessed couples will need time and space to interact with each other, which may not be easy if one of the partners is in UPA.

Does the school take care of the Korean visa?

Yes.

Does UPA pay for one's transportation to and from Korea?

No. UPA provides a scholarship which covers tuition, dormitory fees, food expenses, UPA uniforms, and basically anything collective, but not individual expenses.