**General information about the degree**

MA in Peace and Conflict Studies is awarded in accordance with «forskrift om grader og yrkesutdanninger, beskyttet tittel og normert studietid ved universiteter og høgskoler» of 16.12.2005.

The nominal length of study for the degree is 2 years and it comprises 120 ECTS credits. One completed year of study has nominally 60 ECTS credits. MA in Peace and Conflict Studies is a qualification that is part of the second cycle in the Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, approved by the Ministry of Education and Research on 15.12.2011.

**Objectives, content and organisation of the programme of study**

The Peace and Conflict Studies MA Program combines advanced training in methodological skills in political science with practitioner perspectives to equip candidates for future careers in government, international organizations, or academia. Candidates are trained in collecting, analyzing, processing and visualizing various kinds of data both individually and in teams. The program provides broad methodological training in advanced political science (qualitative and quantitative) and further specialization in specific analytical skills as well as training in written and verbal presentation. The candidates apply these skills in their MA thesis project, which is an individual research project that is independently designed and carried out by the candidate with guidance from an appointed advisor in the second year of the program. The candidates are instructed in the ethical and responsible handling of data that is collected and used as part of the thesis project. They receive training in advanced software, writing techniques and in applying fundamental research design principles to specific issue areas. Teaching activities include crisis simulations, case studies, replication studies, individual design and implementation of research projects. Candidates from this MA Program are qualified for the PhD program in the Department of Political Science. This MA program addresses Sustainable development goal 16, focusing on the impact of armed conflict on development and human rights.

**The candidate’s learning outcomes**

Candidates from this program have a strong empirical and conceptual foundation for analyzing longstanding and emerging challenges to international peace and security, understand ethical considerations relating to research and analysis in the field of peace and conflict, and are able to select and apply suitable advanced methodological tools. They have substantive knowledge about a range of issues in the peace and conflict field and are familiar with practitioner perspectives from government and international organizations. The candidates are able to obtain, process and assess different kinds of data in a systematic and critical manner, can conduct independent analysis on emerging challenges to peace and security with limited or incomplete data, and are able to discuss methodological and empirical constraints and limitations in existing research and identify their implications.