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 MLitt 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.

The MPhil programme challenged me to explore not only the proximate causes of conflict, but also to identify and understand the underlying, structural factors that influence instability – and highlighted the importance of addressing such issues holistically in my professional public service career. That approach has, in turn, significantly shaped my PhD, during which I have been given the freedom to incorporate diverse perspectives on my research topic from other academic disciplines. I have received unstinting support and encouragement from staff throughout both programmes.

Alexander Chance, MPhil International Peace Studies and PhD research student – Trinity College Alumni

MPhil in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation

The MPhil in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation is based in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and provides an opportunity to study the dynamics of peace and conflict within a society grappling with an on-going peace process. Taught modules focus on topics such as conflict resolution and conflict transformation, mediation skills, transitional justice and reconciliation. Students also pursue independent research on a relevant topic of their choice for the MPhil dissertation. A distinctive feature of the programme involves service-learning through placements with community-based organisations working directly to transform conflict in a divided society.

Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies

The Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict and Dispute Resolution Studies is an evening programme that trains students in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Taught by staff and guest lecturers from a variety of academic and working backgrounds, the programme combines the research of academics with the experience of practitioners. Students also have the opportunity to become accredited through the Mediators Institute of Ireland while studying for this Postgraduate Diploma.

PhD and MLitt supervision

We offer PhD and MLitt supervision on a wide range of topics relevant to Peace Studies and the research interests of academic staff. These include questions related to peacebuilding and peace processes; conflict and peace in Ireland; religion, conflict and peace; human rights; gender, migration and human trafficking; and the ethics of peace and war.
Admission Requirements
All three Peace Studies programmes are postgraduate programmes and welcome students from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Applicants to the two MPhils must have achieved at least an upper second class honours degree or the equivalent of a GPA of 3.2 on their primary degree. Students not meeting these criteria may exceptionally be considered at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

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.

Those interested in pursuing postgraduate research degrees (PhD or MLitt) are advised to discuss their research proposal with a relevant member of academic staff prior to submitting a formal application. Academic staff details can be found on the following link www.tcd.ie/religion/people/academicstaff. Postgraduate research students can register in September or March of the academic year.

Career Opportunities
Our graduates find employment in a wide range of careers, such as: conflict resolution and mediation, peacebuilding, human rights, international development, NGOs and the non-profit sector, advocacy and activism, the public sector and government, diplomacy, the United Nations and international organisations, research, teaching, journalism, academia and law.

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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