



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



## Table of Contents

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Master's degree .....</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Peace and Conflict Studies • Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg • Magdeburg .....</b> | <b>2</b> |

# Master's degree



## Peace and Conflict Studies

Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg • Magdeburg

### Overview

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| Degree                                   | Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies   |
| Teaching language                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>  |
| Languages                                | All mandatory courses are held in English.<br><br>There are some optional courses in German.   |
| Full-time / part-time                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>full-time</li></ul>  |
| Programme duration                       | 4 semesters  |
| Beginning                                | Winter semester  |
| Application deadline                     | 15 July (in the year previous to planned enrolment for scholarship applicants and in the year of planned enrolment for everybody else)   |
| Tuition fees per semester in EUR         | None   |
| Combined Master's degree / PhD programme | No   |
| Joint degree / double degree programme   | No   |
| Description/content                      | <p>The aim of the study programme is the interactive communication of knowledge about theories and methods of peace and conflict studies. On this basis, students acquire skills and expertise in the analysis of social and political contexts. The curriculum is focused on approaches that interrogate the causes of violent conflicts and make way for possibilities of transforming these conflicts. It is also focused on the investigation of tangible experiences of peaceful cohabitation and opportunities for the stabilisation and enhancement of non-violent conflict resolution mechanisms. The Peace and Conflict Studies programme focuses on the acquisition of theoretical and methodological skills from various disciplines; on the transfer of knowledge about different concepts, institutions, and instruments of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and human rights policies; and on the development of analytical and practical skills in constructive conflict management. The programme is designed to enable students to closely analyse complex conflicts from different perspectives; to evaluate political strategies and ongoing projects in the fields of security, peacebuilding, and human rights; and to propose alternative methods of conflict resolution.</p> |

Having finished this programme, students know how international organisations function and how peaceful forms of politics can be re-established in contexts once ruled by overt violence. Also,

students learn about the means and ends of human rights policies in national and international contexts. Furthermore, they are able to develop constructive strategies to overcome stalemates in social conflicts by analysing their causes and discussing different options of solutions. The Peace and Conflict Studies programme in Magdeburg is characterised by a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates not only traditional theories of international relations but also psychological, sociological, anthropological and linguistic components. This allows graduates to assess conflicts from a variety of important perspectives. However, far from advancing a purely additive attainment of knowledge, the lecturers of the programme particularly aim at conveying methodological expertise.

With regard to a future position in relevant occupational fields, the programme thus endeavours to foster the necessary theoretical aptitude as well as practical capacities. In order to acquire these skills, students are familiarised with socio-scientific methods of investigation as well as with political decision-making processes and mediation techniques that they practise in contexts such as operational simulations and conflict-management seminars. An internship in a pertinent institution is also part of the course.

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## Course Details

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### Course organisation

The programme comprises the following five compulsory modules and four optional compulsory modules:

#### **Module 1: Theories and Approaches of Peace and Conflict Studies**

The module is composed of two separate parts: a lecture (4 CP) and an associated tutorial (6 CP). The lecture provides an overview of important theories and approaches pertaining to national and international Peace and Conflict Studies, illustrated by current research areas.

#### **Module 2: Concepts of Securing Peace**

This module deals with scientific concepts of securing peace, the advancement of human rights, and democracy and includes reflections on the use of military coercive measures.

#### **Module 3: Conflict Analysis and Theories of Conflict Management**

The module is composed of two separate parts: a seminar on Conflict Analysis (6 CP) and a seminar or a lecture on Conflict Management (4 CP). In the seminar (or in the lecture) on theories/approaches of conflict management, the students gain a broad overview of central terms, approaches, and assumptions within the theoretical field of conflict management (i.e. conflict resolution, conflict management, conflict transformation).

#### **Module 4: Applied Conflict Management**

This module is usually composed of a block seminar and includes practical elements. Students receive an insight into the methods of conducting negotiation, mediation and moderation techniques, as well as related communication strategies or political planning and consultation processes.

#### **Module 5: Methods in Peace and Conflict Studies**

The module is composed of a seminar and a compulsory tutorial which both must be completed. Students can choose between a seminar that gives an overview of different qualitative research methods and a seminar that focuses on the teaching of one method in depth.

#### **Module 6: Regional and Global Order**

The module assumes the increasing relevance of governance beyond nation states. Thus, it dedicates itself to the political, economic, and normative creation of order on a global and regional level.

#### **Module 7: Sustainable Development and Resource Management**

The aim of this module is to convey knowledge on the anthropogenically caused environmental ramifications of global change, scenarios regarding the limits of growth and global warming in connection with resource scarcity, and the resulting distributional conflicts that not only aggravate the long-existing global North-South constellation but also generate new types of conflict situations (i.e., North-North, South-South).

#### Module 8: Violence and Media

This module allows for a critical analysis of different forms of legitimization and the mobilisation of direct (physical and primarily military) violence and the cultural, epistemological, or structural violence that is inherent to some discourses.

#### Module 9: Global Justice

In this module, students will deal with the normative aspects of long term peacekeeping and conflict management on a global and a national level, especially with questions of substantive and procedural justice.

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| <b>A Diploma supplement will be issued</b>                  | Yes  |
| <b>International elements</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist literature in other languages</li> <li>• Training in intercultural skills</li> <li>• Courses are led with foreign partners</li> <li>• Content-related regional focus</li> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Study trips</li> <li>• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad</li> <li>• International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context</li> </ul> |
| <b>Integrated internships</b>                               | An internship in a pertinent institution is part of the course. Programme advisers will assist students with finding an appropriate internship.  |
| <b>Special promotion / funding of the programme</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAAD</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Name of DAAD funding programme</b>                       | Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (Public Policy and Good Governance, PPGG)   |
| <b>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</b>  | No   |
| <b>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</b> | No   |

## Costs / Funding

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|---|---|
| <b>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</b> | None  |
| <b>Semester contribution</b>            | Currently, the semester fee is 155.20 EUR. It covers services offered by the "Studentenwerk" (student union) and the student representatives. Enrolled students receive a semester ticket for free use of public transport, student discounts in the campus cafeteria, etc. |

### Costs of living

A minimum of 861 EUR per month must be budgeted for accommodation, cost of living, health insurance, books, and miscellaneous expenses. In comparison with many other towns and cities, the rental prices in Magdeburg are still relatively low. There are no tuition fees for the majority of programmes, and the semester fee already includes the cost of bus and tram travel within Magdeburg. The following link provides a fair picture of the cost of living in Magdeburg: [Finance](#).

### Funding opportunities within the university

Yes

### Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

The university provides a limited number of excellence scholarships. Eligible candidates are students in advanced semesters who clearly show above-average results. Scholarships cannot be provided for new students.

## Requirements / Registration

### Academic admission requirements

Bachelor of Arts or comparable university degree with at least 30 ECTS in Social Science and above average grades

### Language requirements

English level C1 or equivalent

### Application deadline

15 July (in the year previous to planned enrolment for scholarship applicants and in the year of planned enrolment for everybody else)

### Submit application to

Scholarship applicants for the Helmut-Schmidt Programme should apply to:

[pacsapplicationdaad@ovgu.de](mailto:pacsapplicationdaad@ovgu.de)

Other applicants can find all information here: <https://www.pacs.ovgu.de/Admission.html>

## Services

### Possibility of finding part-time employment

It is possible to find a part-time job as a research or student assistant at one of the faculties or in the university administration (maximum: 80 hours per month). Other opportunities are student jobs at different companies, restaurants, and shops. Information on how to find a job can be found on our website: [Career Service](#).

### Accommodation

The "Studentenwerk" (student union) in Magdeburg manages the on-campus halls of residence (mostly one- to four-room apartments). Currently, the monthly rent ranges from 200 to 370 EUR per room (approx. 12 to 35 square meters), depending on the size and furnishing. Rooms in the halls of residence are limited in number. The accommodation application can be found on the website of the Studentenwerk.

The Studentenwerk assists all new students in finding adequate accommodation, either on or off campus. Private accommodation is available on the Magdeburg accommodation market. However, fully furnished units are in somewhat short supply.

### Support for international students and doctoral

- Tutors

#### candidates

- Buddy programme
- Specialist counselling
- Cultural and linguistic preparation
- Welcome event

#### General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

We provide support for international students through student assistants who can help with questions and issues concerning the study programme as well as the formalities of living in Germany. Additionally, there is a staff member helping with more complex issues.

#### Supervisor-student ratio

1:11

## Contact

### Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Social Science  
Department Political Science/International Relations

Prof Dr Alexander Spencer

Zschokkestraße 32  
39104 Magdeburg

Tel. +49 3916756657

✉ [pacs@ovgu.de](mailto:pacs@ovgu.de)

🌐 Course website: <https://www.pacs.ovgu.de/>

📘 <http://www.facebook.com/OVGU.Magdeburg>

🐦 <http://www.twitter.com/OVGUpresse>

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/otto-von-guericke-university-magdeburg/>

📷 [http://www.instagram.com/uni\\_magdeburg](http://www.instagram.com/uni_magdeburg)

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX7sej01ntgUjN3NiIAUkUw>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

## Editor

DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V.  
German Academic Exchange Service  
Section K23 – Information on Studying in Germany  
Kennedyallee 50  
D-53175 Bonn  
[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

## GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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