MA PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

An International Degree programme offered jointly by the University of Kent and the University of Marburg
INTRODUCTION

The MA in Peace and Conflict Studies provides you with an exciting opportunity to study both at the University of Kent and the University of Marburg, and obtain one joint Master's degree from both universities.

You spend the first year in Canterbury and the second year in Marburg, where courses are taught in English.

Joint Degree programme
As a student on this programme, you are simultaneously registered at Kent and Marburg – a very convenient way to gain study abroad experience. The MA dissertation is jointly supervised and marked by academic staff at Kent and Marburg. On successful completion of the programme, you are awarded a Master’s degree offered jointly by Kent and Marburg.

International experience
You experience two academic cultures and live in two countries. Both universities have a multicultural, cosmopolitan and active student body, offering an exceptionally rich environment in which to conduct peace and conflict studies.

Vibrant research culture
Both Kent and Marburg have a vibrant research culture, including a visiting speaker programme and specialist research seminars and workshops, and regularly host a range of international conferences. Both staff and students contribute to the lively discussions.

Flexible multidisciplinary curriculum
Our programmes are extremely flexible and offer an exceptionally broad module choice, so you can tailor your degree to suit your interests. Modules are taught by political scientists, international relations experts, sociologists and social psychologists.

Politics and international relations at Kent was ranked in the top 20 for research power and, overall, 96% of the research submitted was judged to be of international quality.

The research at the Centre for Conflict Studies at the University of Marburg is structured around seven research topics and, among others, has been awarded research grants by the German government to establish research projects on transitional justice, international administrations and group-focused enmity. University of Marburg researchers have won the Leibniz Prize – awarded by the German Research Foundation – 12 times.

Innovative teaching
Our innovative teaching practices have received national recognition in Britain and Germany. Teaching prizes and teaching grants include awards by the British International Studies Association (BISA), the
Government of Hesse, the German Peace Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). We use a diverse range of teaching methods, from large lectures to small group discussions, simulation exercises and class debates, and make use of technology to foster an active learning environment. Study trips, available for an additional charge, have so far included destinations as diverse as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Uganda and the Ukraine.

Combining theory and practice
Both Kent and Marburg regularly invite visiting speakers from the policy world. Adjunct faculty at Marburg includes former diplomats and mediators. Marburg’s Centre for Conflict Studies has established a strategic partnership with the Academy for Conflict Transformation in Bonn, which trains and advises government and NGO staff around the world. You can also join the editorial team of the Working Paper Series at the Centre for Conflict Studies.

Excellent student experience
The School of Politics and International Relations at Kent was ranked 11th for overall student satisfaction, based on 94% satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2014. We particularly pride ourselves on offering excellent pastoral care and listening to our students to ensure they are supported throughout their entire student experience. The quality of teaching and supervision at the University of Marburg is regularly assessed by an external organisation.

Valuable internship opportunities
The MA programme includes a mandatory internship of ten weeks or more. Our students have worked with international organisations, NGOs, think tanks, governments, museums and media around the globe.

Stunning locations
Canterbury and Marburg are historic cities, both hosting a large and vibrant student body. Canterbury and Marburg are close to London and Frankfurt respectively, two of Europe’s most exciting metropolitan areas.

“The School of Politics and International Relations at Kent is delighted to offer the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies in partnership with the Centre for Conflict Studies at the University of Marburg. Building on the work of Kent’s internationally renowned Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC), this is one of the School’s flagship Master’s programmes and a unique MA programme in Europe.”

Dr Adrian Pabst
University of Kent
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme content
The multidisciplinary MA programme in Peace and Conflict Studies features compulsory modules on theories of conflict, conflict resolution, conflict analysis and intergroup conflicts. Optional modules cover a wide range of topics, including negotiation, mediation, diplomacy, development, gender, international political economy, foreign policy, human rights and terrorism.

Modules
Year 1 at the University of Kent
- Theories of Conflict and Violence
- Conflict Resolution in World Politics
- Philosophy and Methodology of Politics and International Relations
- Three optional modules from those taught within the School of Politics and International Relations

Year 2 at the University of Marburg
- Intergroup Conflict
- International Internship
- Two optional modules from those taught at the Centre
- Dissertation

A broad range of English language seminars are offered in Marburg. Students who are proficient in German can also choose from German language modules. In addition, students can attend language classes in German and many other languages at the University’s Language Center (Sprachenzentrum).

For further information on modules, please visit the Kent website: www.kent.ac.uk/postgraduate

Teaching methods
Teaching on this programme is based on weekly lectures and seminars, typically one or two hours each per course. Both lectures and seminars are given by full-time members of staff who are internationally recognised experts in their respective fields. Teaching is informed by the latest research, scholarship and methods. In addition, some modules at Marburg are taught by practitioners, such as former diplomats or staff of international organisations.

Assessment
Assessment is mainly by coursework, typically essays or term papers of varying lengths and a seminar presentation. In the case of some modules, this is supplemented by an examination. The dissertation is a supervised 14,000-word project of individual research.

Programme staff
- Dr Frank Grundig, Lecturer in International Relations and Programme Co-ordinator for the MA Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Kent
- Dr Dominik Pfeiffer, Programme Co-ordinator, Centre for Conflict Studies, University of Marburg
- Professor Dr Thorsten Bonacker, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Co-ordinator for MA programmes, Centre for Conflict Studies, University of Marburg

“I am particularly impressed by the ability of our students to engage with challenging research and internship environments, without losing their analytical and critical perspective.”

Professor Dr Susanne Buckley-Zistel
University of Marburg
STUDENT PROFILE

Fedorah Philippeaux is going into her second year, studying for a Master’s degree in Peace and Conflict studies.

What attracted you to this course? What made you want to go into this area of study?
My undergraduate degree was in Political Science with a focus on International Relations and I knew that I wanted to obtain a Master’s in a related field. As the daughter of Haitian immigrants, I have a keen interest in international affairs. My background as a Haitian-American gives me a unique insight into the devastating effects conflict and political unrest have on a population.

Why did you choose to study at Kent?
I have always enjoyed meeting people from different cultures and loved living in Europe as a child so, in a way, coming to Kent was like coming home. The description of Kent as the ‘UK’s European university’ also captured my attention and the fact that my degree programme would be taught in two different countries.

What have you particularly enjoyed about your time at Kent?
The main thing has been exposure to a variety of cultures that I would not have had access to if I had decided to study in the US. My closest friends at Kent come from all over the world, including France, Germany, India and Ghana. This has increased my knowledge of different countries in the world and enabled me to better understand a variety of cultures.

Which modules have you enjoyed the most so far, and why?
I can honestly say that I have enjoyed almost every module, but Negotiation and Mediation and Terrorism and National Security were among my favourites.

What about the teaching?
The teaching at Kent is of the highest calibre. The professors are among the best in their fields; having access to such brilliant minds has been one of the highlights of this degree. Every week, our lecturers sought to challenge us with academically stimulating lectures.

How would you describe your fellow students?
They are hard-working, engaging, and academically motivated. Everyone comes to class with the desire to learn and to excel and they are supportive and motivating.

What are the facilities like on campus?
The facilities are great. There is a really cool gym with new equipment. There are great restaurants on campus, serving foods, from Mexican to BBQ to sandwiches and wraps, and there are several bars, which are great for weekend drinks with friends.

What is the level of support like here for postgraduates?
No matter what issues you are facing, there is always someone available to help. The lecturers are easy to reach out to and there are incredible resources for postgraduates, including the Careers and Employability Service and the Student Learning Advisory Service. The library has study and research rooms and there are many study rooms on campus exclusively for postgraduates.

What are you most looking forward to about studying in Marburg?
I am excited about moving to another country and being exposed to a different culture. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Kent, so I expect the same will be true in Marburg.

What are your future career plans?
I hope to take the Foreign Service Examination and become a US Diplomat. I want to help my government to create a more positive image abroad and foster new relationships with countries that used to be considered our enemies.

Any advice for someone thinking about doing this degree?
Get involved in academic debates and seminars with guest speakers and so on. Do not miss out on these opportunities because you will benefit tremendously on both an academic and a personal level.
HOW TO APPLY

General entry requirements
If you wish to apply for a higher degree, you must normally have a first or second class honours degree in a relevant or appropriate subject, or the equivalent from an internationally recognised institution. For more information on requirements for international qualifications, visit www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent

English language
The University requires all non-native speakers of English to reach a minimum standard of proficiency in written and spoken English before beginning a postgraduate degree.

You should provide us with one of the following: an IELTS certificate with a minimum score of 6.5, including 6.0 in reading and writing and 5.5 in listening and speaking; a Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) with a score of 62, including 60 in all four subtests.

If you do not reach the required standard, you can apply for one of our pre-sessional courses. For further information, please see www.kent.ac.uk/international-pathways

Only English language tests taken up to a maximum of two years prior to the date of registration will be accepted for admission to the University. If your university studies have been completed entirely in English, you may be exempt from providing an English test certificate. Please contact International Development for clarification – www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/contact-us

Application deadline
There are limited places available on the programme, so those who submit their application early (ie before the end of March) will have a much higher chance of securing a place on the programme. If you wish to apply for on-campus accommodation in Canterbury, you must have received an offer to study with us and apply online for accommodation by the end of July.

Tuition fees
For the most up-to-date information on tuition fees, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/fees
**Funding**

A grant provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) currently enables us to offer five scholarships worth €5,550 each to six German and International students of the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies programme. In order to be considered for this scholarship, German nationals should indicate on the application form that they wish to be considered for a DAAD grant. In addition, German nationals are eligible to apply for a grant via the Auslandsbafoeg funding scheme. This is subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information on postgraduate funding and scholarships available at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/postgraduate

**Further information**

For further information on the application process and all Kent-related issues, please contact our Postgraduate Admissions Team: E: polrpgadmissions@kent.ac.uk

For all Marburg-related issues, please contact:
Dr Dominik Pfeiffer
E: pacs@staff.uni-marburg.de
or visit www.uni-marburg.de/
konfliktforschung/studium/international-joint-degree

This brochure was produced in September 2015. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/pg_full_details_of_our_terms_and_conditions_can_be_found_at: www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

For the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations