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Curriculum for the  
**Master's Programme Peace and Conflict Studies**  
at the Faculty of Philosophy and History at the University of Innsbruck

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## **§ 1 Allocation of the study programme**

According to §54 par. 1 Universities Act 2002, the Master's Programme Peace and Conflict Studies is grouped among the interdisciplinary study programmes.

## **§ 2 Qualification profile**

- (1) Graduates are able to deal with relevant problems that reflect the current state of knowledge in peace and conflict studies using scientific approaches, concepts and methods in a subject-specific, independent and practice-oriented manner.
- (2) They have knowledge and demonstrate understanding that builds on a bachelor's programme and advance this knowledge. They are able to further develop ideas in a research context and to apply their knowledge for solution-oriented processing of problems also in new or unfamiliar contexts within multi- and transdisciplinary contexts. They have the competence to integrate different bodies of knowledge and to deal with professional complexity. They are able to adequately consider the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and understanding. Graduates are able to communicate their conclusions, the knowledge and the principles on which they are based in a comprehensible way, to both experts and lay people. They are familiar with learning strategies that enable them to continue their studies largely self-directed and autonomously.
- (3) Academic areas in which graduates acquire special knowledge and specialised knowledge as preparatory scientific training are the multi- and transdisciplinary contexts of peace and conflict studies research in an international and intersectional perspective.
- (4) The Master's programme provides academic education and also action-oriented training in teamwork and development, diversity and identity, inclusion, capacity development and intercultural communication, and promotes the use of digital media as complementary teaching and learning environments. The primary qualification of graduates lies in science-based prevention, mediation and transformation of violent relationships in mission-relevant areas.
- (5) Graduates possess substantial methodological competences in application-oriented areas of peace and conflict research, which have practical relevance for many professional fields beyond the boundaries of the discipline.
- (6) Graduates are particularly qualified to work in or lead multi- and transdisciplinary as well as culturally diverse teams and thus contribute to the solution-oriented handling of complex, global problems, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They have acquired subject-specific and social skills that prepare them for leadership roles in international, national, regional, public and private institutions.
- (7) Typical professional fields of graduates are in the areas of international peace work, development policy, diplomacy, human rights, security and disaster management. They can, for example, work as scientific experts or mediators and as experts for private and public institutions.
- (8) The Master's Programme Peace and Conflict Studies is the basis for a subsequent doctoral programme at the Faculty of Philosophy and History or at another faculty, provided that the admission requirements are met, and thus for an academic career for which it systematically prepares.

## **§ 3 Scope and duration**

The master's programme covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a duration of the study programme of four semesters. One ECTS-Credits corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

## **§ 4 Language**

The language of instruction for this study programme is English.

## § 5 Admission

- (1) The admission to the master's programme requires the completion of a subject-specific bachelor's or diploma programme or a subject-relevant bachelor's programme of the same educational level passed at a recognised post-secondary educational institution home or abroad.
- (2) A completed bachelor's programme at the University of Innsbruck is in any case a subject-relevant study programme.
- (3) The admission to the master's programme is regulated by an admission procedure.
- (4) If equivalence is given in principle with only a few supplements missing for full equivalence, additional courses and examinations corresponding to a maximum of 30 ECTS-Credits may be prescribed for full equivalence, which must be taken by the end of the second semester of the master's programme.
- (5) The number of first-year students as well as the admission procedure are fixed by the rectorate acc. to §63a par. 8 Universities Act.

## § 6 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:  
**Lectures (VO)** are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20.
  2. **Practical courses (UE)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of students per course: 15
  3. **Excursions (EX)**, conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents through practical experience with concrete scientific tasks. Maximum number of participants: 30

## § 7 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, the places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice, then first students who take this course as part of a compulsory module and secondly students for whom this course is part of an elective module are given a place.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and no. 2 do not suffice to regulate the admission, then the available places are drawn at random.

## § 8 Compulsory modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules covering altogether 87.5 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>SE Peace and Conflict Studies I</b> Discussion of fundamental terms, principles and objectives of peace and conflict studies in the context of relevant reference disciplines	1	5

<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Topics, Theories and Traditions in Peace and Conflict Studies I</b> Discussion of introductory topics, theories and traditions in peace and conflict studies.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have an overview of the central topics, theories and traditions of peace and conflict studies and are able to relate these to relevant discourses. In particular, they are able to explain the fundamental terms, principles and objectives of peace and conflict studies in the context of relevant reference disciplines such as history, philosophy, political science, social science or law and to reflect on and characterise significant aspects such as gender relations, discrimination and racism, global inequality. They know the possibilities and limits of digital teaching and learning environments, also with regard to accessibility and inclusive digitalisation.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

<b>2.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Advanced Peace and Conflict Studies</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>SE Peace and Conflict Studies II</b> Discussion of selected terms, principles and objectives in peace and conflict studies in the context of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies	1	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Topics, Theories and Traditions in Peace and Conflict Studies II</b> Discussion of in-depth topics, theories and traditions in peace and conflict studies	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to systematically relate in-depth topics, theories and traditions to discourses of human rights, intersectionality, post colonialism, the Anthropocene, etc. they are able to explain selected terms, principles and objectives in peace and conflict studies, especially in the context of disciplines in the humanities, social and cultural sciences, and to reflect on and characterise significant aspects, such as gender relations, discrimination and racism, global inequality. They know the possibilities and limits of digital teaching and learning environments, also with regard to accessibility and inclusive digitalisation.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of compulsory module 1			

<b>3.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Methods in Peace and Conflict Research</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>SE Methodology in Peace and Conflict Studies</b> Imparting of selected methods used in peace and conflict studies and its related disciplines	1	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Methodology in Peace and Conflict Studies</b> Presentation of relevant empirical and other methods in peace and conflict studies and its related disciplines	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to name qualitative and quantitative empirical methods as well as further methods in peace and conflict studies and their related disciplines. They are able to select, justify and apply these methods to design projects in peace and conflict studies. They can formulate academic texts according to different criteria in peace and conflict studies and present them for academic discussion. They know the possibilities and limits of digital teaching and learning environments, also with regard to accessibility and inclusive digitalisation.</p>
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of compulsory module 2</p>

4.	Compulsory Module: Civil Peace Missions I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>EX Aspects of Civil Peace Missions I</b> Illustration and introductory testing of civil peace and conflict work in cooperation with national and international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)</p>	3	5
b.	<p><b>VO Stress Management and Crisis Intervention I</b> Discussion of fundamental approaches and methods of crisis intervention and stress management in mission-related areas.</p>	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have basic knowledge of the individual and group dynamic requirements of civil peace and conflict work incl. situation-specific stressors. They have experienced and can characterise the challenges and potentials of non-violent communication, negotiation techniques and small group organisation under operational learning conditions. They are able to explain the legal, ethical and organisational way of working in humanitarian institutions, in disaster and first aid services, in the human rights sector, in the gender sector, in the work for children, in peace education, taking particular account of intersectional approaches. The students know fundamental approaches and methods of crisis intervention and stress management in mission-relevant areas. They are able to name stress reactions and know relevant institutional contact points and support structures.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>		

5.	Compulsory Module: Civil Peace Missions II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>EX Aspects of Civil Peace Missions II</b> Illustration and advanced testing of civil peace and conflict work in cooperation with national and international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).</p>	3	5
b.	<p><b>VO Stress Management and Crisis Intervention II</b> Discussion of specific approaches and methods of crisis intervention and stress management in mission-related areas.</p>	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>

	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have advanced knowledge of the individual and group dynamic requirements of civil peace and conflict work incl. situation-specific stressors. They have experienced and can characterise the challenges and potentials of non-violent communication, negotiation techniques and leadership tasks in small groups under operational learning conditions. They are able to explain the legal, ethical and organisational way of working in humanitarian institutions, in disaster and first aid services, in the human rights sector, in the gender sector, in the work for children, in peace education, taking particular account of intersectional approaches. The students know fundamental approaches and methods of crisis intervention and stress management in mission-relevant areas. They are able to recognise stress reactions and take targeted measures.</p>
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>

6.	Compulsory Module: Civil Peace Missions III	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>EX Aspects of Civil Peace Missions III</b> Illustration and more advanced testing of civil peace and conflict work in cooperation with national and international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs.)</p>	3	5
b.	<p><b>VO Stress Management and Crisis Intervention III</b> Discussion of approaches and methods of crisis intervention and stress management for emergency forces</p>	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>

	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have extensive knowledge of the individual and group dynamic requirements of civil peace and conflict work incl. situation-specific stressors. They have experienced and can characterise the challenges and potentials of non-violent communication, negotiation techniques and higher-level leadership tasks of task forces under operational learning conditions. They are able to explain the legal, ethical and organisational way of working in humanitarian institutions, in disaster and first aid services, in the human rights sector, in the gender sector, in the work for children, in peace education, taking particular account of intersectional approaches. The students know specific approaches and methods of crisis intervention and stress management in action forces. They are able to recognise stress reactions and coordinate complex measures.</p>
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>

7.	Compulsory Module: Plurality and Topicality of Peace Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>SE Theories and Practices of Peace I</b> Discussion of understandings of peace and efforts in the context of gender studies and critical race theory</p>	3	5
b.	<p><b>SE Theories and Practices of Peace II</b> Discussion of understandings of peace and efforts in the context of development studies and transitional justice and human rights studies</p>	3	5
c.	<p><b>SE Theories and Practices of Peace III</b> Discussion of understandings of peace and efforts in the context of postcolonial studies and critical ecology studies</p>	3	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>

	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to deal with the main topics in peace studies in the context of gender studies, critical race theory, development studies, transitional justice and human rights studies, postcolonial studies and critical ecology studies and discuss them in a scientifically competent manner.
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none

8.	Compulsory Module: Conflict Transformation	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>UE Methods of Conflict Transformation I</b> Theoretical and practical teaching of an exemplary method of conflict transformation	2	5
b.	<b>UE Methods of Conflict Transformation II</b> Theoretical and practical teaching of an exemplary method of conflict transformation	2	5
c.	<b>UE Methods of Conflict Transformation III</b> Theoretical and practical teaching of an exemplary method of conflict transformation	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students deal theoretically and practically with exemplary methods of conflict transformation and implement them in group contexts.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

9.	Compulsory Module: Research Colloquium for the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>SE Research Colloquium for the Master's Thesis</b>	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to write a methodically correct brief description of the content of the planned master's thesis (synopsis) and to outline a realistic time schedule.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of compulsory modules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8		

10.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral defence of the Master's Thesis before an examination board		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Reflection of the Master's Thesis in the overall context of the Master's Programme Peace and Conflict Studies; focus is on theoretical understanding, methodological questions, the imparting of the results of the Master's Thesis and the presentation competences.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of all other compulsory modules and the Master's Thesis		

(2) One elective module covering altogether 7.5 ECTS-Credits is to be passed.

1.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Providing the availability of places, courses covering 7.5 ECTS-Credits are to be selected from master's programmes. It is particularly recommended to select courses from the field of culture: diversity & identity, sustainability research, inclusion, gender equality and antidiscrimination.	-	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Acquisition of interdisciplinary and intercultural competences		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> The prerequisites specified by the respective curricula must be met.		

2.	Elective Module: Modules from other Master's Programmes	h	ECTS-Credits
	Modules covering 7.5 ECTS-Credits can be freely selected from other master's programmes. It is particularly recommended to select modules or minors covering the topical areas of culture: diversity & identity, sustainability research, inclusion, equality of genders and antidiscrimination.	-	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to understand theories, methods and perspectives of other subjects/studies. Against the background of their own subject discipline, they are able to identify challenges at the interfaces between disciplines and formulate questions correctly.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> The prerequisites specified by the respective curricula must be met.		

## § 9 Master's Thesis

- (1) A Master's Thesis amounting to 25 ECTS-Credits is to be written. A Master's Thesis is a scientific paper which serves to proof the student's ability to work on a scientific topic independently and adequately in terms of content and methodology.
- (2) The topic for the Master's Thesis must be taken from the field of peace and conflict studies. The students are entitled to suggest a topic for the Master's Thesis or to select from a number of suggestions.
- (3) The students are entitled to write the Master's Thesis in another language than English, if their supervisor agrees to it.
- (4) Students may work on a topic jointly if it is possible to assess the performance of the students separately.

## § 10 Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of the courses of the modules is evaluated by course examinations. Course examination are
  1. examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in an individual course in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define the method of examination (written and/or oral) and the evaluation criteria before the start of the course.



2. courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants. The course instructor has to define the assessment method (written and/or oral) and the assessment criteria before the start of the course.
- (2) Positive evaluation of courses CM 4a “EX Aspects of Civil Peace Missions I”, CM 5a “EX Aspects of Civil Peace Mission II” and CM 62 “EX Aspects of Civil Peace Missions III” reads “successfully completed”, negative evaluation “unsuccessfully completed”.
- (3) The evaluation of the module “Master’s Thesis Defence” (CM10) is based on an oral examination before an examination board consisting of three persons.

### **§ 11 Academic degree**

Graduates of the master’s programme receive the academic degree “Master of Arts”, abbreviated “MA”.

### **§ 12 Coming into force**

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2022.