

## QUALIFICATION AIMS & CONTENT

### EUROPEAN PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES

#### Module 1: The European Integration Process as a Way to Peace in Europe

**Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to convey to the students – in the framework of an introduction – basic and sound knowledge of the European integration process and the development of the European Union. Students shall be enabled to analyse current developments of the European integration process in a theoretically well-founded manner and to reflect on the meaning of European integration for peace in Europe.

**Content:**

The courses of this module are dedicated to the European integration process. It is first be dealt with from a peace policy perspective by focusing on peace theories and their reflection in European integration. From a perspective of the history of ideas and starting from the idea of Europe the historic stages of the European integration process are analysed and the developments up to the European Union are retraced. Different theoretical approaches on European integration are highlighted and the perspectives of Europe discussed.

#### Module 2: Governance and Policy Making in the EU

**Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to impart to the students basic and sound knowledge of the European Union as the dominant actor in Europe, starting from the development of the European integration process (module 1). Students shall be enabled to comprehend and analyse the political system of the EU and its actors as well as the complexity of decision processes in the multi-level system and find solutions for emerging problems.

**Content:**

The courses in this module are dedicated to the political system of the EU, its institutions and actors. Thereby, the EU is viewed and analysed as a multi-level system. Using the example of different policy-fields – policy formulation and implementation - it will be exemplified how the steering mechanisms within the European Union operate and which actors influence and steer them in a decisive way. In this context, the dynamic area between the supranational and intergovernmental focus of the EU is dealt with.

### **Module 3: Social Science Methodology**

#### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of the module is to convey to the students well-founded methodological and empirical knowledge which shall enable them to develop and work on problems and research questions independently. Students shall gain the ability to develop research concepts and implement them by using the appropriate method.

#### **Content:**

The courses in this module give an overview of basic social science methodology. Starting with introductory questions on research work, different data collection, data preparation and data evaluation methods are presented. Quantitative research techniques (multivariate analyses) and qualitative research techniques, e.g. content analysis, discourse analysis and comparative case studies, are treated and practiced. In this context, the advantages and disadvantages of each methodological approach are presented and discussed.

### **Module 4: Europe in the International System**

#### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to convey to the students sound knowledge on the theory and empiricism of the international system and define the role of the European Union – especially also in view of peace policy aspects – in the global context. Students shall be enabled to analyse the conditions for inter-state cooperation in a reflected manner. They shall classify current problems regarding the international system and draw appropriate conclusions on European acting.

#### **Content:**

The courses in this module deal with the international system and the role of the European Union within it. International organisations and regimes and their implications for peace are considered and the interaction between them as well as their conditions are analysed. Furthermore, the legal framework of international co-operation – the relationship of Europe and international law – as well as the relationship and dynamic areas of Europeanisation and Globalisation will be discussed. Moreover, this module deals with the external relations of the EU and analyses – against the background of the international integration of Europe - the Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy of the EU.

## **Module 5: The EU – Peace Power Europe?**

### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to show students – starting from the reflection on the European Union in the international system (module 4) – the peace and security policy dimension of the EU and its responsibility for world peace. Students shall acquire basic and sound knowledge about the changed security policy constellations. They shall be enabled to analyse structures and changes of international peace and security policy in a theoretically reflected way. In doing this, they shall classify current problems and develop solutions with regard to Europe.

### **Content:**

Starting from the theoretical consideration of concepts of peace and civil power the courses in this module are dedicated to the current security policy challenges and the peace and security policy strategies of the European Union. On the one hand, the security strategies of the EU will be analysed in comparison to NATO and the USA, and on the other hand, the peace and security architecture and the role of the EU in concert with the Council of Europe and the OSCE are dealt with.

## **Module 6: The EU and Global Markets**

### **Qualification Aim:**

The aim of this module is to show students – starting from the examination of Europe within the international system (module 4) – the economic dimension of international co-operation. Students shall obtain basic and sound knowledge about the actors and organizations in Europe that act economically as well as about their economic linkage. Students shall be enabled to comprehend the economic aspects and problems of Europe in the context of global markets and to analyse them.

### **Content:**

The courses in this module deal with the economic position of the European Union in the context of global markets. Actors, structures, approaches and processes of international economic, trade, monetary and fiscal policy will be focused and will be reflected theoretically and empirically with regard to Europe. In this context, the relationship and the relations of the European Union to developing countries as well as to the so-called emerging markets will be analysed.

## **Module 7: European History, Society and Civilisation**

### **Qualification Aims:**

The target of this module is to describe and scientifically explain questions and aspects of the coalescence of Europe against the background of European history, society and civilization and its underlying ideas. Students shall be enabled to come to a deep understanding of the factors that formed European civilization. In doing this, they shall learn to identify problems, put them in larger context and develop adequate solutions.

### **Content:**

The courses in this module deal with European history, society and civilization. Starting from the idea and practice of European civilization its forming elements shall be examined. This includes inter alia the social structure of Europe and the political culture, i.e. the basic values, beliefs and attitudes of citizens. Against this background questions are posed with regard to origin and formation of a European identity. In this context, the specific role of religion with regard to European civilization and to the formation of a European identity shall be highlighted.

## **Module 8: Transformation and Democratisation Processes in Central, East and South Eastern Europe**

### **Qualification Aims:**

The aim of this module is to impart to the students well-founded theoretical and empirical knowledge on political transformation and democratisation processes in Central, East and South Eastern Europe. They shall be enabled to analyse - in a methodologically well-founded and theoretically reflected way - the relevant factors, actors, structures and processes of transformation and democratisation by taking into consideration region specific contexts. By doing this, they shall be sensitized to the current challenges of the European Union at its Eastern and South Eastern periphery.

### **Content:**

In the courses of this module transformation and democratisation processes in selected states in Central, East and South Eastern Europe shall be analysed theoretically and examined empirically. In doing this and as an explanation for the political, economic and social change important theoretical approaches of transformation research and various transformation paths are presented, empirically reviewed and discussed. This module also deals with the democratisation processes in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Basic theories of democracy are presented and supplemented with various approaches and indices of empiric democracy research. Moreover, the role of elites and civil society is discussed.

## Module 9: Regional Conflict Studies

### Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is to sensitize students – starting from questions regarding the coalescence of Europe (module 7 and 8) and conflict resolution within the EU – to current peace and security policy challenges of the European Union at its Eastern and South Eastern periphery. Students shall learn to analyse regional trouble spots in this region, put them into broader context and develop adequate solutions.

### Content:

Starting from conflicts and solved conflicts within the EU the courses in this module are dedicated to regional crises and conflicts at the Eastern and South Eastern periphery of the European Union. This includes inter alia the conflicts in the Caucasus, in the Balkans, in Cyprus, in the Middle East and in the Maghreb. Especially the EU's activities in these regions as an actor working in crises and conflict shall be highlighted and peace policy potentials of the European Union shall be critically reflected and analysed by using these concrete examples.

## Module 10: Research Project

### Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is to enlarge the theoretic and methodological armamentarium which is required for independent development and treatment of problems and research questions from the area of peace and conflict studies by using a concrete research project. The following competencies shall be expanded:

- Knowledge on methodological and theoretically well-founded development of research questions and concepts
- Ability to develop and implement research designs using the appropriate methods
- Ability to prepare, present and defend the research results

### Content:

The research project fits in the framework of the MA study course in terms of content and deals with a current topic in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies, which students work on in a team. They shall apply methods of empirical social research, different techniques of data collection and analysis methods and find out about the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches in step with actual practice. The concrete topics of the research projects are geared towards the current research work of the lecturers. Each academic year new research projects are offered.

## Module 11: Internship

### Qualification Aim:

The aim of the internship is to allow students deeper insight in possible fields of occupation and activity. They shall become acquainted with the organization and method of operation as well as the requirements and problems in the various institutions. This includes inter alia occupational areas on national and international level in politics and public administration, in social organizations as well as in the intermediary sector like political parties, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in development cooperation or in conflict management. Students shall get the opportunity to apply the knowledge they gained. Furthermore, they shall develop and strengthen competencies like co-operation, communication and articulation, the ability of persuasion and the sensibility for problems in the workplace.

### Content:

The internship shall be subject-specific. Students shall experience concrete working conditions and requirements in a relevant occupational field of activity outside the university. In doing this, they shall learn to define and analyse problems and tasks in the workplace on the basis of their hitherto acquired qualifications as well as develop and realize solutions. In terms of content, the internship shall be in close connection with the focus of study of the student. Students have to prepare an internship report.

## Module 12: Final Module

### Qualification Aims:

The active participation in the seminar shall enable students to plan Peacebuilding projects and to implement and evaluate them according to scientific and practical criteria. With the Master Thesis students show their ability for independent research. They shall be in a position to comprehend a topic from the area of Peacebuilding in its width and depth, to present and analyse it, and to submit solutions. With the defence the student enters the scientific discourse which shows him/her the relativity of his/her own conviction and of the argumentation perceived as true. The Master Thesis and the defence complete the scientific qualification which the student has gained in the individual modules.

### Content:

The final module essentially consists of the Master Thesis, a colloquium as well as the defence. In terms of content, the Master Thesis fits in the framework of the modules. Concerning the topic, the Master Thesis can be linked to one of the modules, but it can also go beyond the boundaries of a module. The colloquium serves as a support for the Master Thesis. First research results are presented and discussed there. In terms of content, the defence is linked to the topic of the Master Thesis and serves as the rounding off of the impression gained through the Master Thesis.

## ADDITIONAL COURSES

### OR: Orientation Week

**Qualification Aims:**

The Orientation Week serves as an introduction to the study course.

**Content:**

The orientation week includes the following:

Introduction to the history of EPU and the Peace Center Schlaining Castle

Guided tour through the campus Schlaining (including Haus International)

Guided tour through the Peace Library and practical library research

Visit of the Peace Museum

Opening Ceremony with subsequent common dinner

Intercultural Competence (Presentation and Discussion)

Getting to know each other / Teambuilding I and II (Exercise/Game)

Introduction to the history of the region (presentation and discussion)

Presentation of countries by the students I and II

Lecture on a current topic in Peace Research (with subsequent discussion)

Lecture on a current topic on Europe (with subsequent discussion)

Introduction to the study course, study courses offered and the organisation of study

### EX: Excursion Week

**Qualification Aims:**

The excursion week shall visualize and deepen the content of teaching and education.

**Content:**

In the excursion week it is planned to visit regional, national or international institutions and organisations under scientific guidance and with scientific aim. This can include e.g. visits of the EU in Brussels, the OSCE and the United Nations in Vienna, or visits to embassies.

### SI: Simulation Game

**Qualification Aims:**

Simulation games include role plays and strategic games. They simulate a realistic environment in which the participants can apply their technical, their communicative and their strategic knowledge and test their own behaviour patterns. Participants take on the roles of political actors in order to learn to see a situation from different perspectives, to evaluate and optimise it.

**Content:**

Starting from a realistic conflict participants take on the roles of major (collective) political actors involved in this conflict and/or playing a major role with regard to conflict management. From their role perspective they pursue certain interests and aims with priority in the conflict. Depending on the development, the person in charge of the game will intervene in an escalating or de-escalating manner in order to present the participants with new tasks and force them to take decisions incessantly – just as it can be in professional life. Two kinds of games are offered: a game on international and diplomatic conflict management and a game on the level of local mediative conflict management.