



Program description

Master in Peace and Conflict Transformation

120 ECTS/Campus Tromsø

The programme description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education on 24.9.2025

From autumn 2026



Study programme name	Master's programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT)
Degree obtained	Master in Peace and Conflict Transformation
Target group	Nordic and non-Nordic Applicants, with a relevant Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) or equivalent qualification in the social sciences, health sciences, humanities, law or education.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Admission is competitive, based primarily on academic qualifications (educational background) and secondly on the quality of the Statement of Purpose. Admission to the Master's programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation requires a Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) or equivalent qualification in the social sciences, humanities, law, education, psychology or public health. Applicants must have a minimum grade average comparable to a Norwegian C (2,5) in the ECTS scale, see UiT's webpage for international admissions for more information on how the point average is calculated. Applicants must provide a Statement of Purpose (maximum of two pages). This Statement must state the applicant's motivation for pursuing a Master's degree in this programme (i.e. relating prior academic achievements and professional experiences to the core concerns of the programme). There is no need for recommendation letters. The programme is English-taught. Applicants must provide proof of proficiency in English. You will find more information about international admission here.
The study programme's Learning Outcome	Upon completion of the programme, the candidate should have the following learning outcomes: Knowledge Advanced knowledge of • the history and evolution of peace and conflict studies as a distinct field of study • the key theories, debates and issues informing peace and conflict studies • the nature and causes of violent conflict at all levels of human interaction - interpersonal, intergroup, community, national and global • the diverse mechanisms for transforming conflictual relationships between individuals, groups and institutions into constructive bonds • the diverse mechanisms for handling the consequences of violent conflict

	- the existing state of knowledge in closely related fields of study in an overall multi-disciplinary perspective Skills Capacity to - apply interdisciplinary perspectives to understand and analyze peace and conflict issues - think critically and creatively in dealing with peace and conflict problematics - identify and review relevant literature on specific issues - formulate research questions and select appropriate theoretical and methodological frameworks - design and carry out an independent research project, which involves the use of diverse data sources, under supervision - collect, collate and interpret large amounts of data and communicate results effectively - assess the quality of theoretical and methodological perspectives underlying other scholarly works Competence Ability to - present and discuss aspects of one's own work effectively at academic and public arenas - read and obtain a nuanced understanding of texts, and provide critical and constructive feedback - analyze relevant academic- and research ethical problems - apply knowledge and skills in new areas in order to carry out advanced assignments and projects - be reflective about their positionality vis-à-vis conflict and peace - contribute to new thinking and innovation processes
Academic content and description of the study programme	The Master's Programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT) offers an interdisciplinary framework for understanding the nature, causes, and complex origins of conflict, violence, and insecurity. It equips students with analytical skills to examine conflicts and address security challenges through non-violent and peaceful approaches. The programme emphasizes critical thinking, strategic decision-making, and reflective practices to address both traditional conflict dynamics and emerging issues in security, threats, and violence using an interdisciplinary approach. The Norwegian High North provides a unique setting for studying the transformation of relationships between individuals, groups, and institutions—from destructive to constructive bonds. The programme

is strategically based in the city of Tromsø, because it has a long history of working towards peaceful co-existence among local ethnic and cultural groups.

During the first year, students will attend compulsory courses to learn about the core debates and perspectives in the field.

The second year focuses mainly on Master's thesis projects. These thesis projects are designed by the students themselves, based on their individual interests and experiences related to the field of peace and conflict.

During the third semester, in addition to the master's thesis, you will take an elective course and the common course TVR-3000 Sustainability and Innovation. Students who go on exchange in the third semester are exempt from the common course.

The programme offers opportunities to collect data from any part of the world to support master's thesis projects. Throughout the four semesters of study, the Master's thesis course includes several compulsory workshops and seminars, including a workshop on research ethics and fieldwork/data collection safety and security. Description of the individual components can be found in the course description of SVF-3901.

Table: programme structure

Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits
1. semester	SVF-3021 Integrated Peace and Conflict Studies (20 ECTS)		SVF-3022 Culture, Conflict and Society (10 ECTS)
	SVF-3901 Master Thesis in Peace and Conflict Transformation (Semester 1)		
2. semester	SVF-3024 Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation (20 ECTS)		SVF-3025 Methods in Social Research: An interdisciplinary approach (10 ECTS)
	SVF-3901 Master Thesis in Peace and Conflict Transformation (Semester 2)		
3. semester	SVF-3901 Master Thesis in Peace and Conflict Transformation (semester 3)	TVR-3000* Sustainability and Innovation (10 ECTS)	Elective course (10 ECTS)

	4. semester	SVF-3901 Master Thesis in Peace and Conflict Transformation (semester 4) (40 ECTS)	
	*TVR-3000 is mandatory, but students who go on exchange are exempt from the course.		
Learning activities, examination and assessment	Learning activities are lectures, seminars, student presentations and peer reviews, individual supervision, excursions, and guest lectures. The teaching and learning methods are problem-based, i.e. using everyday problems and issues as teaching materials. The teaching involves lectures, seminars, and readings. Teachers in this program are well-known experts in their fields and come from both within the Centre and outside of Norway. The variety of teaching methods is designed to enhance students' problem-solving capabilities. Every student will be assigned a thesis supervisor during the first year of study, primarily from one of two research groups affiliated with the Centre: the <u>Peace Research Group</u> and the <u>Grey Zone</u>. Supervision is given through seminars and individual tutorials. The programme includes various types of exams, including both school exams and home exams, as well as coursework requirements such as mandatory workshops, seminar participation, and presentations for SVF-3901. Only students whose coursework requirements have been approved will be allowed to sit for the examination.		
The study programme's relevance	Upon successful completion of the programme, students may be qualified for admission to a PhD programme in a number of academic areas at the UiT the Arctic University of Norway or elsewhere. MPCT prepares students for challenging careers in sectors as diverse as security and diplomatic services, emergency and humanitarian assistance, international aid and donor agencies, and non-governmental organizations. In addition, MPCT offers transferrable competencies and skills for those who wish to pursue professions such as journalism and teaching.		
Work scope	Set curriculum makes a fulltime study for 2 years, approximately 1500-1800 workhours per year.		
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	Thesis projects are designed by the students themselves, based on their individual interests and experiences related to the field of peace and conflict. It is possible to collect data from any part of the world to support such self-selected Master's Thesis project. A supervisor will be appointed to the student based on their selected field/topic		
Language of instruction and examination	English		
Internationalisation	The Master's programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation admits both international and nordic applicants, creating an international learning environment.		

Student exchange	The Master's degree programme in Peace and Conflict Transformation (MPCT) has bilateral exchange agreements with universities abroad where the student may take modules that will subsequently be approved as part of the degree. In this degree programme, we make room for outbound student exchange in the 3rd semester. We make certain reservations concerning what modules the exchange university has to offer. Exchange requires a sojourn of at least three months.
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	The Centre for Peace Studies (CPS), Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, UiT the Arctic University of Norway.
Quality assurance	The study programme and individual courses belonging to it are regularly evaluated, through various student feedback channels, as well as annual programme board meetings.

