

# STUDY ABROAD IN OSLO, NORWAY

# Peace & Conflict Studies



BJØRKNES  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE

## A unique opportunity

*In many ways unique and quite special, the Bjorknes University College programme in Oslo draws on the traditions and expertise that characterise the Norwegian approach to peace building and conflict resolution. Oslo is the home of the Nobel Peace Prize and one of the most distinguished Peace Research Institutions, PRIO. Our mission is that students at Bjorknes University College will receive the training and experience necessary to become the next generation of peace researchers who can make a real difference.*

***Dr. Christopher White,***  
***Associate Professor of International Relations***

# Interested in Peace & Conflict Studies and International Relations? If so, the Oslo Semester is perfect for you!

Bjørknes University College is the first and only institution in Norway which offers an undergraduate programme in Peace and Conflict Studies, and we host study abroad students on our campus in the centre of Oslo every year. The courses in Peace and Conflict Studies and International Relations are offered in English during the autumn semester (August-December) in an international teaching environment together with Norwegian students. The semester represents a highly attractive opportunity for students looking for a unique study abroad experience.

## **Bjørknes University College, Oslo, Norway**

Are you interested in expanding your horizons by learning more about international issues and how the world works? Bjørknes University College, situated in Norway's capital Oslo, offers a unique study experience for both Norwegian and international students in a small and intimate college setting. The programme draws on expertise from Norway's renowned peace research community. Students will be challenged to discuss and analyse both historical and current international issues and receive advanced academic training. As the first educational institution in Norway offering Peace and Conflict Studies at an undergraduate level, we are confident that you will not regret spending a semester with us.

## **International Focus**

Bjørknes is a small university college with a broad international focus and network. In

addition to collaborating with a number of international institutions, we facilitate study trips and exchange programmes to the United States, Tanzania, the Middle East, South Africa, Australia and Svalbard. Each autumn we invite international students to spend an exciting semester with us in Oslo.

## **Electives for International Students**

The range of courses which are offered in English during the autumn semester are revised annually. Students take three courses, which make up a full semester's workload (30 ECTS credits). Courses previously offered to international students include *The Geopolitics of the Arctic*, *The Ethics of War and Peace*, *The United States in the Middle East*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Africa Then and Now*, *Global Governance*, and *International Political Thought*. Please see attachment for current courses.

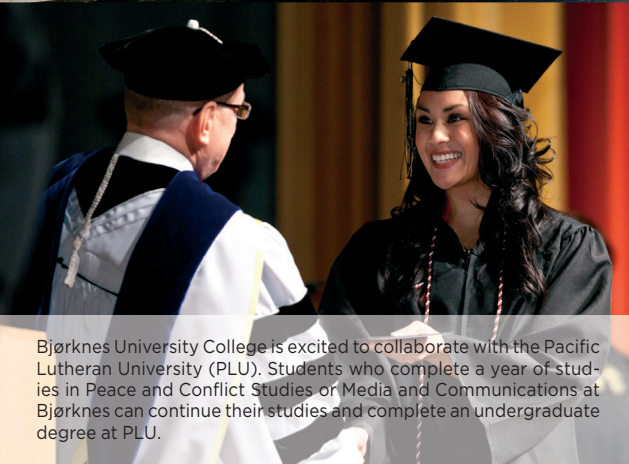
## **Institutional Links**

Over the years, Bjørknes University College has established strong institutional links with other academic and research institutions, such as the world famous Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Nobel Institute.

## **Distinguished Lecturers**

Bjørknes University College draws on the longstanding Norwegian diplomatic tradition of promoting conflict resolution through mediation. We also draw on the impressive resources found in the extensive NGO and peace research sector present in Oslo. Guest lectures are regularly given by Jan Egeland (Director of NRC and former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs), Kai Eide (former UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan) and Erik Møse (former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda) amongst others.

Our main campus in Oslo.



Nelson Mandela's grandson, Tabonghile Mandela, is an alumnus of Bjørknes University College.



Bjørknes University College is excited to collaborate with the Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). Students who complete a year of studies in Peace and Conflict Studies or Media and Communications at Bjørknes can continue their studies and complete an undergraduate degree at PLU.

*Bjørknes University College provides close contact between lecturers and students, a good environment to learn and to teach, a fine atmosphere among the students, and the opportunity for in-depth study of the most important topics within peace and conflict studies, including political, institutional, and ethical questions. For me, it's a great privilege to teach at a college so committed to excellence and to taking care of its students.*

*Dr. Henrik Syse, Senior Researcher at PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo); Associate Professor at the Norwegian Defence University College; Chief Editor of Journal of Military Ethics, and Lecturer at Bjørknes University College.*

## Study trip to the Arctic

You will have the opportunity to go for a study trip to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard (located about 400 miles north of mainland Europe, midway between mainland Norway and the North Pole).



## Courses offered, Fall 2014:

- The Geopolitics of the Arctic
- Global Armed Violence
- The Ethics of War and Peace
- Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Disclaimer: Please note that changes may occur.

**A better understanding of the world:** If you are looking to broaden your knowledge and understanding of how the world works, Peace and Conflict Studies is the right choice for you. As a student of Peace and Conflict Studies you will critically analyse and discuss current international issues. You will receive advanced academic training within an exciting, growing and increasingly important field.

**Interested? Get in touch today: [info@bjorkneshoyskole.no](mailto:info@bjorkneshoyskole.no)**



#### Study in Oslo

Bjørknes University College is located in the middle of Oslo, in the St. Hanshaugen neighbourhood, a popular and trendy district only five minutes from the city centre. More than 500 students choose to study at Bjørknes University College every year. You will enjoy your time here as part of an intimate and inspiring college environment, with both Norwegian and international students. Extracurricular seminars and social events are organised throughout the semester:

- Kick-off-days (“Buddy System”)
- Free lunches
- Guest lectures
- Autumn soccer cup
- Quiz nights
- Halloween
- Student parties
- Christmas lunch

#### About Oslo

The city’s setting on the shores of Oslo fjord provides great opportunities to discover our beautiful beaches and islands. Hiking, skiing and tobogganing in the hills and forests behind Oslo should also not be missed. For more urban types, you can enjoy opera, theatre, museums and concerts as well as great cafes and shopping downtown.



#### Did you know?

- Typical Norwegian: Nordic skiing, brown cheese, cheese slicer, Freia milk chocolate, Nobel Peace Prize, and Aquavit (Norwegian liquor).
- A recent international study concluded that Oslo was Europe’s overall music trend leader, leaving London trailing!
- Oslo is surrounded by magnificent forests and a beautiful fjord. You’ll definitely meet plenty of friendly Norwegians among the trees...
- Become streetwise in Oslo, check out [use-it.unginfo.oslo.no](http://use-it.unginfo.oslo.no)
- Visit [www.visitoslo.com](http://www.visitoslo.com) for a good overview of Oslo’s many great museums (such as the Munch museum) and other sights.
- Going to festivals is a definitive must during the summer.

*Source: Streetwise 2012, tourist information.*

**For more information and how to apply: [info@bjorkneshoyskole.no](mailto:info@bjorkneshoyskole.no)**

**Study abroad in Oslo, Norway**  
**Bjorknes University College**  
**Department of Peace and Conflict Studies**



**Course descriptions\***  
**Fall 2014**

**The Geopolitics of the Arctic (10 ECTS)**

The Arctic is experiencing fast and unprecedented economic, environmental, political, and security challenges, which provides new opportunities for international cooperation but also potential regional competition and even conflict. For example, the reduction of the Arctic ice cap is now exceeding earlier climatic model predictions.

The increasingly ice-free Arctic waters are creating greater accessibility to the Arctic region. New opportunities for natural and mineral resource extraction and consequently production, in combinations with new routes of transportation may not only fuel economic growth in the Arctic, but may also attract outside stakeholders. However, a potential increase in commercial activity in this remote region is to a certain extent on a collision course with the fragile Arctic ecosystem and poses a number of different security challenges. This includes search and rescue, oil-spill prevention and response, mitigating measurements with respect to environmental changes and border protection.

As the region takes on greater economic and strategic importance, the Arctic is in need of an increased prioritization and strong leadership from the Arctic states. For example, investment is needed to develop limited infrastructure and strategic facilities, and enhanced cooperation and coordination among Arctic nations is necessary in order to prevent increased tension.

This course will introduce the students to the Arctic region from an environmental, strategic and security perspective and explore the potential for both cooperation and conflict in this fascinating, beautiful and rich region.

Included in this course is a week long trip to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard. Svalbard is located about 400 miles north of mainland Europe, midway between mainland Norway and

\*Students take three courses, which make up a full semester's workload (30 ECTS credits).

the North Pole and is one of the northernmost settlements in the world. Here students will attend lectures, participate in workshops and experience the true Arctic way of life.

**Course Coordinator:** *Torstein Dale-Åkerlund, Academic Coordinator, Bjørknes University College*

**Lecturers:** *Various professionals from institutions such as the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, the Polar Institute, Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs, the University of Oslo and the Foreign Office.*

## **The Ethics of Peace and War (10 ECTS)**

The last 100 years have seen brutal wars, murderous totalitarian regimes, genocide, and nuclear weapons. But we have also witnessed – to a certain extent *because* of these facts – an unprecedented development of international law, a great resurgence of interest in international ethics and the ethics of war, humanitarian initiatives on a large scale, and the founding of international organizations such as the United Nations, designed to foster peace and international cooperation. This course examines the contents and background of one of the most important developments of late 20<sup>th</sup> century thought about war: namely, the resurgence of the “just war” idea. The idea of justice in war, and the need to restrain the use of violent force, has a long history in the Western tradition, with interesting parallels in other traditions. It is different from political realism on the one hand and from pacifism on the other, yet shares important traits with both.

The course will analyze some of the most important contributions to the ethics of war. We will first look at the basic rationale for, and organizing of, the just war idea in modern texts, by focusing on excerpts from Michael Walzer’s seminal *Just and Unjust Wars* together with other important texts. Thereafter, we will study texts from some key historical figures who have contributed to the ethics of war, before returning to our own age and current debates.

The aim of the course is to gain knowledge of the main ethical concepts we need to know in order to be able to debate the morality of using armed force, and to relate this to the quest for stable, peaceful solutions to armed conflict. We will be debating both the question of when to use armed force (*ius ad bellum*) and how to employ it (*ius in bello*).

**Course Coordinator and Lecturer:** *Dr. Henrik Syse, Senior Researcher, Oslo Peace Research Institute, PRIO and Chief Editor of Journal of Military Ethics.*

## **Global Armed Violence (10 ECTS)**

This is a brand new course, still in the making. Dr. Christopher White is an Associate Professor at Bjørknes University College and also a United Nations consultant. He is currently working on a guide to understanding armed violence for the UN Disarmament Office. As this is work in progress, the detailed description for this course is not yet ready,

but in essence, the course will examine: the various forms that armed violence takes (both conflict and non-conflict violence); its nature, geographical scope and variety; methodologies that measure armed violence levels; theories that explain armed violence; trends in armed violence (due to demographics, age, gender, urbanity, post-conflict transition challenges etc.); and armed violence reduction activities (at the UN, Regional, State-based and local levels).

**Course Coordinator and Lecturer:** *Dr. Christopher White, Associate Professor, Bjørknes University College and United Nations Consultant on Global Armed Violence.*

## **Terrorism and Counterterrorism (10 ECTS)**

This course examines a wide range of questions in order to provide students with a deeper understanding of not only the evolving threat of terrorism, but also the evolving problems produced by counterterrorist measures employed by states, mainly the United States. This course thus explores both the phenomenon of terrorism, and the phenomenon of counterterrorism.

Among the questions it examines are: What is terrorism? What is a terrorist – is one man's freedom fighter really another man's terrorist? How has the threat of terrorism changed over time? What motivates different types of terrorist groups? When does terrorism succeed and fail? How can terrorism best be fought? What are the pitfalls of states pursuing counterterrorism? What is the post-mortem of the "War on Terror" as pursued by the United States from 2001-2009? How does the United States fight terrorism after the end of its "war on terror"?

The class will also look at the July 22, 2011 terror attack in Norway, and bring in experts on right-wing terrorism in order to examine both the attack itself, the ideology behind it, and the phenomenon of "lone wolves". As is in keeping with the dual themes of the course, it shall also cover the Norwegian government's response to the attack, and the political and organizational fallout from this response.

**Course coordinator:** *Dr. Hilde Restad, Associate Professor, Bjørknes University College*

**Lecturers:** *Dr. Hilde Restad and various professionals from the world-class terrorism research community based in Oslo, such as the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment.*

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