Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies (ViAPACS)
Anlagen zur Zertifikatsordnung

Anlage 1: Study Plan

Semester	Modules		ECTS
1: Modules Set I	**1) Understanding Conflict: Theoretical Models and Tools for Analysis** (2 days / 3 ECTS)	**2) Communication** (2 days / 3 ECTS)	**6**
2: Modules Set II	**3) Negotiation** (2 days / 3 ECTS)	**4) Mediation & Dialogue** (2 days / 3 ECTS)	**6**
3: Internship	**Mandatory Internship**	(4 weeks 6 ECTS)	**6**
Total ECTS ViAPACS Certificate			**18**

Anlage 2: ViAPACS Module Catalogue

ViAPACS - Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies	
General Conditions for Modules 1)-4)	
Frequency	Each of the modules 1)-4) is taking place once per program cycle.
Teaching and learning methods	The 2-days courses are taught in the form of an interactive presence seminar, consisting of short inputs, plenary discussions and small group work. In addition, students will learn on their own and with their peers in the flipped classroom, using preparatory materials in online self-study.
Methods of examination	Students need to actively participate in the exercises and the final discussion of the seminars as well as to complete the (pass/fail) online assignments.
ECTS-Credits	Students who successfully complete the modules earn 3 ETCS per module.
Workload and composition	The total workload of each module is 90 hours (which equals 3 ECTS). This includes a 2-days intensive study seminar, the completion of online tasks, as well as individual preparation and post-processing.
Participation requirements	All students enrolled in the ViAPACS program can participate.

ViAPACS - Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies	
Module 1) Understanding Conflict: Theoretical Models and Tools for Analysis	
Semester	Students are free to start the ViAPACS program at any point in their studies at Viadrina but need to take the modules in the given sequence (see study plan). All students start with this module.
Duration	3 weeks
Focus	● Key theoretical models and analytical tools of peace and conflict studies ● Controversies and questions constitutive to the field ● Locating of subsequent modules into comprehensive framework
Teaching	Lecturers of peace and conflict studies and conflict resolution, conflict resolution practitioners or academic experts as guests.
Content and aim	This introductory module familiarizes students with key theoretical models and analytical lenses that help make sense of social conflicts. Students learn to apply concepts such as identifying interests behind actors' stated positions to concrete case studies while critically reflecting on what such analytical "tools" can reveal, as well as what they may overlook or distort. The module develops a practice-oriented understanding of conflict analysis as any form of inquiry aimed at identifying and understanding those aspects of a conflict that are necessary for constructive and responsible action. Through interactive formats and practical scenarios, students also explore different approaches to analyzing conflicts and experimenting with possible interventions. At the same time, the module creates space for critical discussion of questions that are central to the field, including: • what counts as reliable information in conflict settings and how such knowledge is generated, • how analytical frameworks shape conflict perception and, consequently, intervention strategies, • and how theoretical and normative assumptions translate—or fail to translate—into real political and societal processes. Against this background, students develop a set of critical questions that accompany them throughout the subsequent modules. These questions serve as analytical lenses for engaging with conflict management practice and for reflecting on its underlying assumptions, power relations, and potential consequences.
Module type	Participation is mandatory for all ViAPACS students.

ViAPACS - Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies	
Module 2) Communication	
Semester	Students are free to start the ViAPACS program at any point in their studies at Viadrina but need to take the modules in the given sequence (see study plan). This module is the fourth one in the mandatory sequence.
Duration	3 weeks
Focus	● Layers of communication ● Moderation skills ● Addressing controversial issues in constructive ways
Teaching	Lecturers of peace and conflict studies and conflict resolution, conflict resolution practitioners or academic experts as guests.
Content and aim	According to Niklas Luhmann, the failure of communication is the norm, not the exception. Therefore, it does not come as a surprise that failed communication is one of the key elements when analyzing, managing, and resolving conflicts. Although not all conflicts are caused by poor communication, good communication is central to conflict prevention as well as conflict resolution. The module provides insights into the different layers of communication, such as the content and the relational level. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop their moderation skills and their communication skills in general. Those skills include active listening, differentiating between content and process questions and designing successful communication processes. The module allows students to test and reflect their communication strategies in different types of challenging conflict situations, so that they can practice their ability to address controversial issues in an authentic, constructive and, at the same time, clear manner.
Module type	Participation is mandatory for all ViAPACS students.

ViAPACS - Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies	
Module 3) Negotiation	
Semester	Students are free to start the ViAPACS program at any point in their studies at Viadrina but need to take the modules in the given sequence (see study plan). This module is the third one in the mandatory sequence.
Duration	3 weeks
Focus	● The interest-based approach to negotiation ● Exploring the dilemma of value creation vs. value distribution ● Preparing and structuring multi-party negotiation processes ● Dealing with cognitive biases and pitfalls
Teaching	Lecturers of peace and conflict studies and conflict resolution, conflict resolution practitioners or academic experts as guests.
Content and aim	Negotiation is at the center of any conflict management and resolution effort. The module intends to help students understand the central dynamics and the potentially dilemmatic nature of negotiations. From their involvement in case scenario simulations and role plays, students learn to distinguish between the stages of value-creation and value-distribution and derive a structural framework that applies to negotiations in different contexts. The module is designed to help students acquire crucial micro-skills such as active listening and formulating interest profiles. Students will also develop an individual negotiator profile for each participant of the course and learn how to deal with typical negotiation pitfalls. One of the challenges of negotiations in the socio-political sphere is the complexity of conflict issues and the resulting number of actors that need to be involved to reach and implement agreements. The module will provide students with basic knowledge of how to plan and structure a negotiation process in this environment: Who should talk with whom, in what kind of setting, in which sequence about which issues.
Module type	Participation is mandatory for all ViAPACS students.

ViAPACS - Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies	
Module 4) Mediation & Dialogue	
Semester	Students are free to start the ViAPACS program at any point in their studies at Viadrina but need to take the modules in the given sequence (see study plan). This module is the fifth one in the mandatory sequence.
Duration	3 weeks
Focus	● Formats and procedures of mediation and dialogue ● Interactive development of interest profiles ● Designing and facilitating mediation and dialogue processes
Teaching	Lecturers of peace and conflict studies and conflict resolution, conflict resolution practitioners or academic experts as guests.
Content and aim	This module provides students with a comprehensive overview of the mediation and dialogue field, also pointing out current dynamics and challenges. Students will get familiar with the spectrum of formats and procedures of conflict intervention, in particular mediation and dialogue. Students will learn about concepts and models of mediation and dialogue and acquire hands-on skills in mediating and facilitating dialogue between conflict actors. A special focus will be on the interactive elaboration of interest profiles which are the key to the inner logic of conflicts and their potential resolution. In simulations and role plays exploring different political and societal case contexts, students will act in the role of mediators, dialogue facilitators, and conflict parties. Students will also further develop their understanding and capacity to design mediation and dialogue processes by analyzing the complex levels and dynamics of conflict and composing tailor-made intervention approaches.
Module type	Participation is mandatory for all ViAPACS students.

ViAPACS - Viadrina Applied Peace and Conflict Studies	
Mandatory Internship	
Semester	Students can start the mandatory internship as soon as they are enrolled in the ViAPACS program (not before) and need to have completed it before the end of their regular studies at Viadrina.
Duration	At least 4 weeks
Organization	Students take responsibility for organizing an internship that matches their individual professional and thematic interests. In peer groups students can clarify their interests, explore possible options, discuss open questions and get feedback on internship applications. Eligible for ViAPACS internships are institutions addressing societal and political conflict, e.g., international, regional, or local organizations, NGOs or ministries from the field of diplomacy, mediation & dialogue, peacebuilding or development cooperation. Students are encouraged to apply at Viadrina's partner organizations (see list provided by the ViAPACS coordinator). The actual selection of interns is at the hands of each organization.
Content and Aim	The internship module aims to allow students to make own practical experiences in the field of international, regional, or local conflict resolution and peacebuilding practice by working in an organization of their choice. Here, students have multiple opportunities to apply concepts and skills learned in the program to real-world conflict themes, conflict regions and working contexts. As the political reality in the field is often challenging and conflict-related processes highly volatile, the internship allows students to contextualize and rethink their understanding of, but also to train and deepen their skills for dealing with conflict. They will possibly also gain first insights into the role of group dynamics, hierarchy, power structures, or diversity in workplace conflict.
Methods of examination	Students need to complete a 4-weeks internship and write a pre-structured reflection paper on their experiences and how they dealt with them.
ECTS-Credits	Students who successfully complete the mandatory internship will earn 6 ETCS.
Workload and composition	The total workload of the module is 180 hours. This includes a 4 internship, and a pre-structured reflection paper and voluntary participation in peer groups.
Participation requirements	Some of the internship requirements will be determined by the organization offering the internship; students are however encouraged to negotiate their individual working conditions in an interest-based manner.
Module type	The internship is mandatory for all ViAPACS students.