



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Ph.D. of National Interest in Peace Studies

Call for Applications for 1 PhD fellowship for Palestinian candidates

The Italian research doctorate (PhD) is the highest academic degree awarded by universities in most fields of study. The PhD programme is open to applicants who hold a Masters Degree or equivalent degree obtained abroad. PhD programmes train students to carry out scientific research and improve their research methodologies. A Research Doctorate is awarded after 3 years of study, the completion of assigned research activities and the presentation of a final dissertation.

The Ph.D. of National Interest in Peace Studies (hereinafter PhD PS) establishes a forum for interdisciplinary and innovative researches on the issues of conflict transformation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace building. PPS is the first of its kind in Italy and has been created to help promote initiatives of RUniPace (the Network of Italian Universities for Peace), which is based on CRUI (the Conference of Italian University Rectors's network). RUniPace has inspired the founding project of PPS, its values and interdisciplinary planning, as well as its constructive interaction between and among universities and between universities and Italian society, taking into account the founding values of the academia institutions. In Italy there are important initiatives at all levels of university: three-year courses, master degree, research centers are devoted to peace studies. PPS's project makes it possible to develop this kind of studies at doctoral level with highly qualified research activities, practices, and transversal skills, which could be useful to identify, prevent, contrast, resolve conflict situations. In particular, the universities adhering to PPS aim to develop higher education in the field of peace issues, conflict resolution, disarmament and sustainable societies; and they want to do that in a national lively interactive context with thematic projects already under way at international level. In the form of the Ph.D of National Interest (DIN), PPS refers in its founding project to the values of the European Union, the Italian Constitution, the international cooperation agreements to which Italy is a part of, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda, local policies for the basic rights related to health, welfare, peace and quality of life. References are also made to the priority areas of The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), the conception of innovative educational planning in particular for public administration and the National Research Program, the dissemination of knowledge of peace-related topics and areas of study and research in universities, public administration and other highly innovative career paths.

In relation to the Ph.D. project, peace is to be understood as "positive peace", i.e. peace that is built by peaceful means at various levels of political and social life: from the construction of an international order that repudiates war as a means of resolving disputes



between nations, to a peace that is the result of solidarity and social justice. Positive peace depends on the will and actions of those who, in various capacities, demand “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The PPS’ academic community intends to contribute to those efforts by activating a national pathway of knowledge-based research for peace through a transdisciplinary approach and interconnectedness. This is because ‘peace studies’ is not a mere field of study similar to other analytical disciplines. Peace studies concern all sciences that (with their methodological, substantive and research statutes) are striving to step up construction of “positive peace”.

The overall objective of PSS’s project is therefore to promote interdisciplinary and transversal higher education and research pathways, which are able to provide innovative perspectives and developing a field of study that can have a significant and positive impact on a society that has to deal with today’s dramatic phenomena, including changes due to natural habitats and man-made environment.

For this reason, this Ph.D. is organised in 10 training curricula, which provide subject-specific teaching knowledge.

General training objectives

Certified highly qualified training course characterize the Ph.D of National Interest in Peace Studies, which aims to train a wider range of specialists in the fields of study and research concerning peace. PhDs in Peace Studies must be capable of analysing, through an interdisciplinary approach, the dynamics of conflict and peace, reconciliation and mediation, social and cultural factors, social interactions, socio-cultural practices and various aspects of geopolitics, international relations, economics and political realities at the local, national and supranational levels, with a view to putting in place processes of peaceful transformation of human social and political behavior. This also involves further technical and scientific developments that require many and diverse talents.

The objective of the Ph.D of National Interest in Peace Studies is specifically devoted to train experts who:

- 1) can address the academic world with sectoral expertise with various competences, knowledge and skills related to the field of, conflict transformation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace and peace building studies, with a global vision that goes beyond their specific technical expertise;
- 2) can interact efficiently with organisations, institutions, public administrations and intergovernmental bodies as well as with social, corporate and community structures at local, national and supranational levels, in order to contribute to the development of inclusive, peaceful, sustainable policies;
- 3) may constitute a transdisciplinary group of scholars, researchers, practitioners and technicians with specific expertise on peace and conflict issues, who are able to implement coordinated training, research and third mission projects at national and international level.

The interdisciplinary program of the Ph.D of National Interest in Peace Studies is designed to make it possible for doctoral and post-doctoral students to implement and develop original research that contributes to the growth of the scientific disciplines



referring to the dynamics of conflict resolution and peace education in their many facets. This can be done not only with a theoretical and conceptual point of view, but also with a historical and analytical point of view, which are strictly related to technical and practical expertise in the dynamics of understanding and analysing good practices and research-action project based on the development of preliminary questions in these areas. In a long-term diachronic perspective and in a perspective of continuous interaction between tradition and innovation, issues such as encounter, recognition, conflict, harmony, coexistence and respect between cultural, social and religious diversities constitute the main front of the Ph.D of National Interest in Peace Studies. Its courses aims to provide doctoral students with the research skills necessary to work independently and fruitfully with the teaching staff and supervisors, and with a strong inclination towards interdisciplinary peer interaction, effective research methodologies for the collection, analysis and interpretation of sources, which are important for the application of theoretical elaborations and techniques in specific cultural contexts, both public and private; they are also important for the analysis and use of good practices in relation to both public and private organisations based at a local, national, transnational and global levels.

PhD graduates in Peace Studies will be able to work both in university research and teaching, but also within public administration and private institutions involving consultants, civil servants, cultural mediators and other cultural promoters of peace. They will be also able to design and develop research activities, cultural and institutional processes as well as policies, practical actions and technological solutions, in a peaceful-sustainable and inclusive sense of the terms.

The inter-trans-disciplinary training encompasses studies from the traditional areas of social humanities (history, philosophy, arts and literary studies, law, economics, politics, sociology, anthropology, geography, communication, etc.), science (physics and mathematical studies, natural sciences, computer science), medicine (psychological studies, global health, etc.), technology and conservation studies (architecture, engineering and design, graphic techniques, heritage, etc.), while enhancing specific analytical, methodological and linguistic skills capable of promoting interaction with the most innovative gender and intersectional studies, postcolonial studies and digital humanities.

Occupational and professional opportunities

Doctoral graduates in Peace Studies will be able to contribute to intellectual, cultural, institutional and project processes in the field of the dissemination of a sustainable culture of peace and action-research. The Ph.D of National Interest in Peace Studies will be able to responds to the need to train highly specialised figures in the various fields of academic research and cultural diplomacy in supranational, national and local administrations sector (both public and private), as well as in international and transnational governmental and non-governmental institutions, and in the. For these reasons, the Ph.D of National Interest in Peace Studies envisages the following job opportunities:

- 1) Figures engaged in advanced research capable of autonomously constructing and managing disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and action-research projects in the field of peace studies and of the specific scientific-disciplinary sectors



involving the studies of conflict resolutions and peace building, within Italian and international universities, public and private institutes and research centers.

2) University-level lecturers capable of developing innovative training projects in the field of peace studies and of the specific scientific-disciplinary sectors in the didactics of peace, conflict resolution and peace building within Italian and international universities, teacher-training, technological, and cultural institutes, public and private research centers.

3) Highly qualified professional profiles in the legal, social, anthropological, psychological disciplines suitable for different (public administration, education, business, professional, family) contexts dealing with issues related to conflict transformations, conflict prevention, conflict resolutions and peace building, while promoting of good practices and projects for a peaceful and sustainable society.

4) Highly qualified figures in the interdisciplinary field of peace studies, who can carry out (in public and private, national and international employment contexts) innovative functions such as those related to:

- officials or consultants in the public or private sector for the design, development and implementation of programs, projects and policies for a peaceful and sustainable coexistence;

- cultural and communication workers, journalists, press and public relations officers in the public and private sector for the development of communication plans based on conflict transformations, conflict prevention, conflict resolutions and peace building, and sustainable interaction, while considering the use of digital technologies and social media;

- teachers and operators of training institutes, public and private, which are involved in managerial functions and projects related to innovative didactic programs and transversal issues of conflict transformations, conflict prevention, conflict resolutions and peace building;

- trainers with respect to long-life learning projects and training projects on the topics of conflict transformations, conflict prevention, conflict resolutions and peace building, which involve specific social and professional categories such as teachers, museum educators and cultural heritage experts, managers of monumental memorials, soldiers involved of peace-building missions, NGO operators, journalists, etc.;

- officials of local, regional, national and international institutions who are highly qualified in the protection of personal and peoples' rights and the development of democratic institutions.

- conflict analysts (conflict mapping experts, scenario development analysts), mediators and peace builders in conflict contexts;

- engineers, architects, designers and other technical figures in the design and management of interventions to protect and secure the population in areas of conflict and post-conflict, emergency situations (including environmental emergencies) as well as in areas with scarce healthcare resources;

- disaster risk management.



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Admission Procedure

Evaluation of Qualifications

The evaluation of qualifications will be primarily based on the candidate's *Curriculum Vitae*. The research project will carry the most weight in the overall scoring. Publications will also be considered in the candidate's final score.

Candidates who obtain a score of at least **40/60** in the evaluation of qualifications will be admitted to the oral examination.

Oral Examination

The oral exam will consist of a presentation and discussion of the candidate's research project. The candidate will be expected to present the main points of their research, the methodology, the archives and/or sources to be consulted or analyzed, and the current state of research in the relevant field.

The oral exam also includes a test of English: candidates will be asked to present part of their research project in English.

The oral exam is considered passed with a **minimum score of 40/60**.

Languages

- ENGLISH

Contacts and Information

✉ phdpeacestudies.saras@uniroma1.it

Curriculum Vitae

- Graduation date and final grade of the Master's degree
- Detailed list of exams (with completion dates and grades) for the Master's degree
- Graduation date and final grade of the Bachelor's degree
- Detailed list of exams (with completion dates and grades) for the Bachelor's degree
- Previous grants and awards
- Certificates of foreign language proficiency
- Certificates of participation in research groups



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- Previous internships
 - Other university awards or additional degrees (e.g., competition awards, second degrees)
 - Computer skills
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Required Documentation

- **Curriculum Vitae** (mandatory)
 - **Abstract of Master's thesis** (mandatory)
 - **PhD Research project** (mandatory; sections: research questions, state of the art, methodology, expected results, bibliography, 4-6 pages)
 - **Letter(s) of recommendation** (optional)
 - **Motivation letter (written by the candidate)** (optional)
 - **Scientific publications** (optional)
 - **Additional documentation** (optional)
 - **Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum** (mandatory)
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Language Skills

The candidate must demonstrate proficiency in the following languages:

- **ENGLISH**

Deadline

All documents should be submitted by **September 8, 2025**, by email at phdpeacestudies.saras@uniroma1.it, alessandro.saggioro@uniroma1.it and mariachiara.rioli@unimore.it.