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Student Exchange Agreements within the Bachelor Program in Peace and Development Studies

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Background

The Bachelor Program in Peace and Development Studies, hosted by the Department, started in the fall of 2011. When the third program starts in 2013 a total of 140 students will be enrolled in the program. It is a 180 credit program in which the students their first year study Peace and Conflict Studies A during the fall semester and Development Studies A during the spring semester. After that the students choose one of the main subjects as their major for their continued studies on the B- and C-level. These 120 credits constitute the mandatory part of the program. The remaining 60 credits are elective courses.

Considering the international focus of the program, studies abroad are encouraged. Most students will carry out their exchange studies during the fall semester year two or in some cases the entire second year. So far the Department has encouraged the students to apply for exchange studies at the International Office and the Department of Government. Some students have made their own arrangements. The recommendations have been to study some of the 60 elective credits, or credits in Development studies, abroad.

The students have expressed interest in studying Peace and Conflict Studies abroad as well and the Department has suggested some suitable universities for that purpose.

The Assignment

In August 2012 Director of Studies, Jan Ångström, gave Program Coordinator Helena Grusell the task to start a working group with the purpose to find suitable universities for exchange agreements in Peace and Conflict Studies. The group consists of the responsible teachers for Peace and Conflict Studies A, B and C: Roxanna Sjöstedt, Erika Forsberg and Lisa Hultman respectively.

The assignment was to identify three to five universities (most of them in Europe but also one or two outside of Europe, most likely in the US) with the aim to have five exchange students. The working group

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begun its work with identifying the following selection criteria in searching for appropriate universities:

- 1) Internationally high ranking universities within the field of Peace and Conflict Studies
- 2) **A:** Courses compatible with the first two courses (15 credits) of the Department's B-course in Peace and Conflict Studies (Theories on the Causes of Armed Conflict 7,5 credits and Conflict Resolution 7,5 credits) or
B: Courses with a deepening knowledge within International Relations but not exchangeable with the first 15 credits of the B-course.
- 3) Courses given in the English language
- 4) Geographical Distribution
- 5) Compatible semesters/terms

Presentation of Investigated Universities

The working group started looking at a list of 20 universities based on suggestions from Department colleagues to get a broad idea of the universities with which the department collaborates. The list has been reduced to the following nine universities, from which the group has studied course syllabus. Based on this study, the first four universities are the ones recommended by the group at the first stage to initiate discussions about exchange studies. The other five are still interesting to explore at a later stage. The universities within the two groups are not ranked in any specific order.

Universities Recommended to Initiate Student Exchange with

- 1) Queens University, Belfast, UK
- 2) University of Essex, UK
- 3) Universitet Utrecht, the Netherlands
- 4) Kroc Institute, Notre Dame, US

Universities to Explore Further at a Later Stage

- 5) Kings College London, UK
- 6) University of Maryland, US
- 7) Yale University, US
- 8) Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia
- 9) University of Cape Town, SA

Below follows a brief presentation of the nine universities based on the selection criteria, mainly criteria 1 and 2 (and to a certain extent 5). Seven of the universities are in countries where English is the official language (criteria 3). Universitet Utrecht in the Netherlands is offering a wide range of relevant courses in English and at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia some courses are given in English. At Javeriana, associate Professor Pedro Valenzuela, PhD from DPCR, is Head of Department of Political Science. Concerning criteria 4, the geographical distribution, four of the universities are in Europe, two in North America, one in Latin America and one in Africa. Listed contact persons have been approached concerning exchange studies and contacts are persons with whom DPCR is already collaborating and thus can be helpful in finding the right contacts at respective university.

Universities Recommended to Initiate Student Exchange with

1) Queens University, Belfast, UK

Founded as Queen's College in 1845, it became a university in its own right in 1908. It is a member of the Russell group representing 24 leading UK universities committed to maintain the best research and teaching as well as links with business and the public sector. The university has over 17,500 students from more than 70 countries. At the undergraduate level the university offers a BA program in International Politics and Conflict Studies at the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy. Courses include IR theory, Security and Terrorism, Deeply Divided Societies, Conflict and Conflict Resolution etc.

Contact person: PhD Timofey Agarin

Web page: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/>

2) University of Essex, UK

The University was founded in 1964. The university has over 12,000 students and an international outlook with students from more than 130 different countries. In 2012 it achieved a place in the top 20 of the Times Higher Education 100 Under 50 years old. It also received high ratings on a National Student Survey held in 2011 placing it on the top 20 of mainstream universities in England. The university has an International Academy and the Department of Government offering courses in international relations. Conflict Resolution is only offered at Masters level.

Contacts: Professor Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, Professor Han Dorussen

Web page: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/>

3) Universitet Utrecht, the Netherlands

The University was founded in 1636 and is ranked number 18 in Europe and number 68 in the world by Times Higher Education Ranking. The University has over 30,000 students. The university offers 7,5 credit courses in Conflict Studies for exchange students: Nationalism, Ethnicity and Conflict; Reconciliation – rebuilding Social Relations in the Wake of War; Post-War Transitions and Interventions; From Mobilising to Violent Collective Action in an Age of Terrorism etc.

Contact person: Susanne Schaftenaar, former student at Utrecht and Research Assistant at DPCR. Monique Hanrath, Coordinator International Office – Northern & Western Europe (to be contacted).

Web page: <http://www.uu.nl/En/Pages/default.aspx>

4) Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, US

The University of Notre Dame was founded in 1842 and it has almost 12,000 students. It is rated among US's top 25 institutions of higher learning in surveys conducted by U.S. News and World Report, Princeton Review, Time and others. The University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies is one of the world's leading centers for the study of the causes of violent conflict and strategies for sustainable peace. Interdisciplinary research on a wide range of topics related to peace and justice is conducted at the institute. It has an undergraduate program in peace studies. The introduction to peace studies examines modern peace research and reflections on how to build just peace. It draws on social sciences such as anthropology, psychology and political science. Examples of courses are: Terrorism, Peace and other Inconsistencies; Conflict Resolution; Rich, Poor, and War; World Poverty and Inequality; Nonviolent Social Change; U.S. Foreign Policy; Women's Human Rights; Conflict and Democracy in American Literature; Global Activism; Rise and Fall of World Communism; Borders, Boundaries and Frontiers; Christianity in Africa; Anthropology of Human Rights; Structural Violence; International Human Rights Movement; Conflict and Development.

Contact persons: Professor Peter Wallensteen, Professor George A. Lopez, Director of Undergraduate Studies (to be contacted).

Web page: <http://kroc.nd.edu/>

Universities to Explore Further at a Later Stage

5) Kings College London, UK

The University was founded in 1828 and is one of the top 30 universities in the world (2012/2013 QS international world rankings)

and the fourth largest university in England. It has more than 24,000 students from more than 150 countries. King's has a particularly distinguished reputation in the humanities, law, the sciences and social sciences including international affairs. The university has a Department of War studies under the School of Social Science and Public Policy. The BA war studies programme focuses on the key human challenges of war and conflict. It has a multi-disciplinary approach including politics, IR, philosophy, sociology, history and strategic studies. Courses include: Causes of War, Conduct of War, Experience of War, War in International Order, World War Two in Europe, War and Global Conflict in the Contemporary World, War and Society etc.

Contact person: Associate Professor Jan Ångström, Director of Studies DPCR (can help with contacts).

Web page: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/index.aspx>

6) University of Maryland, US

The university was founded in 1856. The university has more than 37,000 students from more than 130 countries around the world. The Institute of Higher Education (Jiao Tong University, Shanghai), which ranks the world's top universities based on research ranks Maryland at No. 38 in the world and No.13 among U.S. public universities. The University has a Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CICM) under which the Minorities at Risk Project is a part. CIDCM gives a Global Studies Minor Program which provides opportunities for students to study how evolving global connections affect the well-being of people throughout the world. Students in the program develop an understanding and appreciation of how and why interactions across national and ethnic borders are shaped by language, culture, politics, economic development, and conflict. Three of the minors are relevant for the DPCR students: International Development and Conflict Management Global Poverty and Global Terrorism including courses such as: Poverty, Public Policy and Economic Growth; World Hunger; Terrorist Motivations and Behaviors; Developing Countries; Cultural Geography and Global Ecopolitics.

Contact Persons: Professor Paul Huth, Professor Irwin Morris, American Politics Chair, Department of Government and Politics (to be contacted).

Web page: <http://www.globalstudies.umd.edu/>

7) Yale University, US

The roots of the university can be traced back to the 1640s. Today it has 11,000 students from 108 countries enrolled. Yale University has top rankings in universities by reputation 2012, number one for its undergraduate program in International Relations. It has the Jackson

Institute Undergraduate Programs of Study with a major in Global Affairs. It has two major tracks: international development and international security. The international development track focuses on economic development and poverty, including global public health, in all but the world's wealthiest countries. The international security track focuses on international relations, foreign policy, and diplomacy and includes topics relevant to national and human security. Teachers (courses) include: Bruce Russett (Classics of World Politics), Elisabet Wood (Armed Groups and Patterns of Violence), Allan Dafoe (Perception, Reputation, War), Stathis Kalyvas (Global Politics), Matthew Kocher (Violence, State and Society).

Contact: Assistant Professor Allan Dafoe

Web page: <http://www.yale.edu/>

1) Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia

Founded in 1623, it enrolls over 22,000 students. They have a faculty of Social Sciences and International Relations and a specific Department of International Relations. Courses given in the field of Peace and Conflict Research: Contemporary Armed Conflicts; Armed Conflicts in Africa; Genocides of the 20th Century; Conflict and Conflict Resolution Theory; Comparative Peace Processes; Gender, Conflict and Peace; Negotiation Theory and Practice; Mediation Theory and Practice; Post Conflict Peacebuilding and Reconciliation; Conflict and Violence in Colombia; Prevention of Violence; Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

Spring semester is compatible: January to June

Contact persons: Associate Professor Pedro Valenzuela, Director of Department of Political Science, and Associate Professor Mauricio Romero.

Web page: <http://puj-portal.javeriana.edu.co>

2) University of Cape Town, SA

Founded in 1829 it is South Africa's oldest university. It has over 25 000 students from over 100 countries in Africa and around the world. It is ranked the number one African university in 2013 world university web ranking of the top 100 universities and Colleges in Africa. For undergraduate students there are courses within the Social Science BA program: gender studies, politics & social development. Courses include: international politics, politics of international economic relations, international organizations, third world politics, South African political thought, advanced South African Politics, conflict in world politics, democratic theory and practice, foreign policy analysis etc.

Contact Person: Assistant Professor Mimmi Söderberg Kovacs, DPCR

Web page: <https://www.uct.ac.za/>

The Group Suggests

After consulting with the International Office at Uppsala University and the Department of Government, who has extensive experience of administrating exchange agreements, the group has been made aware that it is not possible to have an exchange agreement ready to send out students in the fall of 2013. The exchange agreements also have to be balanced in the sense that the Department has to receive the same number of students it sends out. This means that the housing situation has to be solved before receiving students. For 2013 the housing is problematic, hopefully it looks better for 2014.

Moreover, the Erasmus agreements are in the process of being changed and substituted with the new "Erasmus for All" (under discussion by the Council of Ministers until final decision is taken by the European Parliament) for the period 2014-2020, another argument for 2014 being a better starting year. It is also suggested to spend time meeting with the universities with which the Department is to sign agreements. In such meetings it will become clear what courses that DPCR can offer that would be of interest to their students. Most universities require that the students have studied at least one year before going abroad. Probably all our undergraduate courses A-C would be of relevance.

Finally, the initial process of starting agreements and the first years of administration until the routines are set requires some time. Once the system is established the time of administrating five exchanges or ten is not a big difference.

The international office has recommended that DPCR initiates a student exchange with a European university since the contract can be bilateral between two departments. Most universities outside of Europe require contracts of student exchange at university level usually meaning that at least three departments from each university have to be involved in the exchange. Three of the four suggested universities, apart from meeting the selection criteria previously presented, are European. The fourth in the US is one with which DPCR already has extensive collaboration, which therefore would serve as a good starting university for an agreement with a university outside of Europe.

Based on the above, the group suggests that the board gives the mandate to Head of Department and Director of Studies to initiate discussions to sign a contract of student exchange with University of Essex, UK; Queens University, UK; University of Utrecht, the Netherlands and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, US.