



Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences

Faculty of Development Studies

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**HONORS BACHLOR DEGREE PROGRAM
IN
PEACE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT**

"Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible".

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Over the last three decades, there has been a growing international recognition of the nexus between conflict, peace and development. Violent conflict hinders economic and human development, perpetuating chronic poverty among the large population of poor countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, whereas deplorable conditions in such poverty-stricken countries make them more unstable, and thus susceptible to violent conflict. The challenges of preventing violent conflict, ensuring sustainable development, and building a durable peace are inextricably interwoven.

Recognizing the critical importance of these interlinked challenges in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of Africa, the community of Protestant Churches in Rwanda has established the *Department of Peace and Conflict Studies* as one of the departments hosted in the *Faculty of Development Studies (FDS)* at *Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS)*.

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies aims to:

- ❖ Foster visionary, well-skilled professionals with a keen sense of commitment to peace, development, and social justice
- ❖ Promote innovative, integrated research and field practices with a special emphasis on the nexus between conflict, development and peace building
- ❖ Actively share its expertise and research outputs with policy makers, academia, development practitioners, churches, and society at large in the Great Lakes Region

BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN PEACE BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT

The Honors Bachelor Degree Course in Peace Building and Development is the first academic program offered by the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS. It is also the first of its kind in Rwanda. Currently, students from seven different countries, namely Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, South Sudan, Gabon and Japan, are studying in the program.

Goals

The program's main goals are to:

- Train professionals with the knowledge, skills and values essential to the work of peace building
- Equip them with a peace and conflict-sensitive approach to development practice
- Provide students with promising pathways to advanced studies or careers in the fields of development studies, peace and conflict studies, and international politics
- Provide local and international NGOs, churches, and church-related organizations with professionals and managerial staff for their institutional development and educational programs/projects that have a particular emphasis on peace building
- Provide local and central government agencies with well-trained professionals for the administration of programs in socio-economic development, good governance, unity and reconciliation, and human rights

Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of the program 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 the fields of peace, conflict, and development
- Design, implement and assess development policies, programs and/or projects that are geared towards peace building in Rwanda, the GLR, and the East African Community
- Initiate and manage peace building programs/projects for local, regional, and international NGOs as well as church related organizations
- Prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts as mediators, community educators or workers of peace building projects at inter-personal, organizational, communal, and regional levels

Organization and Structure

In the past six years, the Honors Bachelor Degree Course in Peacebuilding and Development has been offered mainly through an evening program (tutorial in the evening of Monday – Friday with weekend classes occasionally organized). The tutorial for the class of 2021 (those who will join the program in October 2018) may be offered either during daytime or evening depending on the number of students who will be registered with the program.

The course is normally completed within three years. The academic calendar of PIASS begins in October and ends in August. 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 peace building and development, Professional Practice in Year II, and then Internship in Year III. Every student in the program 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"> ● Globalization and Human Security ● Human Rights ● Rural and Community Development Management ● Practical Skills for Peace Building I
Year III (160 credits)	
Semester I (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research Methods ● Peace Building and Development ● Healing and Reconciliation ● Program Evaluation 	Semester II (80 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peace and Security in Africa ● Practical Skills for Peace Building II ● Internship ● Research Report

