



THE ACADEMIC ALLIANCE FOR RECONCILIATION  
PEACEBUILDING STUDIES IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH

**AARMENA**

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of the European Union



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## The Academic Alliance for Reconciliation in the Middle East and North Africa AARMENA - Master's Programme

### ORIENTATION MODULE UNIT

#### Program Handbook In Peace, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa

THE ACADEMIC ALLIANCE FOR RECONCILIATION, CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, PEACEBUILDING IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**AARMENA**

TRANSDISCIPLINARY RECONCILIATION PEACE STUDIES

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# ORIENTATION MODULE UNIT

## Program Handbook

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## Program overview:

### **Declaration of the international Master's program ,Higher Education in Peace, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa'**

The MA degree program ,Higher Education in Peace, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa is a promising approach to transforming violent conflict and spurring social and cultural change in the MENA region. The program focuses on reconciliation and peace research, cultural, political, religious studies, and information technologies in reconciliation and peace studies. Although the international part of the study program is supported by Program and Partner universities, partner universities such as the University Jordan, Petra University in Amman Jordan; Palestinian Territories, such as Al-Azhar University, Al-Istiqlal University; Algeria Universities such as Setif 2 University, and Eloude University, Program Universities, Friedrich Schiller University in Germany and Innsbruck University in Innsbruck Austria, the national perspective of the program are the responsibility of the respective partner country university.

## General Objectives

Graduates of the program have gained insight into the fundamental research questions of the participating concentrations. They have developed the ability to examine research positions in the field of Peace, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa and to develop strategies for informative action for social change towards the reconciliation process and peaceful coexistence on the level, the stakeholder level, the middle level such as the Higher Education Institutions and grassroots levels that can be encountered through the teachings of the dissemination on the institutional societies level.

## Qualification Profile of AARMENA – Graduates:

AARMENA – Master Graduates develop the ability to analyze and interpret the causes of domestic and international conflicts in their social, political, and cultural contexts and to develop

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Strategies for their peaceful management within and between states. Graduates will place their interpretations and analysis in the current reconciliation and peace studies research and develop their exemplary positions within domestic and international disputes. Furthermore, they develop the skills to argue for the approach of reconciliation research in the face of current political and social challenges and reflect on its implementation in various fields of social practice against the background of their scientific theorizing. Through exemplary studies, graduates can independently apply methodological skills of reconciliation and peace studies, cultural, political, and religious studies disciplines and name and distinguish them concerning their meaningfulness. Furthermore, they can relate the different specialist discourses within the aforementioned academic disciplines to each other and integrate them into developing their position on a case-by-case basis. In addition, for developing skills in data science for reconciliation process using Technological Internet applications, and platforms such as Qualitative content analysis software and another such Artificial Intelligence programs to research data science for conflict interpretations and analysis., with the Higher Education Institutions in the MENA Region This will enable them to shed light on current challenges in the MENA region in general and specifically their areas of origin against the backdrop of reconciliation research and to develop and practice science-based strategies for action in the areas of in peace, conflict transformation, and reconciliation.

Future fields of work will arise in the areas of peace, conflict transformation, and reconciliation research, as well as in educational institutions and political consulting for governmental and non-governmental organizations. Such studies assist practitioners, scholars stakeholders in understanding conflict transformation and its integration of public policies for social change towards the reconciliation process in the middle of conflict, an adopted theory done at the Jena Center for Reconciliation Studies.

## Requirements of the Degree Programme

AARMENA Master Program is an internationally oriented master's program with 120 ECTS. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) serves as a reference for calculating the workload of the respective partner universities. The Master is offered in hybrid form, where international scholars can record their lectures or provide them via Zoom, WebEx, and integrate highly integrated technological interactive presentation platforms. The partner countries' universities decide in which language they offer their study program.

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Accordingly, the modules of the partner universities consist of national compulsory modules and national as well as international elective modules that research the theories, methods, and strategies for reconciliation and peace studies in the middle of local and international disputes within the context of the MENA region.

National modules are modules that are aimed at the students at the respective university. International modules are modules that are aimed at students at all partner universities. It is up to each university to decide which modules it offers nationally and internationally.

## Model Description

A module usually consists of three courses and a final module examination. The partner universities are responsible for their module descriptions and forms of examination. In addition, the partner universities can decide to acquire the type of degree appropriate to their institutions; such the Master's degree can be an academic master or a professional master.

The partner universities decide about the qualifications for admission of the students at their perspective universities. Most universities can have the general requirement for admission; such have a bachelor's degree. In addition, the student has to prove his professional aptitude for studying the master 'Higher Education in Peace, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa'. Partner universities can integrate their Master's program as modular content into existing Master's programs in their perspective universities.

Depending on the national conditions, the program is divided into modules from the subject mentioned above areas (total 70 ECTS), research modules (total 20 ECTS), and the module Master's thesis (30 ECTS). The first year of study modules prepare for independent project work and learn how to present scientific results. Crediting of modules acquired at the partner universities is obligatory (total 30 ECTS).

The second and third semesters, in particular, are recommended for this. Participation in virtual international seminars is possible; it is desirable to stay at a partner university other than one's own. The announcement of the frequency of the offer and the duration of the respective modules are made in the course catalogs of the partner universities.

The second year of study modules is used to carry out their research project on related subjects

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concerning a multiscale scientific interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary study and write the Master's thesis, which must be started in the third semester. The Master's thesis is submitted to the university where the student has commenced his/her Master's degree program. The supervision of the Master's thesis is the responsibility of a scientist from the university of origin. Exceptions are decided by the Study and Examination Board of the respective university of origin. Further details are regulated by the study and examination regulations of the respective universities.

Students must complete modules amounting to at least 30 ECTS (minimum) as international modules at one of the partner universities. In addition, the students must study a module in the amount of 10 ECTS at their university of origin or a partner university. Finally, modules amounting to 80 ECTS (minimum) must be studied by the students at their university of origin. The international Master's program starts in the January 15.2023 semester in the year December 31. 2024. Moreover, to be introduced as a pilot in front of the European Union commission officers EACEA.

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## Curriculum Program: Master of Arts (Academic, Professional):

### AARMENA Master program in Peace, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa

1. Academic Year WS/SS	Basic Studies	
1. Semester		
RS M1 national Mandatory module	Concepts and Theories of Peace, Conflict Transfor- mation and Reconciliation	10 ECTS
RS M2 national Mandatory module	Research Methods in Peace, Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation Studies	10 ECTS
RS M3 national Mandatory module	Approaches to Conflict Reso- lution, Conflict, Management, and Conflict Transformation	10 ECTS
2. Semester		
RS M4 inter/national Elective module	Research in the rule of law & Human Rights, Transfor- mation of violent Conflicts and socio-cultural Change in the own area of the MENA Region	10 ECTS
RS M5 international Elective module	Transformation of violent Conflicts and socio-cultural Change in a neighboring area of the MENA Region	10 ECTS
RS M6 inter/national Elective module	Applied Methods of Reconcil- iation, conflict transformation Peace Strategies.	10 ECTS
	Σ	60 ECTS

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2. Academic Year WS/SS	Advanced Studies	
3. Semester		
RS M7 inter/national Elective module	The Idea and Principles of Cultures of Reconciliation and Peace.	10 ECTS
RS M8 national Mandatory module I	Digital Humanities into the transdisciplinary research of reconciliation, conflict trans- formation and peace Studies analysis and interpretation. Such as using Nvivo and Artificial Intelligence tech- nologies and applications	10 ECTS
RS M9 national Mandatory module	Crisis Management and the Art of Negotiation: Intro- ducing the Elicitive Conflict Transformation, Elicitive Conflict Mapping.	10 ECTS
4. Semester		
RS M10 national Mandatory module	Master's Thesis	30 ECTS
	Σ	60 LP

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## Assessments

- Module Reconciliation Peace Studies (RPS) M7 will be completed as a self-organized and university-supervised internship.
- The prerequisite for admission to the research modules in the individual subjects is completing the corresponding subject modules.
- The prerequisite for admission to the Master's thesis module is completing the six modules of the first academic year (60 ECTS).

## Referencing Requirements

- Researchers must write in Harvard Methods for the written assignment when citing any resources and when providing support examples based on the researcher's knowledge and expertise.

## Technical Requirements

- The researchers must have the ability to use computer-assisted software to gain the maximum ability of the program; such software is the following:
  1. Microsoft word office, PowerPoint office.
  2. Adobe Acrobat Reader.
  3. Computer-Assisted Qualitative Software: Such as MXQDA, Atlas-Ti, or Nvivo for Windows
  4. Microsoft Azure software for Machine Learning.
- For any technical assistance, the researcher needs to contact the technical team at the local university.

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