

MA Advanced Practice in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Programme Specification

www.brad.ac.uk/courses/pg/peacebuilding-and-conflict-resolution

Academic Year: **2021/22**

Degree Awarding Body: **The University of Bradford**

Target award: **Degree of Master of Arts [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]**

Interim awards: **Postgraduate Diploma [FHEQ Level 7]; Postgraduate Certificate [FHEQ Level 7]**

Programme Admissions: **September and January**

Programme duration: **1 year full-time or 2 years part-time; with internship or placement, 15 months full-time or 27 months part-time**

Date last approved by Faculty Board: **April 2018; July 2019; September 2020**

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme monitoring and review processes. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2019: Module and curriculum changes
2. June 2020: January Intake included
3. January 2021: Specification reformatted and made accessible. January intake details reconfirmed. Added standard PG study abroad alternative. Hyperlinks updated.
4. April 2021: Further accessibility improvements
- 5.

Introduction

This programme will develop students' understanding of the causes and dynamics of social conflict in a range of contexts, with a strong focus on case-study analysis. It will allow students to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to engage constructively with conflict, recognising the strengths and limitations of different approaches to intervention.

Students will explore critical questions surrounding efforts to build peace in different contexts and in the light of contemporary trends, including converging environmental, economic and political developments. Through a diverse programme of study, including a significant applied, practical element, students will develop and demonstrate knowledge and recognised competencies essential to effective, ethically aware practice within conflict resolution and peace practice - locally, nationally or internationally.

Programme Overview

The academic modules for this programme include a range of innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, to enable students to actively engage with the key concepts and syllabus and to develop not only their academic knowledge and understanding but also to their skills and experience for the worlds of policy, practice and employment. Every student will participate in at least two intensive laboratory workshops or ‘immersion days’ on key cross-cutting thematic issues.

There are opportunities to take specialist pathways, including specialising in selected regions (e.g. Africa, Middle East), with opportunities for selected study visits. This includes the high-profile Africa Study Visit to an African country recovering from conflict (which can be taken as an assessed element of the programme) or other further voluntary study visits – in the past these have included trips to Northern Ireland, Hiroshima or The Hague, as well as more local field trips.

Note that any visits are subject to travel and quarantine restrictions and risk assessments and there may be an extra charge to students participating in some of these activities, but there may also be scholarship funding available on a competitive basis by application to help with the costs.

The programme culminates with research and preparation of a substantial dissertation project on a subject of the student’s choice (relating to the Programme’s aims and learning objectives). This involves project research and analysis, and preparation of a Dissertation of up to 15,000 words. This is a major opportunity for students not only to research and prepare a substantial scholarly analysis of a specialist area in which they are particularly interested, but also to demonstrate an advanced understanding of relevant policy and practitioner agendas and debates to help them to use this Masters degree to pursue careers in their preferred areas.

A part time route for this Programme, both with or without internship, is available on application. The Division has an excellent track record of integrating part-time students into this and its other programmes. Part-time students are able to join with programme activities of interest to them, and to discuss their learning trajectory with the academic programme team at key points, and when requested.

This programme runs both full-time and part-time with intakes in the Autumn (September, Semester 1) and Spring (January, Semester 2):

September Full-time Intake	January Full-time Intake
Semester 1 Modules	Pre-enrolment
Winter Holiday Period	
Semester 2 Modules & Dissertation Preparation	Semester 2 Modules
Summer Holiday Period & Dissertation	Summer Holiday Period
Dissertation Submission (September)	Semester 1 Modules & Dissertation Preparation
Graduation (Winter)	Dissertation
Studies completed	Dissertation Submission (March)
	Graduation (Summer)

Why Bradford?

The MA Advanced Practice in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution is offered by the internationally recognised Department of Peace Studies and International Development, drawing on over 45 years of experience as a leading centre of peace and conflict research, education and training. Academic staff in the division are actively engaged in research on the key issues and processes examined in this programme and are also actively engaged with relevant policy and practitioner communities. Our teaching is thus highly informed by both research and practice.

Students further benefit from studying at a major international centre for research and engagement with policy and practitioner communities working in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, providing many opportunities for interested students to participate or observe regular workshops, international conferences, research seminars, and engagements in or near Bradford with relevant NGOs, community organisations, governmental and international agencies, and with UK and other foreign and development agencies and police, military or justice services.

Peace Studies and International Development is a dynamic learning community within a diverse and active Faculty and wider University. We typically arrange numerous events and opportunities beyond the taught modules, fostering engagement with academic, policy and practitioner communities. These include invited speakers, seminars, workshops, activities and conferences, both off and on-campus.

Please note that off-campus learning activities may involve an extra cost, and that during the Covid-19 pandemic some of our usual opportunities may not be available.

Work Placement Opportunity

There is an option to select an internship or placement opportunity which extends your programme duration by 3 months. Students may transfer to the placement route any time up to the middle of Semester 2 (specific deadline dates are provided in the Programme Handbook each year). The 15-month option (full-time) or 27-month option (part-time) provides students with further opportunities for developing professional experience and practical skills during their Masters programme by undertaking a voluntary placement or internship in a relevant organisation for a period of up to three months. This internship or placement normally starts shortly after the end of Semester 2.

After an internship is completed, students return to the University to proceed with researching and preparing their Masters dissertation, with the same requirements and academic supervision as for students on the shorter programme, except that the dissertation submission date is extended by approximately three months (actual submission dates are specified annually in the Programme Handbook) as appropriate for a longer programme.

All of the Masters programme routes provide excellent opportunities for engaging with the spheres of policy and practice as well as with academic studies. However, the 3-month placement options provide further enhanced opportunities for integrating practitioner community engagement (such as internship experience) with their academic studies. This element of the programme is student-centred and student-led, and thus the initiative for identifying and applying for internships is driven by the students. The academic staff in

the programme team can facilitate and support such searches for suitable placements with leads and suggestions, help with the writing of applications, and provide supporting letters of reference. They provide customised preparatory training before students who choose the placement route, and mentoring support as useful during the period of the placement or internship.

Students who transfer to the 15-month/27-month programme may be charged an additional tuition fee, reflecting this additional support. Please see the Placement and Study Abroad section for more details.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to enable students to become very well-informed, skilful analysts and practitioners who can:

- Conduct effective research into the causes and dynamics of social conflict, in a range of contexts and settings.
- Design ethical and constructive responses to particular conflict situations, with awareness of the potential and limitations of different strategies for conflict intervention.
- Select and employ relevant strategies and techniques for constructive engagement with conflict.
- Reflect critically on their own practice with reference to critical academic perspectives on the theory and practice of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, supporting continuous professional development in conflict and peace-related roles.

Programme Learning Outcomes

For the FHEQ level 7 **Postgraduate Certificate** award eligible students will be able to:

1. Conduct systematic research into conflict situations and contexts, using relevant techniques and technologies to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from valid, appropriate sources, and using data and theory in the analysis of causal mechanisms, conflict dynamics and impacts within contemporary case-studies.
2. Design situationally appropriate and ethical conflict engagement processes, making informed judgements about the validity and application of different methods for the peaceful management, resolution or transformation of social conflict, in relation to real-world cases.
3. Identify and critically assess the ideas, practices and conditions that influence long-term initiatives to address legacies of social conflict and build sustainable peace.
4. Collaborate effectively with others in the completion of appropriate academic tasks, recognising and managing social dynamics related to conflict resolution theory.
5. Generate clear, concise and coherent communication in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

For the FHEQ Level 7 **Postgraduate Diploma** award eligible students will additionally:

6. Employ relevant competencies and strategies to engage constructively with conflict, in third-party and other appropriate roles.
7. Identify and apply critical learning from past or current conflict intervention processes, and debates surrounding peace work internationally.
8. Reflect critically on personal development as a practitioner in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and cognate fields.
9. Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques and technologies to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from valid, appropriate sources.
10. Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays, reports and reflective pieces, in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

For the FHEQ Level 7 **Degree of Master** award eligible students will additionally be able to:

11. Design and carry out, with appropriate ethical approval, an original and self-directed capstone research project, including a comprehensive and critical literature review.
12. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in completion of an advanced, original and self-directed capstone project, using critical reflective communication to deepen understanding of the learning process, with appropriate documentation.
13. Recognise and be able to reflect critically on one's own positionality, values and epistemological orientation in one's own academic work.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The learning and teaching strategy for this programme emphasises the active development of students' academic skills and professional competencies related to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Successful completion of the Masters Degree will help equip graduates with the skills needed to begin a career in a range of roles related to conflict analysis, conflict resolution and peace-work.

It has been designed with reference to professional competencies frameworks developed by professional agencies in the fields of humanitarian, peace and conflict work, and to negotiation, mediation and facilitation training guides. For details, see

<https://startnetwork.org/resources/all/all/all/all/21186> (2011);

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/policy-guidelines_en (EUHAP 2014);

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-technical-competency-frameworks> (DfID technical competency framework for conflict, 2016).

Throughout the programme, students will be actively engaged in a diverse range of learning activities designed to develop their capacities for thoughtful analysis and reflective practice. These will include individual and group tasks that require students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world dynamics and scenarios, simulations and real-life briefs set by practitioners in our field. As such, the emphasis in teaching sessions will often be on active, problem-based learning activities, with students undertaking reading

and other preparatory work beforehand. This ‘flipped classroom’ approach maximises opportunities for discussion and feedback, whilst using selected inputs – short lectures, readings, video, etc. – to both frame and deepen the learning experience.

Our approach to learning and teaching makes a conscious effort to encourage collaboration and honest dialogue and puts significant emphasis on the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills. Throughout, the curriculum is designed to encourage reflection on social relationships, and this includes the interpersonal level and the wider structures in which interpersonal dynamics are situated. Our overall aim is to develop reflective practitioners who take a thoughtful approach to engaging with others, and our own practices as a teaching team seek to model and foster this ethos.

Assessment Strategy

Our assessment strategy for this programme is based on principles of constructive alignment, diversity and inclusion. Assessment tasks are designed to help students both develop and demonstrate their skills as set out in the learning outcomes for the programme overall and for specific modules. Because these learning outcomes cover different aspects of learning – including the demonstration of academic knowledge, academic skills and professional-related competencies – assessment will be similarly varied, including some more traditional assignments (essay-type tasks) alongside more competency-based assessment. Our overall strategy attempts to strike a balance between developing students’ abilities to succeed in a balanced and diverse range of assessment tasks and to stretch beyond existing comfort zones on the one hand and allowing them to play to their strengths on the other hand.

The formative assessment strategy aims to monitor and support learning throughout each semester. Preparatory assignments, in-class activities, tutorials and the preparation of coursework assignments all provide evidence of learning and development and create opportunities for peer or tutor-led feedback in different forms. Personal tutorials and dissertation in particular provide opportunities for formative feedback and guidance. The dissertation module has been designed with a view to maximising students’ engagement in a structured process of research, with formative feedback built in from the start.

Each module is assessed formally in order that students can demonstrate their achievement of module learning objectives. Throughout the course, students will encounter a diversity of assessment tasks, with opportunities for choice on substantive content and presentation formats where appropriate. While all of our assessment tasks will be designed with the aim of promoting an inclusive and accessible curriculum for all, we will, in co-ordination with the Disability Service, work with any individual students who might have additional access requirements to find solutions appropriate to their needs.

Curriculum

The curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure coherence and progression through the programme of study. Students will take the following compulsory taught modules:

- Applied Conflict Research
- Theories and Practices of Conflict Resolution
- Creative Practice in Conflict Engagement and Peacebuilding

This programme also provides the opportunity for granular personalised learning and specialism where students can take **one** 20-credit option in semester 1 and **two** 20-credit options in semester 2.

Semester 1 (September)

The first semester includes two core areas of study. First, the module Applied Conflict Research develops both theoretical knowledge and professional skills for advanced analysis of the causes, dynamics and consequences of (violent) conflict. This module includes a significant case-study focus, to test what theories and concepts offer in the task of analysis. A second core module – Theories and Practices of Conflict Resolution – introduces some key approaches to conflict intervention – including negotiation and mediation – and how these have been theorised and applied. Again, there is a mix of theory, case-study analysis and practical skill development – in this case, developing skills associated with the design and delivery of processes for constructive conflict engagement.

The provision of an elective allows further specialisation in relation to a number of key areas, including the module Studying Peace in a Changing World, Dynamics of Politics and Security in Africa; Security and Development in Fragile and Conflict Affected Areas, Social-Ecological Systems and Crises, as well as options from other programmes.

Students will take 60 credits of modules including one option or elective in Semester 1:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
7	Applied Conflict Research	Core	20	Sem 1	PES7036-B
7	Theories and Practices of Conflict Resolution	Core	20	Sem 1	PES7064-B
7	African Politics and Security Dynamics	Option	20	Sem 1	PES7035-B
7	Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development	Option	20	Sem 1	DEV7026-B
7	Security and Development in Fragile and Conflict Affected Areas	Option	20	Sem 1	PES7048-B
7	Social-Ecological Systems and Crises	Option	20	Sem 1	PES7065-B
7	Studying Peace in a Changing World	Option	20	Sem 1	PES7051-B
6/7	University Semester 1 Elective	Option	20	Sem 1	Any

Students may elect to study no more than 20 credits from outside of this list in the programme as a whole (a University Elective in either Semester 1 or Semester 2, but not in both).

Semester 2 (January)

Semester 2 extends the practical, applied dimension of the programme in a third core module: Creative Practice in Conflict Engagement and Peacebuilding. This builds directly on the previous core modules, using knowledge about conflict analysis and conflict resolution, but focused more closely on the questions and choices practitioners face in their work with conflict, and thinking deeply about the qualities of ethical as well as effective engagement with conflict. Optional modules again afford opportunities to specialise in areas related both to conflict analysis or processes for addressing conflict and promoting social change. The Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding module will be relevant to

many on this programme. Specialist regional understanding can be developed through engagement with either the module on Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics or the Africa Study Visit. Thematic knowledge may be developed through study of: Transnational Challenges – problems and responses; Gender, Conflict and Development; Natural Resource Governance, and others.

Students will take 60 credits of modules including two options or one option and an elective in Semester 2:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Module Type	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
7	Creative Practice in Conflict Engagement and Peacebuilding	Core	20	Sem 2	PES7063-B
7	Africa Study Visit	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7034-B
7	Environment, Trafficking and Crime; Transnational Issues and International Governance	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7062-B
7	Gender, Conflict and Development	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7041-B
7	Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7043-B
7	Natural Resource Governance	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7045-B
7	Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7046-B
7	Sustainable Cities	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7052-B
7	Terrorism and Political Violence	Option	20	Sem 2	PES7053-B
7	University Semester 2 Elective	Elective	20	Sem 2	Any

Students may elect to study no more than 20 credits from outside of this list in the programme as a whole (a University Elective in either Semester 1 or Semester 2, but not in both).

Dissertation

The preparation and submission period for the Dissertation will vary depending on the student's route (academic or internship) and mode of study (full-time or part-time).

Full-time students will prepare begin to prepare their dissertation in semester 3 and submit in the autumn/winter. Students who undertake the part-time route will commence the dissertation process and submit their dissertation in the second year of study.

All students will be supported in their dissertation work by an academic supervisor.

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Dissertation	Core	60	Full Year, Academic Year or Non-Standard Academic Year	PES7040-E

Placement and Study Abroad

The Professional Experience is a work experience element of the programme. This normally takes the form of an internship in another organisation and can be either undertaken in the UK or abroad. Students normally use their placement period and experience to inform and shape their dissertation.

Planning for the placement/internship starts several months in advance usually in the first semester itself. The Division will provide information sessions. The process may involve several steps including:

- Identifying and searching for voluntary placement/internship opportunities
- Preparing applications, covering letters, supporting letters of reference
- Contacting relevant organisations, arranging for and agreeing specifics such as location, domain of work, start and end dates, focal point, terms of reference of placement and what the student is expected to do and the days and hours
- Sorting out financial planning issues, visas, travel risk assessments and permissions
- Discussing with the relevant contact person in the host organisation about aims and reviewing arrangement.

Students are required to complete a form detailing their proposed activities and obtain permission from the Division before they are able to go on placement/internship. Many organisations also offer virtual placements or virtual internships and in the context of Covid19 and such health risks, these may be a more feasible option.

Upon completing the period of placement/internship, students should come back on the programme and submit a completion report summarising key learning points before they can formally continue work on their dissertation. For those choosing the 15-month Full Time option or a Part Time route (on application) including voluntary placement/internship, the degree of master will be awarded on successful completion of a voluntary placement or internship of up to three months. Those on the 15-month Full Time route are expected to start the placement/internship shortly after the end of Semester 2, that is to undertake it during the summer period (semester 3). Those on the Part Time route are able to do this (on application) after they complete the 120 credits of taught programme.

Students on the Rotary route

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Professional Experience (Rotary Peace Fellows Applied Field Experience)	Core	0	Sem 3	PES7023-Z

All other students

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Voluntary placement/ internship	Core	0	Sem 3	PES7056-Z

Other Study Abroad

Students are welcome to explore available opportunities for a Study Abroad Semester that may be viable for them via our International Opportunities team.

A Study Abroad Semester can be available **ONLY** if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme during Semester 1 **OR** Semester 2.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange.

The semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme Leader and the Director of Studies in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Programme Leader and Director of Programmes.

If the student fails a module abroad, the student must immediately inform the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator and explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host institution.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the student's final degree. Our International Opportunities team can advise students about the available funding to support their study or work experience abroad.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Semester, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students.

Please note: Some exchange institutions are only available to undergraduate or postgraduate students. Any potential overseas exchange is dependent on student eligibility, student finance, and the appropriate modules required to fulfil the requirements of the programme being available at either institution.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Postgraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations.

Achievable Awards

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution** if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Practice in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution** if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the degree award of **Master of Arts in Advanced Practice in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution** if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Admission Requirements

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

Academic Admission Requirements

The standard entry requirements for this postgraduate programme are that all applicants have at least a Bachelor's degree with honours classified as lower second-class (2:2, or equivalent). Relevant professional or voluntary activities would be desirable as the course will draw on your experience and the experiences of your fellow students.

Language Competency

As the programme is taught in English, all applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent. For international students, the standard postgraduate English language requirements for the University apply and these are listed at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/> .

Access and Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, or with significant personal and professional experience.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply: www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before .