

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

## WHAT

In our current globalised world, conflict and development are closely intertwined. Disentangling the complexities of these conflict and development processes demands a critical stance and an interdisciplinary approach, combining insights from various academic disciplines such as political science, anthropology, development studies and sociology.

The Master in Conflict and Development Studies allows you to gain insight into the broader thinking about conflict and development-related issues, and how to analyse these in a critical manner. Grounded in fieldwork, the Master in Conflict and Development Studies wants to provide a timely and in-depth understanding of the interrelations between conflict and development.

Fieldwork as a method is used to understand processes of conflict and development better, and to formulate potential recommendations. This focus on fieldwork is especially valuable for those interested in pursuing a career in professional development aid, in the Global South as well as in the Global North (asylum centers, intercultural and interreligious questions...). Located in the heart of Europe, the one-year master programme also allows an international body of students to connect to both research and policy-making in this growing field.

## STRUCTURE

The Master in Conflict and Development Studies is an intensive full-year programme. Our students are offered a set of **introductory course units** to become acquainted with the politics of conflict and development. These course units do not merely offer an introduction to ongoing debates, but start from a critical reading of influential authors in the field. They provide the conceptual and theoretical groundwork necessary to engage in more specific debates in the second semester.

**Elective course units** are aimed at deepening your understanding of research-related or policy-oriented questions, as well as being able to deepen your area-specific knowledge. These course units will take the form of research seminars or more direct policy applications. This will allow you to customise your own programme according to your academic and professional interests.

The course unit 'Methodology and Fieldwork Practice' will teach you about **methodology and research design**, and prepare students for doing their own

fieldwork, whether in the Global South or in Europe. The final part of the programme is the **Master's dissertation**, in which you will develop your own research project in collaboration with a supervisor. These projects are interdisciplinary by nature, and aim towards a critical understanding of your research question. Many of these dissertations will be based on fieldwork, but students can also opt for a dissertation based on scholarly literature.

If you want to combine your Master's degree with a Teacher's degree, then there is the option of taking a Master's Programme in Teaching (in Dutch: 'Educatieve master') instead of the above described master. The Master's Programme in Teaching, however, is a Dutch-taught programme. More information can be found on [www.ugent.be/educatievemaster](http://www.ugent.be/educatievemaster).

## LABOUR MARKET

Employability of our graduates situates itself in various fields, but primarily in the field of international development aid, national or international governments, on a European level, in UN-organisations such as UNDP, UNESCO, FAO and the non-governmental field (national or international development, ngos, peace institutions, information and research centers, such as 11.11.11, Oxfam, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, International Peace Information Service...).

This study programme, however, does not limit itself to the traditional field of international development aid, but also has a value for professions with a focus on the Global South in Europe (asylum centers, organisations that focus on intercultural/interreligious matters, refugee organisations...). Your individual employment options depend on your (Master's) degree, your potential terrain or research experience, and your language skills.

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## TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

### 1 Rechtstreeks:

- Bachelor in de politieke en sociale wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de politieke wetenschappen
- Bachelor in de politieke wetenschappen en de sociologie, afstudeerrichting: politieke wetenschappen
- Bachelor of Social Sciences

### 2 Na het met succes voltooien van een voorbereidingsprogramma:

#### MIN 42 SP - MAX 57 SP

- a Engelstalig programma
- a opleidingen nieuwe structuur:
  - Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs
  - Een diploma van een masteropleiding aansluitend op een bacheloropleiding
  - Een diploma van een masteropleiding die volgt op een andere masteropleiding
- b opleidingen oude structuur:
  - Een diploma van de tweede cyclus van het hogeschoolonderwijs van twee cycli
  - Een diploma van een academische opleiding van de tweede cyclus

### 3 Na het met succes voltooien van een schakelprogramma: 59 SP

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het professioneel onderwijs

Additional Information on Admission (Flemish Degree)

If you believe that you qualify for an exemption of specific course units, please check <https://www.ugent.be/ps/nl/voor-studenten/administratie/vrijstellingen>.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

You are eligible for this program if you hold a relevant Bachelor degree. This includes bachelors in political science or a solid background in relevant social sciences, including social science methodology and conflict studies. Students who hold a Bachelor of

Political Science (or equivalent) from a non-Belgian University, are admitted based on an evaluation of the content of their previous studies. The Study Programme Committee will make the final decision whether to accept the application or not. The Study Programme Committee can decide that students need to follow a preparatory course, for instance for students who hold another diploma of bachelor or master than mentioned.

Information on admission requirements and the administrative procedure for admission on the basis of a diploma obtained abroad, can be found on the following page: [www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration](http://www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration).

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language requirements Dutch: no language requirements  
English: CEFR level B2

The language requirements for this study programme can be found on: [www.ugent.be/language requirements](http://www.ugent.be/language requirements)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Study programme

[studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-conflict-and-development-KMCDT-en/programma](http://studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-conflict-and-development-KMCDT-en/programma)

### Information sessions

#### Graduation Fair

[afstudeerbeurs.ugent/en/students/further-studies](http://afstudeerbeurs.ugent/en/students/further-studies)

#### Open Days

Each spring the graduation fair **EVOLV**, organised by the UGent Association, offers the opportunity to discover all possible options to continue studying or to start looking for a job (with more than 200 different companies).

For some programmes, there is a specific **Open Day**. If so, it will be announced here (at the latest Feb 15th).15th).

25 April 2026 10u00 - 12u30 - Campus Ufo, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 33, Gent

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## Enrolling institution

Information on enrolment at Ghent University.

## Application Deadline (for International degree students)

For students who **need a visa**: before 1st of April

For students who **do not need a visa**: before 1st of June

[Read more](#)

## Tuition fee

More information is to be found on: [www.ugent.be/tuitionfee](http://www.ugent.be/tuitionfee)

## Contact

[conflict.development@ugent.be](mailto:conflict.development@ugent.be)

## Learning path counsellor

Anneke D'Hollander

[tb.psw@ugent.be](mailto:tb.psw@ugent.be)

[www.ugent.be/ps/conflict-ontwikkeling/en/study](http://www.ugent.be/ps/conflict-ontwikkeling/en/study)