



**Profile of Department of Peace and Conflict Studies  
Faculty of Development Studies  
Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies (DPCS) was established in 2013 as one of the departments that belong to the Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) at Protestant Institutes of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS), an higher learning institution created by Protestant churches in Rwanda. The DPCS has been running a honours bachelor degree course in Peacebuilding and Development as its first academic programme that is also the first of its kind in Rwanda. Currently, students from 10 different counties are studying in the programme. These students get plenty of opportunities not only to gain theoretical knowledge but practical skills and experiences in the field of peacebuilding and development by joining various workshops and activities organised by the Centre for Research and Action towards Sustainable Peace and Development (CRASPD <https://craspd.com>), the centre established in 2015 by FDS. Every year, several students get the opportunity to study abroad as exchange students, particularly at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) ([www.tufs.ac.jp/english/](http://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 an European country.

## **2. Expected Learning Outcomes of the Bachelor's Programme in Peace-building 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 the fields of peace, conflict and development
- Design, implement and assess development policies, programmes and/or projects that are 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 organizations
- Prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts as mediators, community educators or workers of peacebuilding projects at inter-personal, organizational, communal and regional levels

## **3. Organisation and Structure of the Bachelor's Programme**

The Honors Bachelor Degree Course in Peace-building 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 peace-building 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

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

## 4. Students of DPCS

A total of 94 students from 10 different countries including 22 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are currently (as of August 2022) enrolled in our bachelor's programme. Due to COVID related travel restrictions, currently we have only one Japanese exchange student, but we are expecting three students from different Japanese universities who will study in the programme for one year from the second semester of 2021-2022.

## DPCS Students by Year and Gender

Year	Male	Female	Total	Remarks
First	20	11	31	
Second	9	12	21	
Third	10	12	22	
Finalist	8	11	19	
Exchange student	1	0	1	From TUFS studying for one year
Total	48	46	94	

## DPCS Students by Nationality

Nationality	Total
Rwanda	45
Burundi	3
Burundi refugee	5
DRC	9
DRC refugee	15
South Sudan	6
Malawi	2
Nigeria	4
Ghana	1
Cameroon	2
Uganda	1
Japan (exchange student)	1
Total	94

Our teaching program involves six full time lecturers from FDS, seven full-time lecturers from other faculties and three part-time lecturers. They come from Rwanda, Cameroon, Japan, South Korea and Germany.

## 5. Exchange Programmes

During the academic year of 2020-21, two DPCS students completed their exchange program at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) and came back to Rwanda in July 2019. During the period of September – December 2020, five peace students participated in online courses offered by DHBW Villingen-Schwenningen in Germany.

Two DPCS students started a 10-month exchange programme at TUFS in April 2022, and another two students have been selected to join the programme from September 2022.

Since 2020, two DPCS graduates have been selected for a Japanese government scholarship to pursue Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at TUFS. One final year student has recently been selected for the same scholarship to join the master's programme in September this year.

## 6. Research

### International joint research on resource management in rural Africa

Three FDS members, namely, Prof. Kazuyuki SASAKI, Fortunee BAYISENGE and Glorioso UMUZIRANANGE continued their participation in the international joint research project on "Resource Management and Development in Rural Africa" (April 2018 – March 2021) international joint research "Resource Management and Political Power in Rural Africa" funded

by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Having Prof. Shinichi Takeuchi, the Director of African Studies Center (ASC, <http://www.tufs.ac.jp/asc/english/>) at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), as its principal project leader, the JSPS-funded project brought together researchers from TUFS and seven universities in five African countries. The JSPS-funded project aims to publish two books as the final result of the three-year research project. As one of the project output, *African Land Reform Under Economic Liberalisation: Sates, Chiefs, and Rural Communities* was published in October 2021 as the open access book from Springer (<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-16-4725-3>).

### **Comparative study on resource management and rural transformation in Ghana and Rwanda**

FDS members have been invited to join comparative study on resource management and rural transformation in Ghana and Rwanda as the second phase of the international joint research indicated above. A research seminar is planned at the University of Ghana in March 2023 after two online research seminars are organised in June and December 2022.

### **Grassroots reconciliation process in Rwanda**

Prof. Kazuyuki SASAKI was commissioned by Japan Peace Studies Association to write an article on “grassroots reconciliation process in Rwanda” for *Dictionary of Peace Studies* which will be published in 2022 in Japan. Its manuscript was submitted to a publishing company in February 2022.

## **7. Community Service**

The department has been closely working with Centre for Research and Action towards Sustainable Peace and Development (CRASPD) for various community outreach activities, especially in its “Enhancing Conflict Transformation Skills Project” and “Exploring Regional Capacities for the Nonviolent Transformation of Conflict in Burundi, Eastern DRC and Rwanda” funded by Civil Peace Services of GIZ and “Nyanza Women’s Livelihood and Peace Project” funded by the Mission Support Group in Japan. For information about these projects in detail, please see the website of CRASPD (<https://craspd.com/about/>).