

QUALIFICATION AIMS & CONTENT PEACEBUILDING

Module 1: Introduction to Peacebuilding

Qualification Aims:

The module aims at giving an introductory overview of approaches, actors, spheres of action and activities of Peacebuilding and its basic theoretical principles. This shall enable students to comprehend the diverse approaches, assumptions and interests used in peace missions and to implement them in the field.

Content:

This module gives an overview of Peacebuilding. Important terms in peace studies are presented and discussed, and conflicts and conflict forms are analysed. Starting from this, the various theories and approaches of Peacebuilding - including the cycle of crisis prevention, crisis intervention and crisis post-conflict reconstruction - will be in focus. Building on this, methods, instruments and actors in Peacebuilding are presented and possible spheres of action are shown.

Module 2: Human Rights and Minorities

Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is to give students basic and sound knowledge regarding questions of human rights, the protection of minorities and the external exertion of influence onto the internal affairs of states. They shall be qualified to comprehend and analyse – in a methodologically well-founded and theoretically reflected way – the problems and possibilities of international law within the framework of civilian conflict transformation.

Content:

The courses of this module deal with international law. As an introduction an overview will be given of the possibilities, problems and boundaries of international engagement in the internal affairs of states, as well as of the system of the United Nations. Starting from this, the most important legal issues within the framework of civilian conflict transformation – human rights and human rights protection, as well as the monitoring and support of human rights and minority rights - will be dealt with. Questions of rule of law, transitional justice and international criminal justice are in focus.

Module 3: Protection against Violence

Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is to convey to the students basic and sound knowledge concerning questions of protection from violence. They shall comprehend protection from violence as a fundamental need of human beings and shall be enabled to analyse concrete problems of violence in the different conflict regions, develop solutions and implement them in international peace missions.

Content:

The courses of this module address the aims, problems and possibilities of peace missions of governmental and non-governmental organisations. Starting from this, the protection and role of specific groups of society in areas of conflict are discussed, exemplified by child protection and children's rights as well as the role of women in armed conflict. Measures like Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration (DDR) are broached. The preconditions and requirements of a successful implementation as well as their influence on the peace process are discussed. Alternatively, conditions, chances and problems of civil-military cooperation will be treated.

Module 4: Good Governance and Political Participation

Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is to convey an insight into the roles of states and civil society actors in peace processes to the students. They shall be enabled to comprehend problems of political oppression and bad governance, develop reform strategies and implement them in international peace missions. Students shall understand the possibilities of political participation as essential elements for good governance.

Content:

The courses in this module deal with the role of the state and forms of participation. As an introduction an overview of political systems (e.g. states) and possibilities of control, influence and participation of civil society actors are discussed. Starting from this, the connection between democratization, rule of law and good governance in crisis regions is dealt with. In this context, civil society actors - including possibilities for their strengthening as a condition and essential potential for promotion of democracy - are in the centre of interest. Furthermore, questions are posed concerning the role and development of media in conflict and post-conflict societies and perspectives of election monitoring and assistance in international peace missions are discussed.

Module 5: Socio-Economic and Ecological Development

Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is to sensitize students to the economic and ecological dimensions of conflicts. They shall be enabled to comprehend social, economic and ecological conditions and their enmeshment in order to theoretically reflect and analyse them. In doing so, students shall be put in a position enabled to identify problems and develop adequate solutions which promote peace.

Content:

The courses in this module deal with the social, economic and ecological conditions in conflict regions. As an introduction, questions of possibilities and problems of a sustainable development of socio-economic and ecological conditions are posed. Based on this, dimensions of development cooperation and humanitarian aid are discussed. The connection between ecology and conflict as well as the transformation of economies of war and violence is broached.

Module 6: Orientation and Social Relation

Qualification Aims:

The aim of this module is for students to comprehend the different dimensions of socio-political orientation and social relation and their relevance for the development of conflict. They shall gain knowledge about conditions of a culture of peace and instruments for their implementation. Thereby students shall learn to comprehend such problems, to analyse them in a theoretically well-founded manner, to develop strategies and solutions and implement them in international peace missions.

Content:

The courses in this module deal with the essential questions of socio-political orientation and social relation. As an introduction, conditions of a culture of peace and possibilities, problems and boundaries of individual and collective development in social relation are treated. Based upon this, the roles of identity/identities in conflict development on the one hand and the role of Peace Pedagogy for the promotion of intercultural competences on the other hand are discussed. Moreover, basic ideas, chances and risks of dealing with the past and reconciliation as well as the relevancy of gender concepts in Peacebuilding are focused on.

Module 7: Social Science Methodology

Qualification Aims:

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

Content:

In the courses of this module basic social research methods are taught. Starting with introductory questions about social research designs, different data collection, data preparation and data evaluation methods are presented. Quantitative research techniques (multivariate analyses) and qualitative research techniques, like content analysis, discourse analysis and case studies, are dealt with and practiced. In this context, advantages and disadvantages of methodological approaches are shown and discussed. Finally possibilities and problems of peace sensitive methods are presented.

Module 8: 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. The module is preceded by a seminar which can and shall serve the Master Thesis as well as a later professional activity.

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

CTT: Conflict Transformation Training

Qualification Aims:

The training aims at preparing students for conflict sensitive behaviour in crisis situations and practising techniques to act de-escalatingly in such situations. The training shall also help peacebuilders to endure conflicts physically and psychologically without harm.

Content:

Starting from the different forms of conflict which peacebuilders can face during their deployment inside their institution/organization and outside, modes of behaviour are practiced which can contribute to the de-escalation of conflicts. The analysis of conflict situations, the development of coping strategies, the practicing of abilities which are important for mediation (e.g. active listening) up to the development of exit strategies for the avoidance of physical or psychological damage of the peacebuilders are discussed.

EX: Excursion Week

Qualification Aims:

The excursion week shall visualize and deepen the contents of teaching.

Content:

In the excursion week, it is planned to visit regional, national or international institutions and organisations under scientific guidance and with a 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.