



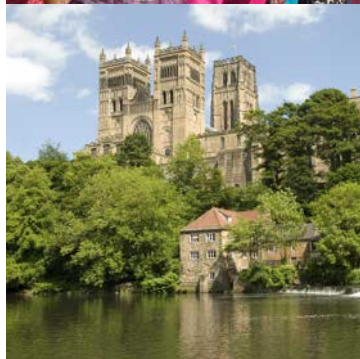
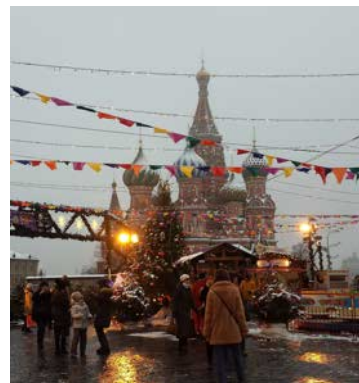
Durham
University

Durham Global Security Institute

Inspiring the extraordinary

MSc Programmes DGSI

Optional Modules 2025/26



Modules - Term 1

**Please note this is a provisional list and it is subject to change.*

Transitory Lives (SGIA48315)

Module Convenor: Dr Elisabeth Kirtsoglou

The module will explore theoretical, legal, and policy dimensions of migration and forced displacement. Students will have the opportunity to gain a solid background on contemporary research evidence and the manner in which it often contradicts policy approaches. The different categories – migrant, refugee, and asylum seeker – will be explained, alongside international legal frameworks. Students will be exposed to key debates within migration literature that touch upon civil society, development, conflict and post conflict contexts (refugee return schemes). The module ties migration research to post-colonial issues allowing students to understand the historical connections between economic violence, extractive economies, chronic underdevelopment and the colonial regime. It also explores the rise of populism and the alt-right, and the centrality of migration in such radical discourses.

Contemporary Challenges in UN Peacekeeping (SGIA48815)

Module Convenor: Dr Anne Flaspoele

Peacekeeping is one of the most visible and high-profile tools used by the United Nations to support transitions from conflict to peace and to respond to threats to international peace and security. The module is strongly practice based, considering both theory and practice of peacekeeping. It offers a practical and multi-disciplinary approach that includes the legal, political and military aspects of peacekeeping, situating these within the current contexts in which peacekeepers are deployed. This module will explore the evolution of United Nations peacekeeping, analyse current debates about the role and effectiveness of peacekeeping and examine challenges faced by UN peacekeeping missions at the strategic, operational and tactical levels.



Modules - Term 2

Please note this is a provisional list and it is subject to change.

War and Death: human remains and the body (SGIA48515)

Module Convenor: Prof. Stefanie Kappler

This interdisciplinary module sits at the intersection between Political Science, History and Archaeology. It focuses on contexts in which the discovery, excavation, analysis and 'curation' of human remains is subject to controversy and political debate. The module raises questions as to the ways in which academics and practitioners can work with the material legacy of war and disaster as it presents itself in the form of human remains (e.g. mass graves and other burial sites). In this way it casts light on the complex decision-making processes that surround the ways in which memory narratives are created and curated after violence and suffering occur. The module will investigate such challenges as they were encountered in the curation of the Scottish soldiers project in Durham (2013-2018, and ongoing), and relate them to issues of international war and other disaster contexts today. A variety of case studies from the past will be used to reflect on the extent to which knowledge and skills or archaeologists and bioarchaeologists impact on the work of practitioners working in post-war and disaster-stricken context.

Conflict and Climate Crisis (SGIA40T15)

Module Convenor: Prof. Roger Mac Ginty

The module aims to give students a better understanding of the links between conflict and the climate crisis. Students will learn and practice the skills required to undertake a climate sensitive rapid conflict analysis using case studies, role plays, and simulation exercises. Students will use learning from core modules and be given new information prior to the elective, particularly with respect to role playing requirements, to enhance the learning and 'realism' of possible simulation exercises. Students will also explore the policy frameworks that guide stakeholders in their response to climate change-driven conflict.

Gender in the UN Global Security Agenda (SGIA48415)

Module Convenor: Prof. Olga Demetriou

The module will explore theoretical, legal, and policy dimensions of gender, security, and postconflict reconstruction. Students will have the opportunity to gain a solid background on the development of the gender, peace and security policy agenda and the ways in which it has been implemented in different peace processes. Students will be exposed to key debates within feminist peace studies that deal with the involvement of women in peace and conflict, the relationship between 'women' and 'gender' as points of policy focus, and the role of different actors in implementing the GPS agenda. Students will have an opportunity to study existing policy frames in the forms of National Action Plans, UN reporting mechanisms, and research and recommendations briefs, and based on a critical assessment of these examples, to produce their own policy documents. The module will adopt a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective in examining a number of examples from conflict and postconflict societies, as well as countries involved in peace-building activities abroad and will in this way address questions of global hierarchies and global power dynamics.



Modules - Term 3

Please note this is a provisional list and it is subject to change.

Field Trip (SGIA43215)

Module Convenor: Dr Will Plowright

The field trip gives students an opportunity to gain insights into the ongoing peace process in 2 locations (TBC) and the challenges faced on the political and societal levels. Students will investigate practices of conflict mediation, conflict resolution, development, security, state and peace-building processes associated with a protracted conflict. During the study visit meetings will be held with individuals and organisations working in the area of peace-building, humanitarian intervention, human rights, and reconciliation. Students will lead interviews with people and groups related to development and peacebuilding on different societal levels, take part in group discussions, and critically evaluate roles of individuals and organisations in the field. Introductory sessions will discuss conditions, risk analysis, behaviour, and health requirements appropriate for these locations (TBC).

Assessing Martial Power (SGIA40D15)

Module Convenor: Dr Alex Neads

The module will explore the main conceptual and theoretical approaches to understanding and analysing military power, providing a firm grounding in the societal, political, technological, and organisational factors that shape the development and employment of military force and the complex interdependencies between them. Students will be exposed to key debates over the definition of military power and its relationship to ideas about military effectiveness, to indicatively include concepts such as capacity, capability, and cohesion, as well as the practical challenges associated with generating and measuring each of these factors and processes. The module will provide students with the opportunity to apply practical tools used to estimate martial power, and to critically analyse the strengths and weaknesses of each approach for the development of military doctrine, and defence policy, and national strategy



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