Master of Advanced Studies (MAS)

Peace & Conflict Transformation

swisspeace

UNIBASEL
CAS Civilian Peacebuilding
Civilian peacebuilding is a necessary cornerstone of any efforts to transform violent conflict and build sustainable peace. This course enables participants to reflect critically on peacebuilding practices, linking theoretical and conceptual inputs with their work activities; acquire peacebuilding skills and tools; and benefit from a wide network of peacebuilding professionals. The course provides an introduction into key topics such as: peacebuilding analysis & impact; peacebuilding & statebuilding; gender in conflict & peacebuilding; peace mediation; dealing with the past; business, conflict & peacebuilding.
**Sept-Aug, 25 days on-site, 20 ECTS**

CAS Peacebuilding Methodologies
To work effectively in contexts prone to violent conflict, a specific skillset is required, including high adaptability to rapidly changing environments. This course is composed of methodological KOFF trainings on topics such as conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity, project cycle management, peacebuilding evaluation, human rights & conflict transformation and personal competencies.
**Sept-Aug, 15 days on-site, 10 ECTS**

CAS National Dialogue & Peace Mediation
National dialogues are a promising approach to addressing the causes of violent, political conflicts in an inclusive manner. They can be set up before, during or after peace negotiations and serve to provide a space to discuss issues and build trust among different stakeholders. This course, run by swisspeace in cooperation with the Berghof Foundation, considers how to plan, support and implement national dialogues and the lessons that can be drawn from previous cases.
**Jan, 10 days on-site, 10 ECTS**

CAS Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding
Least likely to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and particularly prone to violent conflict, fragile states have become an issue of international concern. This course reviews and critically discusses foundations of states and the construction of social and political legitimacy; concepts and definitions of state fragility; and the links between violent conflict, fragility and statebuilding. It explores the international policy response to fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and the methodologies actors can adopt to work successfully in such environments.
**March, 10 days on-site, 10 ECTS**

CAS Dealing with the Past
Finding a way to deal with a violent past following events such as civil war, the end of an authoritarian regime or occupation, is often argued to be the basis for lasting peace, democracy and rule of law. Extensive international advocacy networks, norms and legal frameworks support national and local actors in the design of mechanisms/processes like truth commissions, tribunals or commemorations. This course focuses on the potentials and challenges of designing a dealing with the past process and the ways in which actors can work together to ensure effective policy decision-making.
**May, 7 days on-site, 10 ECTS**
Business, Conflict & Peace
The roles businesses play in conflict-affected contexts are complex. While some companies are accused of committing human rights violations and exacerbating conflicts, others are commended for advocating a peaceful resolution to conflict or actively engaging in international peace initiatives. This course provides insights into international policies and multi-stakeholder initiatives on the role of business in peacebuilding and human rights; theoretical and empirical reflections on how businesses can promote peace but risk exacerbating conflict; and an overview of how states, civil society and private sector actors can support the development of companies’ due diligence processes.
Oct, 5 days on-site, 5 ECTS

Conflict Prevention & Early Warning
Since UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali issued his Agenda for Peace in 1992, the prevention of violent conflict and the early detection of tensions has been a core topic in the international peacebuilding discourse. Although the international community acknowledges its moral obligation to prevent violent conflicts and gross human rights violations and that from a cost-benefit perspective investing in prevention makes much more sense than providing cure in the aftermath of war, conflict prevention remains in its infancy. This course provides a synopsis of key academic findings, current conflict prevention efforts and possible avenues to enhance conflict prevention and early warning.
Nov, 5 days on-site, 5 ECTS

Gender Equality & Peacebuilding
Conflict has a profound impact on gender relations and contests accepted gender roles, providing space for transformative action for gender equality in post-conflict reconstruction. This course critically reflects on concepts and methodologies for understanding gender dimensions of conflict and their relevance in peacebuilding, as well as the impact of peacebuilding on gender relations. Key issues for post-conflict transformation of gender relations in economic, social, legal and political spheres will be discussed, as well as the role of women’s agency, women’s rights, masculinities and the implication of gender stereotypes in conflict and peacebuilding.
April, 5 days on-site, 5 ECTS

Summer School
The Summer School provides the space for in-depth discussion and analysis of peace and conflict theories, the international legal framework, institutional peacebuilding architecture and prevailing policies and debates. In addition, highly topical conflict cases and peacebuilding processes will be explored.
June, 7 days on-site, 5 ECTS
MAS Program Methodology
MAS participants are required to complete all components of the framework and a selected number of other courses to bring their credit total to 60 ECTS. All modules are composed of online assignments and on-site training.

Target Audience
This postgraduate program is designed for practitioners and academics interested in bridging their own experiences with current academic insights and practical knowledge in Peace & Conflict Transformation. A minimum of two years of professional experience in a relevant field and a university degree, or an equivalent educational background, are required.

Faculty
Leading international scholars and experienced practitioners facilitate this program. Visit the Academy’s website for the current faculty list.

Dates and Venue
MAS modules run from September to August. Participants can join the MAS at any time of the year by signing on to one of the courses. They can register for the MAS from the start of their studies or transfer to the full MAS program after having finished one or more courses. The MAS can be completed within one year, or taken over several years. The registration deadline for all modules is the last day of the month two months prior to the start of the course.

On-site phases of courses take place at the swisspeace Academy in Basel, Switzerland.

Degree
Successful participants are awarded a Master of Advanced Studies in Peace & Conflict Transformation Diploma (60 ECTS) offered by swisspeace and the University of Basel. Non-MAS participants receive a Certificate of Advanced Studies on completion of individual CAS courses, and a Confirmation of Participation for other courses.

Contact
Please visit academy.swisspeace.ch or contact mas@swisspeace.ch for more information.

Host
swisspeace, a practice-oriented peace research institute, strives to build civilian peacebuilding capacities of Swiss and international actors by conducting research on violent conflicts and their peaceful transformation, offering training, consultancies and space for exchange of experiences.

MAS Peace & Conflict Transformation
The MAS framework connects individual modules (courses) by providing practice-oriented peacebuilding skills and academic knowledge that enhance participants’ learning outcomes. The framework is made up of five components:

- Introductory course in peace and conflict theories, the international legal framework, institutional peacebuilding architecture and prevailing policies and debates (online)
- Academic writing course (online)
- Peacebuilding methodologies training (on-site)
- Summer school (on-site)
- Concluding module in the form of a thesis or a project proposal
The MAS in Peace & Conflict Transformation provides a holistic understanding of civilian peacebuilding aimed at transforming violent conflict by peaceful means, promoting peace, rebuilding societies affected by war and preventing violence from re-erupting. This postgraduate MAS program bridges current academic findings with the latest insights from peacebuilding practice. The modular program structure, consisting of elective courses embedded in a common framework, permits participants to specialize in topics of their choice and complete the modules within an individually tailored timeframe. All MAS courses are composed of online assignments and on-site training. Individual modules can be taken as stand-alone courses by non-MAS participants.