



Bachelor of Development Studies in Peacebuilding and Development

Department of Peace and Conflict Studies

Faculty of Development Studies

Protestant University of Rwanda

P.O. Box 619 Huye – Rwanda

1. Introduction

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies (DPCS) was established in 2013 in the Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) at the Protestant University of Rwanda (PUR), a higher learning institution created by Protestant churches in Rwanda. The DPCS has been running an honours bachelor's degree course in Peacebuilding and Development as its first academic programme, which is also the first of its kind in Rwanda. Currently, students from eight countries are studying in the programme. These students get plenty of opportunities not only to gain theoretical knowledge but also practical skills and experiences in the field of peacebuilding and development. Every year, several students get the opportunity to study abroad as exchange students, particularly at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) (www.tufs.ac.jp/english/) in Japan and at Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) (<https://www.dhbw.de/english/home>) in Germany. Many of our graduates have been pursuing their successful professional careers in international development agencies and local nongovernmental organisations, academic institutions, church-related organizations, government administration, private companies and a diplomatic mission of a European country.

2. Expected Learning Outcomes of the Bachelor's Programme in Peacebuilding and Development

Successful completion of our bachelor's programme will enable students to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the theories and concepts of peace, conflict, and development and their application to global, regional and local contexts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interconnections between the issues of development and those of peace and security in global, regional and local contexts.
- Evaluate and contribute to the international, regional and national policy debates in peace, conflict and development.
- Design, implement and assess development policies, programmes and/or projects geared towards peacebuilding in Rwanda, the Great Lakes Region (GLR) and other regions in Africa.
- Initiate and manage peacebuilding programmes/projects for local, regional, and international NGOs as well as church-related organisations.
- Prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts as mediators, community educators or workers of peacebuilding projects at inter-personal, organisational, communal and regional levels.

3. Organisation and Structure of the Bachelor's Programme

The Honors Bachelor Degree Course in Peacebuilding and Development is offered through a day programme (tutorial in the morning and afternoon hours of Monday – Friday with weekend classes occasionally organised). The course can be completed within three years. In Year I, students study foundational courses in development, international politics, and peace and conflict studies. From

Year II, students focus more on the modules specialized in peace-building and development. As students progress to higher levels, there is a greater emphasis on practice through modules on practical skills and strategies for peacebuilding and development, Professional Practice for one month in Year II, and then Internship for three months in Year III. Every student in the programme is required to conduct a research project in the second semester of Year III and submit a research paper as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Honors Bachelor Degree.

Module Structure

Year I (160 credits)	
Semester I (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Study Skills ● Applied Maths ● English ● Introduction to Social Sciences ● Development Theories I ● ICT 	Semester II (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World and African History ● Introduction to World Politics ● Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies ● Principles of Economics ● Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Year II (160 credits)	
Semester I (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religion, Conflict, and Peace ● Development Theories II ● Group Dynamics and Facilitation ● Nonviolent Social Change ● English for Academic Purposes 	Semester II (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Globalisation and Human Security ● Human Rights ● Rural and Community Development Management ● Practical Skills for Peacebuilding I
Year III (160 credits)	
Semester I (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research Methods ● Peacebuilding and Development ● Healing and Reconciliation ● Programme Evaluation 	Semester II (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peace and Security in Africa ● Practical Skills for Peacebuilding II ● Internship ● Research Dissertation

4. Students and Lecturers of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies

Over 60 students from eight countries (Rwanda, Burundi, the DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Japan) are currently enrolled in our bachelor's programme. Our teaching programme involves six full-time lecturers from the Faculty of Development Studies, seven full-time lecturers from other faculties of PUR and six part-time lecturers. They come from Rwanda, Burundi, the DRC, Cameroon, Nigeria, the UK, the USA, Japan and South Korea.

5. Exchange Programmes

During the academic year of 2024-25, four DPCS students participated in exchange programmes at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) and DHBW Villingen-Schwenningen in Germany.