

POSTGRADUATE



# Peace and Conflict Studies

Be part of creating a more peaceful and just world.

How can violent conflicts be transformed into more peaceful processes? Students in peace and conflict studies seek to understand the causes of violence and war in order to create a more peaceful and just world at the individual, intergroup and international levels. They apply what they learn in communities around New Zealand, the Pacific and the wider world to make a tangible difference to people's lives.

A qualification in peace and conflict studies develops skills in critical thinking, conflict analysis, understanding human behaviour and cross-cultural communication. Our PhD and master's graduates work in New Zealand and around the world in fields such as academia, the not-for-profit sector, journalism and government.

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## What is Peace and Conflict Studies?

The field of peace and conflict studies is primarily concerned with the analysis of the causes and consequences of violent conflict and with developing the means to achieve sustainable peace. Therefore, it deals not only with theoretical understanding and rigorous research on the origins of conflicts, but it also has a strong interest in developing effective means to build peace.

## Background required

We accept students from a wide range of disciplines, including humanities and science, for postgraduate study. For the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, a B+ average in your most recent year of study is generally required.

## Career opportunities

Graduates of the National Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies (NCPCS) can go on to work in a wide range of fields, such as development work, humanitarian agencies, regional and multilateral organisations, mediation, family dispute resolution practice, international negotiations, refugee and aid work, arbitration, industrial relations, defence forces, human resource management, international peacekeeping, teaching, community development work, journalism, NGO and civil society work, policy advising, public service, academia and many others.

Distance options are available for the MPCS in 2021.

For more information contact [peaceandconflict@otago.ac.nz](mailto:peaceandconflict@otago.ac.nz)

## Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPCS)

This taught master's programme provides an advanced qualification in peace and conflict studies, and requires 12 months of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study

### *Students study both of:*

#### PEAC 501 Theories of Peace and Conflict

A core course introducing students to the central concepts underpinning peace and conflict studies. It explores a range of theoretical explanations for peace and armed conflict.

#### PEAC 502: Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution Theory

An advanced introduction to the analysis of conflict and conflict resolution theory. In particular, the paper focuses on the conflict resolution process.

### *Students select two of the following one-semester electives:*

#### PEAC 503 Conflict Resolution Practice

Students are introduced to a range of practices used to resolve conflicts between individuals and within communities. It includes an exploration of the history of peaceful conflict resolution in Aotearoa New Zealand and the application of conflict resolution principles to specific case studies.

#### PEAC 504 Development and Peacebuilding

Students will develop knowledge of and insight into contested understandings of development and peace, and the roles of the state, market and civil society in development and peacebuilding.

#### PEAC 505 Peace Education

An introduction to the field of peace education, including violence in education, the differences between educating for peace and educating for war, the role of peace education in the promotion of human rights and practical matters concerning teaching for peace.

#### PEAC 507 Critical Terrorism Studies

An advanced introduction to the new field of critical terrorism studies and the analysis of contemporary security issues from a peace and conflict studies perspective.

#### PEAC 508 Psychology of Peace and Conflict

Social-psychological theories explain many intergroup conflicts and how they might be resolved. Special attention will be given to their use in conflict transformation.

### *Students select one of the following full year papers:*

#### PEAC 590 Dissertation

Students write a research thesis of no more than 18,000–20,000 words on a subject of their own choosing, based on primary sources.

#### PEAC 595 Practicum and Research Report

The course will provide students with an opportunity to work on conflict-related issues with civil society, non-governmental or official governmental organisations in New Zealand or overseas, and produce an analytical dissertation on their experience of around 12,000–15,000 words.

## Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies

This is a research-based degree with a minimum duration of one year. Students engage in a programme of independent research and learning leading to the production of a thesis of 30,000–40,000 words, which is internally and externally assessed. The MA can be completed on a full-time or a part-time basis, and enrolment can take place at any time during the year.

## Doctor of Philosophy

Students with a particular interest carry out independent, original research culminating in a thesis, which makes a significant contribution to the knowledge of the particular field. This programme is usually completed within three years.

## PROFILES

### Dr Janine Joyce

College of Personal Wellbeing and Community Development, Otago Polytechnic

The unique environment at the NCPCS gave me the opportunity to develop my confidence and skills as a critical thinker and researcher. Going forward into academic and clinical employment I found that the PhD had enhanced my ability to problem solve, integrate data and think "big picture".



### Sakhr Munassar

Youth Co-ordinator Otago, New Zealand Red Cross

The Master of Peace and Conflict Studies helped me develop on a personal and professional level – something that not many degrees can offer!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[otago.ac.nz/ncpacs/study](http://otago.ac.nz/ncpacs/study)

