

MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES  
MASTER OF ARTS  
PhD

# Peace & Conflict Studies

*“I oppose all violence because the good it does is always temporary but the harm it does is permanent” – Gandhi*



*“This wasn’t just a university course; for me it was an intellectual challenge to the way I see the world and how I choose to live within it.”*

LIESEL MITCHELL  
MA (PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES)

Why are some conflicts constructive and others destructive? Why do groups choose violence to realize their goals? What are the sources and dynamics of direct and indirect violence and how can these be transformed into more peaceful processes? How do we build sustainable peace at interpersonal, intergroup, community, national and global levels of analysis? Students in Peace and Conflict Studies seek to understand violence and war in order to create a more peaceful and harmonious world. They apply what they learn in communities around New Zealand, the Pacific, South East Asia and the wider world to make a tangible difference to people’s lives.

POSTGRADUATE



YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

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## What is Peace and Conflict Studies?

The field of Peace and Conflict Studies addresses some of the most enduring and intractable problems confronting humanity. It is primarily concerned with an analysis of the origins and nature of violent conflict within and between societies.

## Background required

Typically, Peace and Conflict Studies students will have an undergraduate degree in any one of a wide range of disciplines, such as law, education, psychology or politics. The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies does not have an undergraduate programme.

## Master of Peace and Conflict Studies

This taught Masters programme provides advanced qualifications in Peace and Conflict studies, development and peace building.

The qualification requires two semesters of full-time study or its equivalent in part-time study. It entails a structured programme of coursework along with either a piece of supervised research or a work placement and associated report. PEAC501 and PEAC502 are compulsory papers. Students select either PEAC590 or PEAC595 plus 2 other elective papers. Students may, with the approval of the Head of Department, substitute one suitable 30-point 500 level paper from other Departments within the Humanities Division for one elective paper.

### PEAC501: Theories of Peace and Conflict

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

### PEAC502: 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.

### PEAC503: Conflict Resolution Practice

This paper 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.

### PEAC504: Development and Peacebuilding

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

### PEAC505: 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.

### PEAC506: Special Topic

### PEAC507: 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.

### PEAC590: Dissertation

Students write a research thesis of no more than 10,000-15,000 words on a subject of their own choosing, based on primary sources.

### PEAC595: 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 analytic dissertation on their experience.

## 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 research and learning leading to the production of a thesis of 30,000 to 40,000 words, which is internally and externally assessed. The MA can be done 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.

## Careers in Peace and Conflict Studies

NCPACS graduates can go on to work in a wide range of fields such as development work, humanitarian agencies, regional and multilateral organisations (such as the PIF, ASEAN, the United Nations), mediation (self-employed or working for mediation service providers), family dispute resolution practice, international negotiations, refugee and aid work, arbitration, ombudsmen, industrial relations arena, defence forces, human resource management, international peacekeeping, teaching, community development work, journalism, NGO and civil society work, policy advising, public service, academia and many other areas.

## PROFILES

### AMIE KIRKHAM MA

Soon after submitting my Masters thesis at NCPACS I was lucky enough to be offered an internship opportunity with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) in Cambodia. I am now working as CPCS's Listening Project Manager. Listening projects use listening methodology to gather a wide range of opinions and identify key themes from a wide group of people. CPCS uses listening projects to elevate voices from inside Myanmar that are not being heard, particularly in relation to the Myanmar peace process, aiming to build a more inclusive peace process. Studying at NCPACS gave me the opportunity to gain an understanding of a wide range of theories of peace and conflict studies and the space to explore and challenge these ideas. While studying at NCPACS I was able to develop research, analysis, critical thinking and presentation skills that are invaluable in my current role.



### HOLLY GUTHREY PHD

After finishing my PhD at NCPACS in 2013, I was offered a position as the Program Coordinator at the East Asian Peace program in the Department for Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, Sweden. Within this role, I organize conferences and workshops for the EAP program. I am also working as a Researcher in the Department, undertaking a research project that will explore attitudes toward post-conflict reconciliation and ex-combatant reintegration in Aceh, Indonesia. The excellent supervision and encouragement that I received from both professors and colleagues at NCPACS during my PhD study gave me the opportunity to develop research skills which will be an enormous asset in all of my future endeavors.



For questions about  
Peace & Conflict Studies  
[otago.ac.nz/ncpacs](http://otago.ac.nz/ncpacs)

