Peace Studies
Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies
Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin

Peace Studies in Trinity College Dublin seeks to understand the sources of conflict and how to resolve it through peacemaking and peacebuilding. Peace Studies in TCD includes three postgraduate programmes: the MPhil in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (based in Belfast), the MPhil in International Peace Studies and the Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies (both based in Dublin). We also supervise PhD and MPhil students conducting research on a wide range of peace and conflict related issues.

Peace Studies is part of the School of Religion in Trinity College Dublin. The School consists of two disciplines: 1) Peace Studies, and 2) Religious Studies. The School is committed to interdisciplinarity, academic rigour and public engagement. The School of Religion in Trinity College Dublin tackles some of the big questions facing humanity by seeking to understand the roles of peace and conflict, religion and theology in both their historical settings and contemporary life.

I had completed a Certificate in mediation and wished to study Conflict and Alternative Dispute Resolution strategies further. Having explored several courses, this one offered the most interesting and wide-ranging study of this area. After considering other options, I felt that this course offered me a deep understanding of the causes and nature of conflict, the various conflict resolution processes available and how to apply them in different contexts. I could not recommend Trinity and this particular course highly enough. Although it seemed very daunting at first as one of the oldest on campus, I’m sure, the level of attention and care from the Faculty and the Library all meant it was a very rewarding experience.

Lucy Maguire, Postgraduate Certificate in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies – Trinity College Alumni

Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies

The Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies is a one-year part-time programme that trains students in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Taught by Peace Studies staff and guest lecturers from a variety of academic and working backgrounds, the programme combines the research of academics with the experience of practitioners. Taught modules cover conflict analysis, theories of conflict resolution and alternative dispute resolution skills with an emphasis on theory and practice of mediation.

CDRS is an accredited training programme with the Mediators’ Institute of Ireland (MII) and students have the opportunity to become accredited through the MII on successful completion of the MII’s Mediation Roleplay Competency Assessment option at the end of the CDRS programme. This allows students to apply for Certified Mediation status with the Mediators’ Institute of Ireland.

Past students have included lawyers, trade unionists, members of the Garda Síochána, senior policy makers in human resources and industrial relations, civil and public servants, members of the Probation Service’s restorative justice programmes, refugee and asylum services personnel, church and community workers, NGO workers, and managers from a range of fields including health and education.

Programme structure and assessment

This is a one year programme, with teaching from September to April. There are two evening sessions (six hours) per week over 24 weeks, and four Saturday workshops. Assessment is based on two essays, a group work task, a personal reflection log, a seminar report and a practical skills-based assignment.
Admission Requirements
Applicants to CDRS should normally have an honours B.A. and three years relevant experience or another third-level qualification and five years relevant experience. Students without the above qualifications will be considered subject to evidence of adequate skills and experience. Students not meeting these criteria may exceptionally be considered at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of CDRS use the conflict analysis and mediation skills acquired to enhance their existing careers or develop new directions. Graduates find employment in a wide range of careers related to conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding in the public and private sectors, NGOs and government, within Ireland and internationally.

Scholarships
Some scholarships are available on a competitive basis to postgraduate students (both taught and research degrees) in Peace Studies. Please see www.tcd.ie/religion/postgraduate/scholarships/

How to apply
If you are interested in any of these programmes please contact the Senior Executive Officer, School of Religion at srpostgrad@tcd.ie. You can apply online directly through the School of Religion website at www.tcd.ie/religion/postgraduate/pgstudiespeace/ or by choosing the School of Religion on the following link www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/faculty/

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