



MA/MSc Peace and Conflict

(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)



Introduction

The MA and MSc in Peace and Conflict are designed to provide students with a rigorous understanding of the causes, consequences, and resolution of armed conflict. Students explore how factors like inequality, ethnicity, and religion combine to spark and sustain violent conflicts across the globe. Through case studies ranging from Ukraine and Gaza to Northern Ireland and the United States, from Colombia and Syria to Britain and Korea, they connect theory with the realities of contemporary and historical struggles. They also develop the

ability to evaluate different policy options and institutional designs for conflict resolution. A wide range of specialisations are available to enable students to select areas where they wish to develop their expertise. In UCD, students may choose to study for an MA or MSc qualification in Peace and Conflict. The MSc track includes additional research components and is particularly suitable for a career in research or academia. The MA track is broader and allows students to choose to complete a dissertation or apply for an internship.

Programme Highlight

This programme employs comparative political science models and methods to analyze patterns of conflict and resolution, with a focus on internal violent conflicts, both past and present. It incorporates the following approaches:

- Examining theoretical literature on peace and conflict
- Analyzing case studies
- Engaging in policy-making simulations
- Studying within a highly international group

Programme Content and Structure

90 credits
Taught Masters

=

60 credits
Taught Modules

+

30 credits
Dissertation

or

30 credits
Internship* (MA only)

*Students are responsible for securing their own internship placements. The School provides a list of potential host organisations, and UCD Careers offers support with application writing and related resources.

Core Modules:

- Peace & Conflict Studies
- International Security
- Research Design (MA only)

Additional core modules required for MSc:

- Introduction to Statistics
- Qualitative Research Methods for Political Science

Option Modules:

- Theories of Global Justice
- Politics of Authoritarianism
- Gender, Conflict-related Harm & Transitional Justice
- IR Theory: Conflict and Identity
- Comparative European Politics
- Gender Peace and Security
- Nationalism and Social Change
- Theory of Human Rights
- Programming for Social Scientists
- Arab Perceptions of Conflict
- Media and US Foreign Policy
- Decoloniality and Intersectionality Thinking
- International Refugee Law

Why study at UCD?



Graduate Education

13,000 graduate students; 15% graduate research, structured PhDs



Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



Global Community

10,000 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 189 countries



Global Profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Sustainability

UCD is ranked number one in Ireland and 50th in the world for Sustainability



Career Opportunities

Graduates work with international bodies, non-governmental organisations and state agencies in roles such as: government social researchers, diplomatic advisors and public affair consultants.

Recent graduates of UCD School of Politics & International Relations now work in:

- United Nations
- World Trade Organisation
- IMF
- European Commission
- Asia Development Bank

Graduate Profile



Ines Meyer

I chose to study the MSc Peace and Conflict at UCD because it offers an interdisciplinary perspective to understanding conflict through the lens of gender, psychology, human rights, and political economy. The students in this programme come from all over the world and bring diverse experiences and perspectives into the classroom. The close interaction with my classmates and professors also shaped how I understand conflict-related harm, and the prospects of working towards a more peaceful society.

I decided to follow the research-oriented MSc-track to get a deeper understanding of the various methods to analyse conflict dynamics. I specialised in conflict psychology and gender, harm, and transitional justice. Both have an extensive working experience in conflict-affected regions and provide us with invaluable insights into their personal experiences.

Moreover, I received the SPIRe postgraduate scholarship, which allowed me to focus on my studies and gain hands-on teaching experience as a tutor. Furthermore, UCD has many student associations, events, and its own Centre for Peace and Conflict research (CPCR) which give students opportunities to engage and connect with people from different programmes. Ultimately, the MSc Peace and Conflict prepares us for various careers in research institutions, NGOs, government agencies or international organisations.

Applicant Profile

- A primary degree with at least Second Class Honours Grade 1 (2H1) in any discipline. 2H1 is equivalent to 60 percent, B minus or 3.08 GPA - in American system: B or 3.00 GPA.
- Applicants with a Second Class Honours Grade 2 (2:2) in their primary degree may be considered for the Graduate Diploma in Politics and International Relations.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent. Other accepted certificates include TOEFL, the University of Cambridge, and the Duolingo English Test. Please refer to **UCD's Minimum English Language Requirements** for full details.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships for further information.

SPIRe also offers a Masters Graduate Scholarship to full-time EU and Non-EU Masters students. Please see www.ucd.ie/spire/study/prospectivemastersstudents/spiremastersgraduatescholarship for further information.

Related Masters

- MA/MSc International Relations
- MA/MSc International Development
- MA/MSc Politics

CONTACT US

EU Students

t: 353 1 716 8182

e: graduatespire@ucd.ie

w: www.ucd.ie/spire

International Students

e: internationalenquiries@ucd.ie

w: www.ucd.ie/global

APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

www.ucd.ie/apply