

# Study peace and conflict studies in the UK

## Where can I study peace and conflict studies?

Peace and conflict studies is typically offered as a postgraduate degree. There are over 50 Masters of Arts (MA) or Masters of Science (MSc) courses to choose from at 25 universities.<sup>1</sup> We also have some of the world's most respected schools for development studies. In fact, all the top five institutions to study peace and conflict studies are in the UK – University of Sussex (first), University of Oxford (second), SOAS University of London and London School of Economics and Political Science (joint third), and University of Cambridge (fifth).<sup>2</sup>

## What is the application process?

To study peace and conflict studies you need to have a good first or upper second class (2:1) honours degree. Practical work experience or studies in social sciences or politics can be an advantage. You'll also need strong English language skills – most universities require an overall IELTS score of 6, with no element below 5.5.

## How long does it take to graduate?

Peace and conflict studies programmes in the UK are typically offered as one-year master's degrees, with part-time alternatives extending over a longer period. Some institutions also allow you to combine study with practical experience or field-based research.

## What is the course structure?

Programmes are structured around a blend of theory, research, and applied practice. You'll usually take a mix of required modules and electives, attend seminars and lectures, and complete an independent research project or thesis. Many courses include real-world engagement through collaborations with international NGOs, peacebuilding agencies, or governmental bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> [UCAS, 2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

## What will I study?

You'll examine the root causes and dynamics of conflict, as well as frameworks for sustainable peace. Topics may include conflict prevention, peace negotiation, reconciliation processes, and post-war recovery. Some courses allow for exploration of niche areas such as indigenous conflict resolution, counterterrorism, or conflict-sensitive development. Emphasis is placed on ethical reasoning, strategic thinking, and global policy awareness.

## Why is the UK a good choice to study peace and conflict studies?

The UK's diverse society, global connections and academic strengths make it a strong choice for studying peace and conflict. Our universities are globally recognised for development studies. And you'll be studying in an inclusive, progressive environment where the perspective of international students is highly valued.

The UK has a long history on the global stage, and is a respected voice on key global challenges. We are one of the biggest contributors to the United Nations peacekeeping budget,<sup>3</sup> and home to renowned charities like Oxfam and Amnesty International. Many universities have strong connections with NGOs and offer work placements, so you'll gain real-world skills and make valuable connections to launch your career.

## Are there any scholarships for studying peace and conflict studies?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study peace and conflict studies in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding) and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

## What are my work options after I graduate?

If you want to contribute to meaningful global change, peace and conflict studies provide a gateway into a range of international careers – and a UK degree provides an excellent foundation for starting an international career.

Many peace and conflict studies graduates find roles in NGOs, international institutions and national governments, working as diplomats, policy analysts and humanitarian aid workers. The transferable skills you gain on these academically rigorous courses also open the door to careers in any number of public sector roles, journalism or even development banking.

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate,

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<sup>3</sup> [UK Parliament, 2025](#)

master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

To find out more about studying peace and conflict studies in the UK and to find a course, visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org)

