

## Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies

### Overview

The Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies is an outstanding addition to the resume of anyone interested in a career in international relations, conflict mediation, peacebuilding, defense policy, military affairs, diplomacy, international organizations, international business, or international economic development. Unique in its location in Kosovo for studying both past and ongoing conflict resolution, this program seeks to educate students on how conflict is engaged, resolved, and transformed for the aims of establishing and sustaining peace. We develop students in three main ways: academic rigor, research development, and practical skills application.

### Course Overview

The students will complete the advanced certificate over the course of a single summer, which includes a month of classes in July on campus, followed by a month of an internship experience. The program consists of 9 graduate level credits and a combination of academic work and experiential learning in the field. Students will have the option to add intensive Albanian or Serbian language study to their advanced certificate. Course credits include:

- POLS-641 Peacekeeping and Conflict Transformation. This course will provide an introduction to the dynamics of post-war stabilization and reconstruction. It will address the complexities of the transformation from war to peace, including interdependent politics, security, legal and economic elements. Students will discuss these patterns in the cases in Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa. Students will learn about analysis, planning, operations, and reporting used in national and multilateral agencies. Credits 3.
- POLS-642 War, Diplomacy, and State-Building. This course will explore the process by which states disintegrate and fail, the armed conflicts that follow, and international peacekeeping and subsequent efforts to build institutions at the end of armed conflicts. It will consider cases that might include the wars of Yugoslav Succession, conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Syria, and others. Students will consider the role of domestic and international actors, such as NATO, the US Government, the UN, and others. They will explore these efforts in readings, class discussion, debates, presentation of research, and roleplaying exercises. Credits 3.
- POLS 616: Experiential Learning that allows students to earn credits for professional experience working at an organization that works in areas related to diplomacy, peacebuilding, conflict-management, or a closely aligned topic. . Students can receive a maximum of 3 credits for their full-time equivalent work at the organization, and their progress will be evaluated and assessed by their site supervisor in collaboration with the program director of the Advanced Certificate.

The Graduate Certificate is accredited by the State of New York and by the Rochester Institute of Technology in Kosovo (RIT Kosovo).

### **Program Cost**

Tuition and fees vary each year according to the term of study and other factors. For the most recent cost estimate, please contact the Fred Cuny Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at [pcc@auk.org](mailto:pcc@auk.org).

### **Candidate Requirements**

- Hold or be in your third or final year pursuing a baccalaureate degree (or equivalent) from an accredited university or college.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (or equivalent), or superior endorsements. In lieu of a 3.0, you must include a written statement explaining why you believe you are capable of a fast-paced and rigorous academic curriculum.
- Note: Applicants whose native language is not English must submit scores from the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE. A minimum TOEFL score of 79 (internet-based) is required. A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 is required. The English language test score requirement is waived for native speakers of English or for those submitting transcripts from degrees earned at institutions where language of instruction was in English. RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) Alumni do not need to take the TOEFL exam.

### **How to Apply**

To apply, please submit all of the following required documents to [pcc@auk.org](mailto:pcc@auk.org). Please read carefully and reach out to us with any questions. We are happy to help you!

#### Required Documents

- A statement of approximately 500 words written by the applicant indicating personal interest in some area of peace and conflict studies and how s/he might use an enhanced knowledge of this subject.
- Current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Official transcripts (in English) of all previously completed undergraduate and graduate course work.
- A Letter of recommendation from a recent instructor or supervisor.

### **Need more information?**

Email our Fred Cuny Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at [pcc@auk.org](mailto:pcc@auk.org).