

University of Haifa
The Faculty of Social Sciences and the International School

MA Program in Peace and Conflict Management Studies

The Program

The MA Program in Peace and Conflict Management Studies seeks to combine an in-depth understanding of theory with applications from a regional perspective. Students will investigate ethnic, national, cultural, and religious conflicts in deeply-divided societies. They will study and evaluate different approaches to conflict management, while immersing themselves in a region that offers a great deal of relevant real-life case studies.

The program is interdisciplinary and based primarily on theoretical and practical frameworks in the fields of psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, communications, history, law, philosophy, and education. These perspectives will enrich the students' understanding of conflicts within and among societies and nations. The curriculum also examines specific case studies of conflict and uses the Middle East and Israel as a living classroom for empirical learning.

The program is co-sponsored by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the International School at the University of Haifa. The MA degree is awarded by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The University of Haifa

The University of Haifa is known for faculty expertise in the fields of coexistence, conflict-settlement and peace processes and is a center for research of these areas in Israel. Conferences on these topics, that bring together leading specialists in the field, are held frequently at the University. In addition, the University has three research centers relevant to the program: *The Center for Research on Peace Education*; *The Jewish-Arab Center*; *The Center for Multiculturalism and Educational Research*.

Due to its multicultural orientation and the daily coexistence between Arab and Jewish citizens on campus, the University of Haifa is an ideal location for this unique curriculum. As one of the few mixed Jewish-Arab cities in Israel, Haifa has achieved a high level of normalcy and cooperation among its diverse residents. Jews (Israeli-born and immigrants from many countries), Christian Arabs, Muslim Arabs, Druze and Baha'i, live and work together in the city – and study together on campus. Each year, close to 700 international students from around the world join this academic community and add to its diversity and cultural richness.

Program Objectives

As a deeply divided society, and a country in protracted conflict with other countries in the region, Israel is a unique environment for a program whose goal is to enable students to understand how conflicts unfold from a grassroots level and move up through the halls of government to the international community. Israel supplies excellent field study opportunities because one can see how attempts to promote coexistence, mutual understanding, and peace processes actually develop and take root. Israel is a real-time hands-on working laboratory for advanced international and Israeli students, offering an encounter with ongoing conflicts as well as successful and failed efforts to achieve peace.



The main objectives of the program are to:

1. Provide students with an invaluable opportunity to learn about discord around the world, and especially the specific conflicts in Israeli society and the Middle East;
2. Endow students with theoretical knowledge and practical tools to deal with ethno-national conflicts and peace-building;
3. Give students field experience to apply to their future careers.

In order to obtain these objectives, the program examines case studies of conflict among ethnic groups and nationalities from both a domestic and an international perspective.

Program Outline

This is an interdisciplinary program and courses will cover the following subjects:

1. The nature of conflicts and how they develop;
2. Peace processes and ways to foster them;
3. Research methodology;
4. Field practicum (internship).

The following is a list of possible course offerings. It is important to note that the four mandatory core courses will be offered every year, but not all elective courses will be offered every year. The four mandatory core courses are marked with an * and a brief explanation of the mandatory courses will follow. The Field Practicum/Internship will not be offered in 2010-2011.

Course offerings:

1. The Nature of Conflicts and How They Develop

- Conflicts and Conflict Theories*
- Case Studies of Conflict and Conflict Management
- The Evolution of Enduring International Rivalries
- Social Psychology of Conflict Resolution
- When Differences Become "Us" versus "Them": Inherent Problems in Intergroup Relations
- Comparative Ethnic Relations
- Minority Sociopolitical and Legal Status in Deeply Divided Democracies
- Sociology of Occupied Territories
- State, Nationalism and War in a Regional Context
- Identities and Conflicts in Middle Eastern States
- Minorities in the Middle East
- Negotiation and Conflict Management in Deeply Divided Societies – The Case of Environmental and Public Disputes in Israel
- Cleavages and Conflicts in Israeli Society

2. Peace Processes and Ways to Foster Them

- Strategies of Conflict Management*
- Peace and Conflict Resolution: A Philosophical Approach
- Peace Education: Its Goals, Principles, and Challenges
- Negotiations in the Middle East: Concepts, Techniques, and Results
- Peace Processes in Israel/Palestine
- Peace Making and Conflict Resolution: A Single Case Study Analysis
- Universal Peace Plans in the History of Political Thought
- Cultural Logic of Disputes and Their Resolution
- Peace and War in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- The Gandhi Legacy as a Globalized Discourse of Non-Violence



3. Research Methodology

- Research Methods for Peace and Conflict Management Studies*
- Quantitative Research Methods
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Evaluation Methods in Peace Studies

4. Field Practice

- Field Practicum/Internship*

The four subject groups ("clusters") include both mandatory core courses and elective courses. There is one mandatory core course in each cluster:

- Conflicts and Conflict Theories – this course will introduce students to ethnic, religious, cultural, domestic, and international conflicts since World War Two. The course will also include an overview of the theoretical approaches to the research and analyses of these conflicts.
- Strategies of Conflict Management – this course will focus on the challenge of managing conflicts. Ways and types of intervention, such as direct negotiation and mediation, will be discussed.
- Research Methods for Peace and Conflict Management Studies - this course will teach students quantitative and qualitative research methodology and methods of assessment.
- Field Practicum – this course is a supervised practicum/internship. The internship will focus on a specific theoretical hypothesis or question and will include work in an organization or project that promotes social change, coexistence, civil rights, and education toward democratic values and peace. A final paper summarizing and analyzing the work and experience is required.

Each of the program courses is worth 4 credit hours.

Enrichment

In addition to the practicum/internship, the program will furnish exposure to NGO's for Arab-Jewish and Israeli-Palestinian coexistence and Middle East peace processes. Study tours, simulation games and expert panel discussions will enhance the courses. The interactions between the international students coming from different countries and the Israeli students in the program will expand the students' experience and knowledge.

Academic Advisory Board

Prof. Sammy Smooha, Department of Sociology and Anthropology (Program Director)

Prof. Hanan Alexander, Faculty of Education and the International School

Prof. Gavriel Salomon, Faculty of Education

Prof. Gabriel Weimann, Department of Communication

Dr. As'ad Ghanem, School of Political Sciences

Dr. Ben D. Mor, School of Political Sciences



Admission requirements

- A minimum of 3.0 GPA or 80% (Israeli system) or equivalent
- Official transcript of BA Degree / Undergraduate diploma
- TOEFL scores (if applicable)*
- 2 Recommendations from relevant academic faculty members
- Statement of Intent/Personal Essay (500-750 words)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- Medical forms
- Work experience in an organization for human rights, coexistence, or peace (preferred, not required)

Prerequisites:

Students who have not taken introductory courses in the Social Sciences during their undergraduate degree will have to successfully complete two courses before being accepted to the program:

1. One introductory course in either Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, or International Relations.
2. One introductory course in methodology (research methods, statistics)

*TOEFL scores: Candidates, who have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English, must submit official TOEFL scores or equivalent. The minimum TOEFL score required for admission is:

- 570 on the paper-based test
- 230 on the computer-based test
- 89 on the internet-based test

Track A: Thesis Track

- 8 Courses - 32 credit hours (4 core courses and 4 elective courses)
- Hebrew or Arabic Language – 2 semesters or Internal Language Proficiency Exam
- Thesis Research Paper

Track A students will have to write two seminar papers (6000 words each), one final paper based on the Practicum/Internship (8000 words), and a thesis research paper.

Track B: Non-Thesis Track

- 10 Courses - 40 credit hours (4 core courses and 6 elective courses)
- Hebrew or Arabic Language – 2 semesters or Internal Language Proficiency Exam
- Final paper – based on the Practicum/Internship

Track B students will have to complete three seminar papers (6000 words each) and one final paper based on the Practicum/Internship (8000 words).

Semester Abroad Option (for visiting students)

Subject to space limitations, graduate students studying in related degree programs abroad may choose to enroll in the MA Program in Peace and Conflict Management Studies - as visiting students - for one semester.



Program Overview

Designed for 4 semesters, the course work may be completed in 3.

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
THESIS TRACK	2 Core courses (8 credit hours)	1 Core course (4 credit hours)	1 Internship (Core) (4 credit hours)	2 Elective courses (8 credit hours)
		1 Elective course (4 credit hours)	1 Elective course (4 credit hours)	Thesis
	Language	Language	Language	Language
NON-THESIS TRACK	2 Core courses (8 credit hours)	1 Core course (4 credit hours)	1 Internship (Core) (4 credit hours)	2 Elective courses (8 credit hours)
		2 Elective course (8 credit hours)	2 Elective course (8 credit hours)	Final paper
	Language	Language	Language	Language