

MSc Human Rights and Peacebuilding



**INCORE, School of English, History & Politics
and Transitional Justice Institute**

MSc Human Rights and Peacebuilding

The MSc in Human Rights and Peacebuilding is a multidisciplinary course being offered by the following institutions: the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) in conjunction with the School of Law, INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), and the School of English, History and Politics.

The Transitional Justice Institute in Northern Ireland is one of the leading institutes globally in this area. INCORE and the staff associated with the School of English, History and Politics have international reputations in the area of peacebuilding, and a long history of engaging with the conflict and peace process in Northern Ireland in comparative context. Together, they are uniquely placed to deliver an effective and stimulating programme of study in this area.

Unique Selling Points

This programme has been developed to enable students to:

- Gain an in-depth knowledge of the theoretical and practical application of peacebuilding and related areas of human rights and humanitarian law
- Gain unique insights into the legal protection of rights in transitional contexts, while studying in a society currently in a process of transition
- Understand the particular peacebuilding and human rights issues in conflicted and transitional societies and understand the basic tenets and controversies involved in the concept of 'peacebuilding'
- Take advantage of the opportunities to specialise in identified areas e.g. human rights, transitional justice, peace and conflict research in divided societies
- Develop skills highly relevant to legal practice, and to policy, research and advocacy roles in the voluntary, public and private sectors in the UK, Ireland and beyond. Successful completion may also open up a range of further study and research options
- Gain knowledge and skills in carrying out research projects from design to write-up and enhance skills in critically appraising published and commissioned research
- Apply for internship opportunities with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Disability Action, and the Law Centre (NI)
- To be taught by active researchers, some of which have received international recognition for their research
- Avail of a flexibly delivered course with a range of optional modules (see below)

Programme and Module Content

MSc students must study the following compulsory modules:

Foundations of Transitional Justice (30 credit points): This module aims to provide students with an in-depth analysis of the emerging field of 'transitional justice'. Students will relate the dilemmas of societies in transition from violent conflict and/or authoritarian regimes to the imperatives of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. There will also be an opportunity to apply that legal and structural knowledge to contemporary situations of armed conflict and transition.

Peacebuilding in Divided Societies (30 credit points): The module aims to give students, through an analysis of the theory and practice of peacebuilding, a thorough grounding of the academic field of peacebuilding and the different approaches and interventions employed within it.

Dissertation (60 credit points): The completion of a 15,000 word dissertation provides students with an opportunity to further pursue their own research interests, and to produce an original and theoretically-informed piece of work of publishable standard. As part of the module students will undertake a short research methods course, to assist their planning, research, and writing. The thesis must relate to issues studied in at least one of the taught modules.

PLUS 60 points must be drawn from the following modules (30 points in each semester)

Semester 1:

Peace and Conflict Research (30 credit points): This module is an advanced introduction to peace and conflict research. It will examine a number of key concepts, debates and arguments in this field of study including how to define violence, different methodological approaches, the contributions of different peace traditions, and the causes, dynamics, resolution and transformation of destructive violence, including strategies of peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding.

The Northern Ireland Conflict (30 credit points): This thematic module is an advanced introduction to the Northern Ireland conflict. It places the conflict in its endogenous and exogenous context and examines it as a case study in the life cycle of an intractable conflict. It places particular emphasis on the nature of political violence; and it examines the role of different agencies in their approach to controlling and/or resolving conflict.

Semester 2:

Gender and Political Transition (15 credit points): This module provides an introduction to the interplay between human rights, humanitarian law and feminist theory. It explores the gendered experiences of women in times of conflict, emphasising in particular the harms which women may experience and accountability for sex based violations. The module follows through with an exploration of the role and visibility of women in the contexts of peace-making, peace-enforcement and transition.

Policing and Human Rights (15 credit points): Policing is a key interface between State and population. How law seeks to impact on and regulate this area is therefore highly significant. This module traces, both domestically (at the community and national levels) and internationally, the actual and potential impact of human rights norms as regards policing provision. Using case studies developed from the research activity of staff members, it allows students to gain practical and theoretical insights into the significance of human rights standards in this area.

Memory, Transition and Conflict (15 credit points): This module will enable students to acquire the inter-disciplinary knowledge and skills necessary to master the specialised areas of truth recovery, the social memory of political violence, and dealing with the past (conflict resolution) in post-conflict societies. Students will be encouraged to develop an in-depth and critical understanding of marginalised discourses in transitional societies, and to examine how processes of managing memory can influence the formation of human rights norms.

Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (15 credit points): This module presents a new area in human rights law – the relationship of human rights to conflict resolution. The module deals with the structuring of peace processes, and the human rights issues raised. It also seeks to introduce students to mediation skills.

Transitions from Conflict: Law and Politics (15 credit points): This module examines the process of transition from conflict, and the role of law in that process. The module provides cutting-edge and practical analysis of self-determination law, transitional justice and the roles of third parties (including UN peacekeeping).

International Criminal Justice (15 points): This module will introduce students to the law and politics of the contemporary international criminal justice regime. In addition to gaining a firm grasp of international criminal law, students will be introduced to debates surrounding the impact of international prosecutions upon societies in transition and societies

confronting mass atrocity. Through a reflection upon the origins of the contemporary international criminal justice regime, students will gain a critical understanding of the post-cold war international criminal tribunal system. Students will be introduced to the United Nations Security Council ad hoc tribunals and the International Criminal Court. Key differences between the UNSC ad hoc tribunals and the ICC will be addressed. Moreover, students will be presented with challenges facing international criminal courts, in particular the struggle for state cooperation. Through engagement with contemporary issues and controversies facing international criminal justice bodies, students will be able to apply theoretical and normative debates to questions surrounding the practice of international criminal justice.

Please note that not all modules listed here will be offered in every academic year. Applicants are advised to check, prior to application, if modules of particular interest are likely to be offered in that academic year.

Mode Of Attendance

Full time - 3 semesters (1 year)

Part-time - 6 semesters (2-3 years)

Registration: The programme will begin in September of each academic year.

Full-Time And Part-Time Students

The compulsory modules must be studied in Semester 1 and Semester 2 of each year. Full-time students study the two compulsory modules in Semester 1 and 2, one optional module in Semester 1, and two optional half modules in Semester 2. Part-time students study one compulsory module in Semester 1 and one compulsory module in Semester 2, of year one, and one optional module in Semester 1 year two, and two optional half modules in Semester 2 of year two. The dissertation module is undertaken after successful completion of the other modules. As part of the dissertation module students will undertake a short research methods course, to assist their planning, research, and writing.

Teaching Arrangements

The programme is taught through a combination of weekly classes (3 hours / 4 hours each), and day-long block classes (9.15am to 5.15pm). Students on the MSc programme are also strongly encouraged to attend and participate in other events run by the TJI, INCORE and the School of English, History and Politics, including seminars and conferences. Note that enrolment on the MSc programme on a full-time basis requires a time commitment equivalent to an average full-time working week. Consequently, those in full-time employment are strongly advised to take the part-time route.

Internships

MSc students may apply for four prestigious internships. These are with INCORE, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Law Centre (NI) and Disability Action. The internships last for a period of 10 weeks with up to one student per semester being selected following a competitive application process. The internships may run from October to December, March to June and over the Summer months.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must:

(a) have gained:

- (i) A second class honours degree or higher in a cognate discipline from a University of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, from the Council for National Academic Awards, the National Council for Educational Awards, the Higher Education and Training Awards Council or from an

institution of another country which is recognised as being of an equivalent standard,

OR

- (ii) An equivalent standard (normally 50%) achieved through a primary third-level degree in another discipline in combination with either (a) a relevant post-graduate degree or diploma, or (b) relevant and demonstrable experience in human rights law, legal advocacy and/or peace and conflict studies.

AND

- (b) provide evidence of competence in written and spoken English (GCSE grade C or equivalent);

OR as an alternative to (a)(i) or (a)(ii), and/or (b):

- (c) in exceptional circumstances, where an individual has substantial and significant experiential learning, provide a portfolio of written evidence demonstrating the meeting of graduate qualities (including subject-specific outcomes), as determined by the Programme Committee. Evidence used to demonstrate graduate qualities may not be used for exemption against modules within the programme. This will follow the University's GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND POLICY FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING. These principles state that for Postgraduate Admissions:

The principle of admission to postgraduate programmes is based on the premise that students shall hold a degree or equivalent qualification. In exceptional circumstances, where an individual has substantial and significant experiential learning, a portfolio of written evidence demonstrating the meeting of graduate qualities (including subject specific outcomes, specified by Subject/Course Committees) may be considered as an alternative entrance route. Evidence used to demonstrate graduate qualities may not be used for exemption against modules within the programme.

Applicants whose first language is not English should also have obtained:

- a minimum score in IELTS test of 6.0, or
- a minimum score in TOEFL test of 550 (or the equivalent in the computer-based test which is 240). For further information see: http://international.ulster.ac.uk/FAQ/FAQ_Eng_lang_reqs.html

Applications

The online application system can be accessed via

<http://prospectus.ulster.ac.uk/>

Applications should ordinarily be received before the last Friday in June, although consideration may be given to applications received after this date.

Scholarships and Fees

A small number of scholarships (in the form of a fee reduction) may be available to highly qualified or meritorious international students.

For further information on tuition and other fees, visit

<http://www.ulster.ac.uk/finance/fees/>

International Students

Further information for international students is available at:

<http://international.ulster.ac.uk>

Further Information

For further information on the Transitional Justice Institute, The School of English, History and Politics, or the MSc in Human Rights and Peacebuilding, please see

<http://www.transitionaljustice.ulster.ac.uk/>,
www.incore.ulst.ac.uk, or contact:

Ms Emer Carlin

Secretary

Transitional Justice Institute

Tel: + 44 (0) 28 7167 5146

Email: MSc-hr-peacebuilding@ulster.ac.uk

About INCORE

Established in 1993, INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), based at the University of Ulster, is an associate site of the United Nations University. Combining research, education and comparative analysis, INCORE addresses the causes and consequences of conflict in Northern Ireland and internationally and promotes conflict management and peacebuilding strategies. It aims to influence policymakers and practitioners involved in peace, conflict and reconciliation issues while enhancing the nature of international conflict research. INCORE offers a unique blend of theoretical expertise and practical experience in building peace.

INCORE is located within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ulster and coordinates the varied peace and conflict-related activity across the University – encompassing work in disciplines such as politics, policy studies, history, international affairs, sociology, geography, architecture, communications and social work, as well as in peace and conflict studies.

INCORE works in partnership with a variety of institutions and organizations – locally and internationally. Partner organizations include community groups and civil society organizations in Northern Ireland, peace and conflict-oriented NGOs and think-tanks in Northern Ireland and internationally, government bodies and academic institutions around the world.

www.incore.ulster.ac.uk

About the School of English, History and Politics

The School of English, History and Politics has offered a Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Peace and Conflict Studies since 1987. To date it has attracted students from over 25 countries. They are attracted not just by the international reputation of the programme but also by the opportunity to study at first hand a society coming out of violent conflict.

Staff in the School most directly involved in the this programme have research interests in the dynamics and transformation of violent conflict, the history and politics of the Northern Ireland conflict/peace process, UN peacekeeping, global violence against civilians and US foreign policy. For the past three years the programme has been part of an EU-Canada student mobility programme in the field of peace and conflict research.

About the Transitional Justice Institute

The Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) has rapidly become internationally recognized as a leading centre in developing the field of transitional justice – broadly, the study of law in societies emerging from conflict. It has placed research emanating from Northern Ireland at the forefront of both local and global academic, legal and policy debates. Ground-breaking research on the ‘war on terror’ and the role of peace agreements, for example, received recognition in 2006 from the American Society of International Law: TJI scholars were awarded the top book and article prize for creative and outstanding contributions to international legal scholarship – an unprecedented achievement for a non-US research unit. The TJI was also recognized as one of the leading law research units in the UK, with Ulster ranking 13th out of 67 law units in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The TJI attracts international scholars and policy makers from all over the world. The TJI has played a key role in taking legal research in Northern Ireland to the centre of international stages. As such it constitutes an important resource for LL.M students and PhD researchers. The Institute is led by a Directorate comprising: Professor Christine Bell, Professor Colm Campbell and Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin. The Transitional Justice Institute is affiliated to the Association of Human Rights Institutes.

www.transitionaljustice.ulster.ac.uk



Magee Campus

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This leaflet is prepared in advance of the academic year to which it relates. The University of Ulster offers the information contained in it as a guide only. While we make every effort to check the accuracy of the factual content at the time of drafting, some changes will inevitably have occurred in the interval between publication and commencement of the relevant academic year. We reserve the right to make changes to programmes when such action is reasonably considered to be necessary in the context of our wider purposes.