

**DEADLINE EXTENDED! Join us in Northern Ireland for an amazing summer learning experience!!!**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION, HUMAN SECURITY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**  
JOHN W. MCCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON



## **Summer Institute in Northern Ireland: Lessons in Community Peacebuilding July 8-18, 2022**

UMass Boston's Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance and the University of Ulster are pleased to invite you to join us on a deep exploration of Northern Ireland's experience of building peace over the last several decades. Northern Ireland's history of violent conflict across its Protestant-Catholic divide caught the attention of the world beginning in the early 1970s, as did its peace process in the 1990s. This fragile peace has come under increasing stress in recent years from Brexit, demographic shifts, and political deadlock among the leading political parties, and other changes over time. We will learn about the conflict and past peace efforts from direct participants in those conflict resolution initiatives, as well as experience ongoing peace work in the very neighborhoods where it is taking place.

This year for the first time ever, the summer institute will be based in historic Magee College in Ireland's only completely intact historic Walled City, and home of the award-winning Netflix series *Derry Girls*. The very name, Derry to some, Londonderry to others, is a marker of the divided society, comically represented by *Derry girls*, on which the summer institute focuses. Noted for its friendly, cosmopolitan, bohemian and artistic lifestyle, it is a small city, divided by the River Foyle, the home of, award winning museums, two cathedrals and many arts venues. You can see a little of the city virtually [here](#). Local peace-builders and those keen to be inclusive refer to it as Derry-Londonderry, even if it is a bit of a mouthful. The predominantly Nationalist city was a focal point for the Civil Rights movement from the late 1960s onward and during the Troubles (the common name for the conflict in Northern Ireland during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century) the city witnessed the killings of civilians on Bloody Sunday. Derry City Council pioneered power-sharing in 1987 by rotating the Mayor's role between Nationalists and Unionists, and this continues today. Nowadays, the city developed its own model of managing disputes over contentious parades, and the divisions over UK's departure (BREXIT) from the European Union (EU) has had particular consequences for border areas, and the city sits on the border with the Irish Republic which has remained in the EU. Nor is the violence entirely over: the outlying estates are host to the

small but significant dissident Republican movement which persist in the use of political violence, largely targeting police officers.

The summer institute will learn about the economic and political consequences of BREXIT and explore Unionists discontent, hear from former combatants and examine the government initiatives aimed at ending paramilitarism. Participants will also visit Armagh city, where disputes over parades between local nationalist residents and the Protestant Orange orders drew world media attention, yet residents' efforts ensure that the present day marching season passes without major incidents. The institute will also visit Belfast city, tour the peace walls and murals, and meet with young people to explore how the next generation, born in peacetime, see the future.

More recently, does the history of resolving or managing past disputes and the methods that are used give cause for hope that the current impasse on these issues will also be resolved? Do local community activists have the tools and skills to move a community from this new atmosphere of anxiety and division about the the union with Britain, the Irish border and the sea border? How so?

## **Program Overview**

The summer institute will focus on two main themes: the enormous achievements of local activists and agencies in achieving the current pacification of acute conflicts through years of community dialogue, and the formation of new institutions and processes; and the contemporary challenges facing them in securing a continued peaceful future.

Representing a chance for participants to engage with local peacebuilders, this ten-day program aims to deliver mutual benefits for participants and locals. Participants learn about the Northern Ireland conflict, get an intimate perspective of the methods and practices used to address this dispute and in dialogue with local practitioners and critically evaluate their effectiveness in Northern Ireland and their utility in other contexts.

The program will be led by Professor Marie Breen-Smyth, a native of Northern Ireland who has written extensively about conflict in a range of settings. The institute's faculty contains a range of experts and practitioners from Northern Ireland and the US and is organized in partnership Ulster University and with a consortium of Armagh residents, brought together International Peace Education Resources (IPER) a local nonprofit. This local consortium will organize the logistics, participate in classes and visits with the US participants, together with local participants recruited through Ulster University and local agencies.

The ten-day institute will focus on the achievements of the past and the key contemporary challenges still facing peacebuilding in Northern Ireland: dealing with the past and provision for victims: memorials; parading; flags and paramilitaries. The program will begin with a survey of all these issues, with expert speakers on each topic and then focus in more detail on two of these issues: dealing with the past and parading.

Participants will stay in en-suite student accommodation on the Magee College Campus where most classes will also be held. In addition, the program will include visits to Belfast with a tour of the city's peacelines and political murals and a visit to Armagh, now a friendly city but was once referred to as "bandit country" during the troubles.

## **Courses and Credit**

Attendance at the Summer institute will award 3 credits, CONRES 603: Advanced

Negotiation/Mediation.

Participants will have the option to earn 3 additional credits by registering for CONRES 696: Independent Study and completing a written assignment of 2000 words under the direction of Professor Breen-Smyth.

Credit will be granted by UMass Boston, but students (or graduates) from any university are welcome. Prior to registration, students should verify with their home institution that transfer of credit from UMass Boston will be accepted.

Participants are welcome who do not wish to take the class for credit, but the basic tuition fee is still required for

## **Schedule and Fees (subject to change)**

**July 8-18, 2022\***

**Total program cost has three parts:**

**Tuition fee payable to UMass Boston (includes UMass Boston travel insurance)**

**\$799\* for CONRES 603 or the Non-credit option**

**+\$799\* for CONRES 696 (optional for an additional 3 credits)**

**Logistics fee paid directly to IPER, the host organization in N. Ireland\*\***

**\$2,950\* (subject to change)**

**IPER will require non-refundable deposits of \$250 by May 13, and an additional \$250 by May 20.**

**The remainder of the logistics fee will be due to IPER by June 24, 2022.**

**\*\*If the program is cancelled by UMass Boston, deposits are fully refundable. If a program participant cancels after June 1, the first \$250 deposit will be non-refundable.**

**RT airfare that is the responsibility of the participant.**

**Please do not purchase airfare or make travel arrangements until you have instruction to do so. We highly recommend purchasing flight insurance.**

**\*The logistics fee will cover the accommodation, program-related local transportation, meals and entrance fees. Participants will pay this fee directly to the travel vendor, IPER.**

### **To Apply**

Participants should have an interest in peace building and conflict resolution.

**Final Application Deadline: Monday, May 9, 2022.**

**APPLY HERE:** <https://studyabroad.umasscs.net/index.cfm?FuseAction=Security.AngLogin>

Once the initial application is completed online, please email the following to [conresglobal@umb.edu](mailto:conresglobal@umb.edu):

1. A one page resume/ curriculum vitae
2. Letter of interest and intent (250-500 words)

## **Faculty**

### **Professor Marie Breen-Smyth**

Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, UMass Boston

### **Professor Darren Kew**

Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, UMass Boston

### **Professor Karen Ross**

Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, UMass Boston

### **Professor Eben Weitzman**

Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, UMass Boston

[Professor Brandon Hamber, John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace](#)

[International Conflict Research Institute \(INCORE\), Ulster University, Northern Ireland.](#)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is the program open to people who are not currently students?**

Yes, but you will still need to pay University registration fees (which includes mandatory travel insurance) and will be expected to participate in all classes and institute trips/activities. All participants will be provided with orientation materials that outline the history of the conflict.

### **Do I need to be a graduate student? Can undergraduates participate?**

No, you do not need to be a graduate student. Undergraduates can also participate and are encouraged to apply.

### **Do I need an academic background in mediation/negotiation/conflict resolution?**

No, you do not need a background in the discipline but you should have an interest in peace building and conflict resolution.

### **What are the classes like?**

Classes take place daily either on the Magee College Campus or at a community venue. They are taught by University professors, local activists and community members.

### **What have past participants said about the program?**

*"Thank you for lovely ten days, there is no way to truly understand the conflict without a trip here."*

*"This has been one of the best experiences of my life. I never knew the complexity of the issues here; the US media focused on Protestant vs. Catholic; the conflict was so much more than a religious one; it is one of identity that stretches back centuries. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity."*

*"In 10 days I have learned History, culture and peace processing. It would take whole semester to learn about Northern Ireland conflict. However, this program gave me the opportunity to learn and experience the culture, I will carry this experience forever with me."*

*"It was incredibly moving to engage in candid conversation with individuals from both sides of the Northern Ireland conflict who had lived through the Troubles and are still trying to make sense of it today. Not only was I able to get a front-row seat into what it is like to dissect conflict and make suggestions based on what we observed, but I was able to deepen my relationships with fellow students,*

*staff, and professors from my program at UMass Boston. I will always be grateful for this unique opportunity to learn about another part of the world, myself, and my UMass community.”*

**Do I need to arrange my own flight?**

Please do not make travel arrangements until you are instructed to do so by the office of Global Programs. You will be expected to arrange your own flight. We highly recommend purchasing flight insurance.

**Is financial aid available?**

Please visit the [Office of Global Program's page](#) for tips on financing study abroad opportunities.

**Request information**

For further academic information, please contact:

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