



MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN PEACE AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

University of Tromsø
Faculty of Social Science

Language of instruction: English.

Duration: 2 years (120 ECTS credits), full time campus study.

I Aims of the Programme

The aim of the MPCT programme is to provide skills for conflict mediation, in primary to post-secondary education programs, in various organisations and media, to name a few.

The Master's Programme analyses the problem of violence and violence reduction, via a rigorous and scholarly approach to the study of conflict, violence, conflict resolution and peace at different levels of society/human coexistence. Understanding and analysing international and intercultural relations and communication is emphasised in the programme, but so are skills in conflict management and mediation. The programme provides a theoretical base, in conjunction with practical opportunities for specialisation. This is accomplished through:

- Core courses addressing a wide range of topics related to conflict, violence, conflict management and peace.
- Theoretical and methodological specialisation toward different research fields directly or closely related to conflict and peace.
- Theoretically and/or empirically oriented thesis.

The pedagogical approach is problem based, continuously supporting the development of important and relevant topics of interest. The students' academic enterprise should be organised as a recurrent cycle of study, discussion, instruction, research, academic production, and publication. Theoretical work should develop as a response to their engagement and interest in problems facing humanity today. The programme facilitates the development of pertinent and essential questions concerning conflict, violence and peace, and a versatile, problem-solving capacity. All aspects of the students' academic progress will be subject to standards commensurate with a graduate level of study.

II Admission Requirements and Procedures

Students must hold, at minimum, a *Bachelor of Arts*, *Cand.mag. degree* or equivalent education of at least three years duration within social sciences, humanities, health sciences, education, or law.

All lectures are given in English. An above average and functioning knowledge of English is essential. To be eligible, students who are not Nordic citizens must fulfil the English Proficiency requirements described at the university web page

<http://www.adm.uit.no/studie/foreign/english/Basic.htm>

Entry into the programme is competitive and based on

1. Academic qualifications (educational background)
2. Documented professional experience
3. Stated purpose.

Applicants must enclose an essay of approximately 2 pages stating previous professional experience within this field and purpose of and interest in taking this Master's degree. All applicants are asked to write in English.

Number of places is restricted and a certain number of student places will be reserved for Non-Nordic applicants.

III Supervision

All students will be appointed an academic supervisor.

IV Course Description and Outline

The programme lasts four semesters over a period of two years.

Summarised plan of study

Course programme:

Year 1: SVF-3021, SVF-3022, SVF-3024, SVF-3023

Year 2: SVF-3023, SVF-3090 (Master's Thesis)

2 electives, each 10 credits, are to be chosen in the 2nd and 3rd semester

Code	Course Name	Credits	Type of exam/ Grading system	Semester
SVF-3021	Integrated peace and conflict studies	20	Essay+ oral exam, grades A-F	1
SVF-3022	Culture, conflict and society	10	Mandatory oral presentation, approved/not-approved. Essay, grades A-F	1
SVF-3024	Conflict resolution and conflict transformation	20	Essay + oral exam, grades A-F	2
SVF-3023	Specialisation with methodology	10	Project proposal and research-paper, Pass/Fail	2 and 3
SVF-3901	Master's thesis	40	Grades A-F + oral exam	3 and 4

Electives	Individual choices among the courses offered by other departments	10 + 10	Depending on choice of courses	2 and 3
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First year of study:

SVF-3021: Integrated peace and conflict studies

The Peace studies programme has the dual objective of analysing problems, especially conflict(s), violence and war, and searching for ways to solve or transform conflicts and reduce violence. This objective is presented in the table below, balancing elements of analytical/ empirical and constructive/ future oriented work.

	FOCUS ON CONFLICT	FOCUS ON VIOLENCE / PEACE
PROBLEMS	CONFLICT THEORY	THEORY ABOUT VIOLENCE
REMEDIES	CONFLICT SOLUTION	PEACE THEORY

The problems-oriented courses give a broad introduction to, followed by an in-depth analysis of, conflict and violence, their origins, forms, causes, relations between the two and to other phenomena, possible consequences and philosophical perspectives on war and peace, human rights and international law. They also include an introduction to structural and cultural violence, their relation to another, and to direct (intentional) and indirect (unintended) violence.

The remedies-oriented courses focus on constructive measures to avoid or reduce violence (negative peace), to solve or transform conflicts in creative, less- or non-violent ways, and to enhance the capacity to do so (positive peace). These courses also concentrate on strategies, organisations, agencies and means to reduce violence and create more sustainable peace at different levels; from UN/ International law via Governments and NGOs, to individual faculties of conflict mediation and conflict management, including an opportunity to train individual skills.

SVF-3022: Culture, conflict and society

The course will enable students to critically analyse and evaluate the relevance and importance of cultural and societal contexts in relation to conflict. SVF-3022 employs anthropological, religious and psychological perspectives on conflicts, peace and conflict transformation. The focus is on conflict and violence as human experience – cultural and psychological. The associated complex issues of cultural difference form a critical backdrop to efforts to understand conflict and violence in their various manifestations.

SVF-3023: Specialisation with methodology

This informal and low-intensity course starts by agreement with a thesis supervisor in the second semester and runs towards the end of the third semester. The students choose a research topic and select a supervisor or research group within one of the following fields (topics will be elaborated at the beginning of the 1. semester):

- Social medicine
- Political economy
- Law
- Social science
- Political science
- History
- Integrated peace studies
- Psychiatry

The course integrates the research topic with the methods of research relevant for each field/project. During the course, students will develop an individual project proposal for their master's thesis, the process of which is supported through a combination of lectures and supervision. The project proposal shall define the empirical basis of the proposed work (literature, fieldwork, data collection) and discuss the theoretical and methodological framework and choices for the thesis.

Second year of study:

SVF-3023: Specialisation with methodology (see description above)

SVF-3024: Conflict resolution and conflict transformation

SVF-3024 examines in greater depth the political and social dimensions of conflict, violence and peace, and a range of highly divergent strategies for managing, resolving and/or transforming conflict. The course consists of two distinct but related components:

- (i) Social and political violence
- (ii) The pursuit of peace: Conflict management and resolution.

SVF-3901: Master's thesis

The students can choose either to write a theoretically or an empirically based master's thesis. Students must begin collecting the data material (quantitative and qualitative) during the summer session between the second and third semester.

Field work/ data collection is to be finished by Sept. 1st in the third semester.

Elective 1 and 2:

Second and third semester

Elective courses will vary from semester to semester. The students can choose individually between courses on 2 and 3000-level offered by other departments.

It is strongly recommended that one of the electives be chosen from those courses offered in the area of methodology (except under special circumstances and by special agreement with the programme director and the thesis supervisor).

V **Curriculum**

VI **Evaluation and Examination**

The type of examination is specified in each module (see table above).
Evaluation is based on the grading system A-E, F = fail.