

Faculty of Humanities, Social sciences and Education
University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of
Norway

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Professional prospects

The Master's degree programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation prepares students for challenging careers in sectors as diverse as security and diplomatic services, emergency and humanitarian assistance, international aid and donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and professions such as journalism, teaching and research.

Qualification awarded

Master of Philosophy in Peace and Conflict Transformation.

Admission requirements

Admission to the Master's programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation requires a Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) or equivalent qualification in the social sciences, health sciences, humanities, law or education. An average grade of equivalent to C or better in the Norwegian grading system is required.

Applicants must enclose a statement of purpose (maximum of two pages). This statement must include the purpose for and interest in pursuing the Master's degree programme (i.e. relating prior academic achievements and professional experiences to the core concerns of the programme). There is no need for recommendation letters.

The programme is English-taught and applicants must document adequate proficiency in [English](#).

Entry into the programme is competitive and based on academic qualifications (educational background) and a statement of purpose.

Application deadline:

- International Self-financed students: 1 December
- Norwegian and other Nordic students: 15 April
- Local admission, study code 5059

Programme description

The Master's degree programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT) offers interdisciplinary insights into the nature and causes of conflicts, and analytical skills for handling conflicts by peaceful means.

The programme draws upon the history and geography of the city of Tromsø in the relatively peaceful High North to bring innovation to peace and conflict studies. With a long history of working towards peaceful co-existence among local ethnic and cultural groups, the region provides a

unique setting for the study of ways of transforming relationships between individuals, groups and institutions from destructive to constructive bonds.

Teaching is intensive the first year, as core debates and perspectives are addressed through compulsory courses.

The second year focuses mainly on Master's Thesis projects. These thesis projects are designed by the students themselves depending on their diverse interests and experiences. It is possible to collect data from any part of the world to support such self-selected Master's Thesis projects.

Programme structure

Term	10 ects	10 ects	10 ects
1. semester (Autumn)	SVF-3021 Integrated Peace and Conflict Studies		SVF-3022 Culture, Conflict and Society
2. semester (Spring)	SVF-3024 Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation		SVF-3025 Methods in social research: An Interdisciplinary approach
3. semester (Autumn)	SVF-3901 Master's Thesis in Peace and Conflict Transformation	Elective course	Elective course
4. semester (Spring)	SVF-3901 Master's Thesis in Peace and Conflict Transformation		

Learning Outcomes

Candidates will through the MPCT programme gain:

Knowledge

- acquire advanced knowledge of the history and evolution of peace and conflict studies as a distinct field of study
- acquire advanced knowledge of the key theories, debates and issues informing peace and conflict studies
- acquire advanced knowledge of the nature and causes of violent conflict at all levels of human interaction - from interpersonal, intergroup, community, national to global
- be well-acquainted with the diverse mechanisms for transforming conflictual relationships between individuals, groups and institutions into constructive bonds
- be well-acquainted with the diverse mechanisms for handling the consequences of violent conflict
- gain insights into the existing state of knowledge in closely related fields of study in an overall multi-disciplinary perspective

Skills

- develop the capacity to identify and review relevant literature on specific issues
- develop the capacity to formulate research questions and select appropriate theoretical and methodological frameworks
- develop the capacity to design and carry out an independent research project, which involves the use of diverse data sources, under supervision
- develop the capacity to collect, collate and interpret large amounts of data and communicate results effectively
- develop the capacity to assess the quality of theoretical and methodological perspectives underlying other scholarly works

Competences

- develop the ability to present and discuss aspects of one's work effectively at seminars and other gatherings
- develop the ability to read and obtain a nuanced understanding of texts and provide critical and constructive feedback

Language of instruction and examination

English

Teaching and assessment

The teaching and learning methods will be problem-based - i.e. using problems and issues informing everyday life as teaching materials. The teaching will involve lectures, seminars and self-readings. The multiple teaching methods are designed to facilitate the problem-solving capabilities of students.

Every student will be assigned a thesis supervisor in the first year of study. Supervision is given through seminars and individual tutorials.

The type of examination is specified in the outline of every module.