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| **Welcome to the Master Program in Peace &** |
| **Development Work 2025/26!** |   |

**Dear Student,**

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted into the Master’s Program in Peace and Development Work at Linnaeus University. We are delighted to welcome you to our academic community!

This program has earned a strong reputation over the years for its comprehensive and interdisciplinary curriculum, which prepares students for impactful careers in peacebuilding and development. Many of our alumni have gone on to work in international organizations, NGOs, research institutions, and government agencies around the world.

The upcoming academic year promises to be intensive, enlightening, and rewarding. You will be studying alongside a diverse group of students from 6–8 different countries, creating a rich and dynamic learning environment. This international setting not only enhances academic discussions but also fosters lifelong friendships and professional networks.

Our faculty members bring extensive experience from working and conducting research in conflict-affected and developing regions. Their insights and practical knowledge will provide you with a grounded and globally relevant education.

The program will be delivered primarily on campus, and students are expected to attend classes in person. Occasionally, certain lectures or group activities may be conducted via Zoom. As digital tools will be an integral part of your learning experience, we recommend that you ensure access to a reliable computer equipped with Zoom, a microphone, speakers, and a camera. Familiarizing yourself with Zoom in advance will help you navigate these sessions smoothly.

Please note that this letter may be updated periodically. We encourage you to revisit it from time to time for the latest information regarding course delivery and program activities.

We look forward to embarking on this exciting academic journey with you and wish you a successful and inspiring year ahead!

**Some practical information.**

**Learning platform**

Once you have registered, you will have access to the student homepage (lnu.se/student) where you will be able to see information about your courses, schedules, news and more. You must register as soon as possible and learn how to use **MyMoodle,** the learning platform we use, where we communicate all important information about the programme and the differentcourses, including schedules, syllabus examinations etc. The Peace and Development Work master programme page in MyMoodle will contain all the different courses as well as all supplementary information. We post messages on the MyMoodle page, and those are emailed to your LNU email. **So, register asap so you get an LNU-mail, and make it a habit to read your LNU email and visit MyMoodle**. You can also find your schedule on Timedit - which you can find through the homepage – by using the course code 4FU415 for the first course. But best is to look at MyMoodle. A lot of information about the program and the first course is already up there, including a preliminary schedule.

# The start of the semester

The program will start on Tuesday the 2d of September at 13:00-17:00, with a programme introduction meeting. We will communicate the hall later. ***The meeting is mandatory****,* and you will get important information on the different parts of the programme, practical information of fundamental importance for you to be able to follow the program, how university studies are organised in Sweden, how you are being examined and what is expected from you to be able to be successful in the program. You will also meet the teachers and administrators in the program. There will be a chance to hear about how you get access to the library, the Student Union’s work and about student health and so on. You will also present yourself – as well as get familiar with your classmates and start building the team. If you are *really* unable to participate in the introduction meetings, please contact me by email: Jonas.ewald@lnu.se.

**The program starts in full swing from the very first day so you must have sorted out all practical problems, including ordering the main textbook for the first course and start reading, before the semester starts so you can fully concentrate on studying full time from day one**.

If you are an international student, do not miss the introduction days organised by LNU that you have been invited to, starting the week before the program starts.

As the program is on an advanced level, students that start the program are expected to have a basic understanding of the issues related to peace and development studies, international political economy and international relations. We also expect that you have basic knowledge of social science methods, theory of science and academic writing, including referencing and critical thinking. If you feel that you need to update/refresh your background knowledge, read an introduction to the field before the course start. You can expect that teaching the first week will be very intensive and important for preparation for a successful performance of the whole program So do not miss that! You will also immediately start to work with a group assignment in parallel with classes.

Prel teaching the two first weeks will be:

2/9 13.00-17 Program introduction

3/9 10.15-12, 13-15 Course introduction 4FU415, exercises, lecture

4/9 10.15-12, 13-16 Lectures and exercises. The first assignment handed out. *Welcome party at the beach at 18!*

6/9 10-12 Groupwork (You will work with the first assignment in parallel with the class the first two weeks - so be prepared to be available and work full days the first two weeks)

8/9 14.15-16 Lecture

9/9 13.15-16 Lecture

10/9 10-12 Skills training in academic writing

11/9 13-16 Seminar Assignment 1: Presentation of Assignment 1.

The main course book for 4FU415 is Burnell et al (2021) Politics in the

Developing World and the latest editions of UNDP's: Human Development

Report (2025), IBRD:s World Development Report, V-Dem (2025), Freedom House (2025) and Global Peace Index (2025) and IDEA 2024 or 2025 if available + academic articles. All are available on the Internet. A detailed course guide and schedule will be available on MyMoodle 2 weeks before the course start.

**Student account and learning platform**

As a new student at LNU, you will need to create a student account to be registered in the program and access the course information. You can obtain your student account from Lnu.se by following the ‘**New student**’ link. Preliminary from **mid-August on,** you will be able to obtain your student account.If you have any problems with this, contact student support: Tel 0480-44 60 70, studentsupport@lnu.se.

**About Zoom**

Before the semester start, make sure that you have the Zoom application installed on your electronic device, and that you are familiar with the application. If you have questions about Zoom, please contact the IT support for students at Linnaeus University: https://lnu.se/en/student/service-and- support/IT\_Support/. They can also assist you if you have a problem registering and get access to LNU.se/Stud and MyMoodle.

**General information about studying at Linnaeus University**

## Please visit: https://lnu.se/en/student/new-student/

**Information for international students on how to survive university studies in Sweden**

Please visit: https://lnu.se/en/student/new-student/preparing-for-your-stay/

**About the program**

Please visit: https://kursplan.lnu.se/utbildningsplaner/syllabus-SAFU1-5.pdf

**About the first course**

## Please visit: https://kursplan.lnu.se/kursplaner/syllabus-4FU415-2.pdf

The course guide, including a supplementary list of reading, for the first course, will be available on MyMoodle around two weeks before the course start.

**Contact**

For more information about the program, or if you have any questions, contact me by e-mail: jonas.ewald@lnu.se or the co-coordinator Heiko Fritz at heiko.fritz@lnu.se.

Again, warmly welcome!

**The Peace and Development Work Program Team**

Jonas Ewald, Senior Lecturer and Programme Director for the master program in Peace and Development work, as well as convenor of the first, fourth and seventh course in the program.

Heiko Fritz, Senior Lecturer and Co-Programme Director for the master program in Peace and Development work, as well as convenor of the second course in the program.

Manuela Nilsson, Associate Professor and convenor of the third course in the program.

Chris High, Senior Lecturer and convenor of the fifth and sixth course in the program.

Susanne Alldén. Senior Lecturer, contribute with her vast experience on international development cooperation in various roles.