



MA in Peace & Conflict Management

Faculty of Social Sciences



Welcome to the University of Haifa

Situated at the top of the Carmel Mountain, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Galilee, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies.



One of Israel's leading research universities, the University of Haifa is known for faculty expertise in the fields of coexistence, conflict management and peace processes, and is a center for research in these disciplines in Israel.

An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the University of Haifa is a microcosm of Israeli society, with a diverse population of 18,000 students made up of secular and religious Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and native Israelis and a growing number of students from around the world. We invite you to become one of them.

The Faculty of Social Sciences, in cooperation with the International School at the University of Haifa, launched the International Master's Program in Peace and Conflict Management in 2011. The program has welcomed diverse students from more than 20 countries including Austria, Belgium, Ghana, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The City of Haifa

Due to its special history and location, Israel is a unique place to study conflicts and their sources, as well as diverse and intriguing methods and strategies to manage and resolve them. This is particularly true for the city of Haifa. With a pluralistic, ethnically and religiously diverse population, Haifa provides the perfect backdrop for students from around the globe to come together to learn about conflict and peacemaking.

The Christian and Muslim communities of Haifa, and the neighboring Druze villages of Isfiya and Daliat el-Carmel, are important components of the city's social and cultural development. The Jewish communities from Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, North and South America, Ethiopia, India and the new immigrants from countries formerly part of the Soviet Union, have also contributed greatly to the city's cultural life, creating a modern Mediterranean city that is truly special.

While Haifa - as an Israeli and Middle Eastern city - is obviously not exempt from regional conflicts and their effects, it is widely considered to be a successful example of peaceful coexistence in Israel where diverse communities live and work together harmoniously.



The Program

As a deeply divided society and a country in protracted conflict with other countries in the region, Israel is a unique environment for a program whose goal is to enable students to understand how conflicts unfold from a grassroots level and move up through the halls of government to the international community. Israel supplies excellent field study opportunities that allow students to see how attempts to manage conflicts and promote coexistence, mutual understanding and peace processes actually develop and take root.

The International Master's Program in Peace and Conflict Management, taught in English over three consecutive semesters from October until September, is a rigorous program of study that introduces the field of conflict management through both international and regional lenses. While special attention is given to the Arab-Israeli, Israeli-Palestinian and Iranian-Israeli conflicts, the program also presents conceptual, comparative and practical elements of conflict management from different parts of the world.

The interdisciplinary program is based primarily on theoretical and practical frameworks in the fields of international relations, psychology, political science, communications, history, law and philosophy. These perspectives enrich the students' understanding of conflicts within and among societies, nations and states.



The unique program includes a mandatory practicum component to expose students to a range of initiatives taking place in the field.

Students wishing to pursue the thesis track need to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework, which may require remaining at the university for additional time after the program. Upon completion of the program, students are awarded a Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Management.

Program Structure and Scope

Program Objectives

- To provide students with an invaluable opportunity to learn about discord around the world, especially the specific conflicts within Israeli society and the Middle East;
- To endow students with theoretical knowledge and practical tools to deal with ethno-national conflicts and build peace;
- To provide students with field experience that will build skills, knowledge and unique perspectives, which can be applied to future careers.

Program Outline

The interdisciplinary program was created to give students a solid background of theoretical knowledge as well as hands-on field experience. It consists of the following main components:

- **Core and Elective Courses:** The sources, types and levels of conflicts and how they develop; peace processes and ways to foster them; and research methodology.
- **Practicum:** This core aspect of the program exposes students to organizations involved in the areas of peacemaking, conflict management, majority-minority relations, development, social justice and human rights.
- **Enrichment:** Academic tours, simulations, role playing and expert panel discussions.



Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program can find careers as activists and professionals in organizations focused on dispute resolution, human and economic development, human rights, environmental protection and international law. Additional career paths can include mediation, negotiation, government, research and education.

Practicum

The practicum provides students with hands-on experience in organizations that are actively involved in aspects of peacemaking and conflict management. Two supervisors monitor the students throughout their practicum: an academic supervisor from the university and an on-site supervisor. Students are required to submit a report at the end of the semester analyzing their practicum experience.

For their practicum, students can choose from various grassroots and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In the past, students have worked at the Association for Community Development Acre (acd-acre.org), Kav LaOved - Worker's Hotline (kavlaoved.org.il), Windows: Channels for Communication (win-peace.org), the Mossawa Center (mossawacenter.org), Shatil (shatil.org.il/english), Sikkuy (sikkuy.org.il/english/home.html), Yala Young Leaders (yalayoungleaders.org) and Mitvim-The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies (mitvim.org.il/en). The specific organizations vary from year to year depending on the availability of projects and placements.

For the most current information about practicum guidelines, procedures and participating organizations, please visit the program website (<http://peace-and-conflict-studies.haifa.ac.il>).



Enrichment

Students also gain exposure to NGOs through field trips. Field trips provide students with a first-hand encounter with the reality of government agencies and NGOs that are involved with conflict management issues on a daily basis. These trips are intended to stimulate ideas for further research and study. Simulations of decision making, negotiations and conflict management, academic conferences, guest lectures and expert panel discussions enhance the courses.

Study Tracks

Track A* involves preparation of a research thesis and consists of 28 credits, including four core courses, three elective courses, two seminar papers and one final paper based on the practicum.

A thesis, which is normally completed in the year following the completion of coursework, is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies in Israel. A master's thesis is an independent research project and the pace of progress depends largely on the student's efforts. Students who complete their thesis later than one semester after the completion of their coursework may be expected to pay an additional fee as detailed by the Graduate Studies Authority.

Track B consists of 36 credits (without a thesis), including four core courses, five elective courses, three seminar papers and a graduation project.

Exceptional students may want to take advantage of the International School's Hebrew and/or Arabic courses, although it is not required and is not included in the tuition. Intensive language courses are offered during the summer (July and August) and throughout the course of the semester. Please see the International School website for more details (www.uhaifa.org).



*The ability to pursue the thesis track is dependent on the student's ability to find an appropriate advisor.

Curriculum*

Track A and B Core Courses	Credits
Paths to Peace: Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation	4
Practicum	4
Research Methods in Peace and Conflict Studies	4
Theories and Issues in Intergroup Conflict: A Multidisciplinary Perspective	4
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Elective Courses	Credits
Conflict and Its Resolution at the Community Level	4
Geopolitics of the Middle East	4
Intervention in International Crises: Motivations, Procedures, Results and Implications	4
Leadership and Conflict Management: Cross-Fertilization	4
Multi-Track Diplomacy: Transforming Violent Conflict	4
Peacekeeping Operations: A New Tool for World Order?	4
Social Psychology of Intergroup Conflicts and Their Resolution	4
The Law and Ethics of War	4
The Media in Peace and Conflict Management: Seminar	4
The Theory and Practice of International Conflicts, Their Management and Resolution	4
The UN Model	4
Types and Management of Collective Identities in Diverse Societies	4

*The curriculum is subject to change without notice. Elective courses change from year to year and are not guaranteed to be offered every year. Please see program website for the most up-to-date curriculum.

Course Descriptions*

Paths to Peace: Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

This core course surveys various approaches to dealing with intergroup conflicts: preventing escalation, minimizing harmful consequences, ending violence, improving intergroup relations and building stable peace. Students survey the works of scholars from different disciplines on each of these topics in order to become familiar with different perspectives and arrive at an integrative understanding. This course also discusses real-world cases in which different approaches to dealing with conflict have been implemented with varying degrees of success.

Theories and Issues in Intergroup Conflict: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

This is a core course intended to lay the foundations for studying intergroup conflicts on different levels. It surveys different approaches and also compares, contrasts and relates them to each other in an attempt to arrive at an integrative understanding of the issues at hand. Examples from actual cases of intergroup conflicts in various regions of the world are used.

Intervention in International Crises: Motivations, Procedures, Results and Implications

Why do great powers intervene in some conflicts and remain aloof on others? Are great power interventions successful? What are the long-term lessons they take from past interventions and non-interventions? This course examines these and related questions associated with great power military and non-military intervention in crises, conflicts and disputes. The analysis involves the use of a variety of theoretical explanations from the field of international relations. This course concentrates on Western interventions in the post-World War II era, and more specifically, on the experience of the United States. A special emphasis is placed on the rise and decline of humanitarian intervention in the unipolar system, asking whether or not a norm of intervention was established and the impact of the decline of the American hegemony.

*For all course descriptions, please refer to the website.

The Law and Ethics of War

Throughout history, the international community has regulated the violence of warfare through law and ethics. Ethical concern for the rights of combatants and the protection of non-combatants has led to an array of legal instruments, treaties and conventions. In this course we examine legal and ethical restraints on warfare beginning with the earliest modern codes of the 19th century and through recent developments in the wake of asymmetric conflict. Topics include the lawful ends of war, such as self-defense and humanitarian intervention; the principles governing the lawful prosecution of war, such as military necessity, neutrality, humane treatment and noncombatant immunity; and select applications, such as asymmetric warfare and interrogation. Readings include legal and philosophical texts drawn from the law of armed conflict, international humanitarian law and just war theory.

The Media in Peace and Conflict Management: Seminar

This seminar provides a critical and historical focus on the diverse roles of the media in its coverage of conflicts on the international and local level, as well as a strong theoretical foundation. Discussions consider the theories and debates about both how media influences conflict and how the media is affected by armed conflict. The ways in which responsible journalists and media can help prevent the outbreak and escalation of conflict, encourage the pursuit of diplomacy and contribute to the building of peaceful societies will be part of the discussion.



Admission Requirements & Prerequisites

General Admission Requirements

- Accredited BA degree in relevant fields, diploma and transcript
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 80% or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test); 230 (computer-based test) or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two recommendations from relevant academic faculty members
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Statement of Intent/Personal Essay (500-750 words)
- Medical forms
- Work experience in an organization for human rights, coexistence or peace (preferred, not required)

Academic Prerequisites

Students who have not taken introductory courses in the social sciences during their undergraduate degree will need to successfully complete two courses before being accepted to the program:

- Introductory course in either psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science or international relations
- Introductory course in methodology (research methods, statistics) in a social science discipline

Under certain exceptional circumstances, the review committee may be willing to consider applicants who do not meet the minimal admissions requirements. See program website for additional details (<http://peace-and-conflict-studies.haifa.ac.il>).



General Information



Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see program website for current tuition and fees. There are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a list of scholarship options please see the program website.

Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the program website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications once the complete application file is received.

Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for student's use. Refer to the program website for more details.

Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes international students to the full range of events and activities taking place throughout the academic year. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze and Bedouin.

Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.

Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to experience Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.



Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.



For additional information:

<http://peace-and-conflict-studies.haifa.ac.il>

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