



MSc Conflict, Security and Development

School of Social and Political Science

This programme sits within the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh and will equip students to make a difference to the lives of people affected by conflict. The MSc Conflict, Security and Development explores the relationship between conflict and development, and will prepare students for careers in security and development.

Who this programme is for

- This programme suits the needs of recent graduates from a range of disciplines.
- Professionals seeking a career change, further qualifications, or time to reflect critically on their work.

There is flexibility in course options, allowing you to pursue the knowledge and skills most relevant to you.

Three courses are compulsory, and you will choose from a range of optional courses, allowing you to develop a specialised profile as a development professional.

You can choose from three different dissertation models, depending on your future career goals: Standard research, policy-focused or placement-based dissertation.

Research Connections

The Centre of African Studies (CAS) is home to expert academics involved in research tackling some of the most pressing issues in security and development. As well as learning from them and their latest research, you'll benefit from their ties to wider networks including experts, policy makers and professionals from across the globe.

What are the aims of this programme?

This programme will deepen your understanding of critical worldwide events such as civil wars, humanitarian crises, peacekeeping operations, and efforts for justice after violence.

There are many important debates about the links between conflict, security and development.

Graduates of this programme will:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the links between conflict, security and development and be able to analyse the various actors, agendas, and practices that these linkages have generated
- Apply research skills and techniques appropriate to the study of development and security policy
- Analyse and synthesize relevant data using interdisciplinary methods
- Be able to independently engage with new ideas, and to confront social questions with open-mindedness and intellectual rigour
- Gain knowledge and skills needed for progression to relevant professional work, including the ability to effectively and confidently articulate complex social ideas, with appropriate sensitivity and nuance, to different audiences

Application deadlines

Deadline to apply to the programme: 29 June 2026 (early applications are encouraged)

Start date: 14 September 2026

Email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

Information valid as of January 2026.