



**Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences**

**Faculty of Development Studies**

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**BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM  
IN  
PEACEBUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT**

*"Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible".*

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

## **BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

Over the last three decades, there has been a growing international recognition of the nexus between conflict, peace and development. Violent conflict hinders economic and human development, perpetuating chronic poverty among the large population of poor countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, whereas deplorable conditions in such poverty-stricken countries make them more unstable, and thus susceptible to violent conflict. The challenges of preventing violent conflict, ensuring sustainable development, and building a durable peace are inextricably interwoven.

Recognizing the critical importance of these interlinked challenges in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region (GLR), the community of Protestant Churches in Rwanda has established the *Department of Peace and Conflict Studies* as one of the departments hosted in the *Faculty of Development Studies (FDS)* at *Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS)*.

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies aims to:

- ❖ Foster visionary, well-skilled professionals with a keen sense of commitment to peace, development, and social justice
- ❖ Promote innovative, integrated research and field practices with a special emphasis on the nexus between conflict, development and peacebuilding
- ❖ Actively share its expertise and research outputs with policy makers, academia, development practitioners, churches, and society at large in the Great Lakes Region

## **BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN PEACEBUILDING & DEVELOPMENT**

The Bachelor's Degree Course in Peacebuilding and Development is the first academic program offered by the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at PIASS. It is also the first of its kind in Rwanda.

### **Goals**

The program's main goals are to:

- Train professionals with the knowledge, skills and values essential to the work of peacebuilding
- Equip them with a peace and conflict-sensitive approach to development practice
- Provide students with promising pathways to advanced studies or careers in the fields of development studies, peace and conflict studies, and international politics
- Provide local and international NGOs, churches, and church-related organizations with professionals and managerial staff for their institutional development and educational programs/projects that have a particular emphasis on peacebuilding
- Provide local and central government agencies with well-trained professionals for the administration of programs in socio-economic development, good governance, unity and reconciliation, and human rights

### **Learning Outcomes**

Successful completion of the program 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, programs and/or projects that are geared towards peace building in Rwanda, the GLR, and the East African Community
- Initiate and manage peacebuilding programs/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

### **Organization and Structure**

**Currently, the bachelor's degree course can be pursued through our evening program (tutorial in the evening of Monday – Friday).** The course is taught at five levels over the period

of four years. The academic calendar of PIASS begins in September and ends in August. At Level I and Level II, students take foundational modules in development, international politics, and peace and conflict studies. At these levels, students study several common modules with their classmates from the programs of Rural and Community Development and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Then during the remaining three levels, students focus more on the modules specialized in Peacebuilding and Development. As students progress to higher levels, there is a greater emphasis on practice through modules on practical skills, tools and strategies, Professional Practica at Level IV, and then Internship at Level V. Every student in the program is required to conduct a research project at Level V and submit a research paper as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor's Degree.

### Module Structure

Year I (120 credits)	
Level I	
<b>Semester I (60 credits)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Study Skills</li> <li>● Applied Maths</li> <li>● English I</li> <li>● Introduction to Social Sciences</li> <li>● Development Theories I</li> </ul>	<b>Semester II (60 credits)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Information &amp; Communication Technologies</li> <li>● World and African History</li> <li>● Introduction to World Politics</li> <li>● Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies</li> </ul>
Year II (120 credits)	
Level II	
<b>Semester I (60 credits)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● African Politics and International Relations</li> <li>● Principles of Economics</li> <li>● Conflict Analysis and Resolution</li> <li>● English II</li> </ul>	<b>Semester II (60 credits)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Group Dynamics and Facilitation</li> <li>● Development Theories II</li> <li>● Practical Skills for Peacebuilding</li> </ul>
Year 3 (120 credits)	
Level III	Level IV
<b>Semester I (60 credits)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rural and Community Development Management</li> <li>● Religion, Conflict, and Peace</li> <li>● Globalization and Human Security</li> <li>● English for Academic Purpose</li> </ul>	<b>Semester II (60 credits)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nonviolent Social Change</li> <li>● Human Rights</li> <li>● Professional Practice (PRACTICUM)</li> <li>● Research Methods</li> </ul>

**Year 4 (120 credits)**

**Level V**

**Semester I (60 credits)**

- Peacebuilding and Development
- Healing and Reconciliation
- Peace and Security in Africa
- Program Evaluation

**Semester II (60 credits)**

- Practical Skills for Peacebuilding II
- Internship
- Research Report