

INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT STUDIES
AND RESOLUTION STRATEGIES

PROSPECTUS



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- An Institute for Conflict Studies & Resolution Strategies(ICS) has been established to provide practice-based training that will assist in addressing conflicts using a broad societal approach in addition to the traditional security arrangements.
- The ICS is located in the Punjab, India, and Northern Ireland, UK, in association with the Institute for Conflict Research (INCORE), University of Ulster.
- The ICS is inspired by the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding, and offers a means for Commonwealth members to demonstrate practically their endorsement of the Report's recommendations.
- The ICS offers:
 - a one-year full-time postgraduate diploma course,
 - short, advanced, professional, bespoke courses to address specific practical and/or policy requirements,
 - a safe, confidential space for meetings, dialogue, mediation, and negotiations,
 - research to support teaching and to develop practical policy responses to conflicts.
- The ICS is constituted as a not-for-profit charitable trust registered in both India and the UK. Its establishment cost is £1.5million approx, most of which has been met by the Lord Rana Foundation and other benefactors. Diploma student fees are £14,000, which includes board and lodging, and one-way travel between Northern Ireland and India.
- Further support is sought both as capital donations and student bursaries.

PROSPECTUS

The Institute for Conflict Studies & Resolution Strategies (ICS) has been established at the Cordia Education Complex (a component of Punjabi University), Sanghol, Punjab, India, with a presence in Northern Ireland, UK, and in association with the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at the University of Ulster. It is constituted as a not-for-profit, charitable trust registered in both the United Kingdom and India.

The ICS has been inspired by the 2007 Report of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding, 'Civil Paths to Peace' (also published as 'Peace and Democratic Society', Amartya Sen (ed), Open Book Publishers, Cambridge, 2011).

The ICS's fundamental pedagogy recognises that peace and prosperity require interventions in conflicts that, in addition to security responses, recognise, and skilfully address (via both governmental and non-governmental institutions), the social, economic, ethnic, religious, and other factors that drive historical grievances.

The ICS adopts a practice-based approach, combining professional skills within a strong conceptual framework. This requires a wide, societal perspective that helps promote mutual respect and understanding, especially between government agencies and the civil population but also amongst different elements within a given population.

The ICS offers:

- a one-year, full-time diploma course (commencing initially in September 2016),
- advanced professional, bespoke courses to address specific practical and/or policy requirements.
- A safe, confidential space for meetings, dialogue, mediation, and negotiations.
- Research to support its teaching as well as helping the development of practical policy responses to conflicts.

The ICS can also assist governments and other institutions by providing information and expertise designed to address potential issues at an early stage.

COURSES

ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

The course is open to a maximum of 25 students per year, with the first intake in September 2016. Students will be registered at both INCORE and ICS (Punjabi University), and, if successful in their studies, may choose either institution for their certification.

Students will begin their studies at INCORE, Coleraine, Northern Ireland, UK. The first three modules will provide the necessary conceptual framework for the subsequent practice-based professional courses. Further modules and faculty-led case studies will develop students' conflict-related skills, including conflict analysis, mediation, and negotiation. Students will complete their diploma course by transferring to Sanghol for the final two modules of further practical studies.

In future years, it is anticipated that the balance between the two institutions may be altered depending on student requirements, course materials development, and other relevant factors.

Facilities: INCORE is a joint project of the United Nations University and the University of Ulster, which over more than twenty years has established an international reputation for practical research, teaching, and comparative analysis of conflicts throughout the world.

The ICS in India is located at the Cordia Complex, Sanghol, 40km from Chandigarh, Punjab, India, and enjoys excellent facilities including:

- high-speed broadband, wifi, and other comprehensive IT equipment,
- comfortable seminar rooms, faculty, and student living accommodation,
- ample library with a very wide range of online journals,
- refractory, social, and sporting facilities.

Faculty: There are separate sets of academic staff, at INCORE and Sanghol, with the latter concentrating on practice-based research as well as teaching. Exchanges between the faculty groups will enrich the student experience at both campuses. Visiting faculty, from India and elsewhere, will give lectures and seminars. Online teaching will also be provided.

Assessment and certification: Students will be assessed continuously based on their contributions to classroom and seminar discussions and their written work. There will also be final, externally assessed, examinations.

Successful students will receive a diploma from either the University of Ulster or the Punjabi University, whichever is the more appropriate for their individual circumstances.

Entry requirements and fees: Applications are accepted from anywhere in the world. However, given the Commonwealth link, based on the 2007 'Civil Paths to Peace' report, it is anticipated that a majority of students will come from Commonwealth countries.

RESOLUTION STRATEGIES ~ PROSPECTUS

Applicants must be fluent in both written and oral English, and have at least a primary degree or professional qualification in a relevant subject. In certain circumstances students with appropriate practical experience may be admitted without a degree. All students must also be able to satisfy the requirements of the UK Border Agency for their period of study at INCORE.

Diploma student fees are currently fixed at UK£14,000 including food, lodging, and travel from Coleraine to Sanghol. Some bursaries or part-sponsorship are expected to be available.

Outcomes for students: The principal goal of ICS is to develop and strengthen practice-based skills for addressing all aspects of conflicts and incipient conflicts. The initial conceptual overview will cover:

- historical overview/conflict statistics;
- models for conflict analysis;
- conflict prevention;
- peace processes;
- new developments in conflict resolution.

Students' learning and skills outcomes will consist of:

- an understanding of the language and concepts of conflict studies;
- an appreciation of the social, economic, and societal complexities of conflicts;
- conflict analysis;
- procedures to bring belligerents to engage in dialogue;
- mediation;
- negotiation;
- restorative justice;
- assessing and working constructively with civil society organisations.

Who Should take the Diploma course? The Diploma course will enhance students' capacity to work more productively and successfully in the following areas:

- Police;
- Military;
- Intelligence;
- Social work,
- Community development in conflict areas;
- Media;
- Civil service;
- International NGOs;
- Civil society organisations.

Thus, the Diploma will be of particular interest to civil servants, diplomats, police and intelligence officers, social workers, military, journalists, and NGO staff.

ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Practicing professionals working in the field of conflict and related areas can benefit from short, intensive courses that focus on specific aspects of their work. These will strengthen and complement existing skills as well as introducing students to best practice.

ICS is developing a suite of such specialist courses, examples of which are:

- community policing, including engagement in difficult areas and with hostile populations;
- Introduction to mediation;
- Negotiations skills;
- role of restorative justice;
- roles of the various elements of civil society;
- Policing and civil society;
- Military and civil society;
- Working with the media;
- The role of education and sports;
- Grievance, identity, and engineered violence.

These, and other courses may be held at Sanghol, Coleraine, or elsewhere depending on student needs, resource availability, and other considerations. Fees will vary depending on the length and nature of the courses.

A CONFIDENTIAL SPACE

Bringing parties to a point where they are prepared to talk with their enemies is invariably a difficult, prolonged, and sensitive process. Therefore, much constructive work in this and other aspects of addressing conflict is best carried on away from publicity. The facilities of the ICS are ideal for such conversations.

BUDGETS

The cost of establishing the ICS at Sanghol is approximately UK£1.5m, which will provide for initial faculty and student requirements, plus expansion in year three. Most of this cost has already been met, by the Lord Rana Foundation and other benefactors, through the provision of buildings, furnishings and equipment, and extensive online library resources. The remaining balance is approximately UK£350,000.

Operating costs are based on an initial student intake in September 2016 of 10, in September 2017 of 15, and rising to the maximum of 25 the following year. The fee per student has been fixed at UK£14,000 to include board and lodging at INCORE and Sanghol, and one-way travel during the diploma course from Coleraine, Northern Ireland, UK, to the Punjab.

The Trust is seeking additional financial support, either as capital donations or student bursaries. It will be a governing principle of the ICS that funding will only be accepted from sources of good standing that do not compromise either the work of the ICS or its independence.

GOVERNANCE

As indicated above, the ICS is registered as a charitable trust in both India and Northern Ireland. Overall governance responsibility rests with the trustees, who also direct policy and strategy. All donations to ICS, including those from the Lord Rana Foundation, are channelled via the ICS Trust.

The ICS has a resident director at Sanghol, who has responsibility for all matters pertaining to administration, organisation, and student affairs. The director also coordinates academic teaching, research, and other activities.

The ICS has an advisory board, consisting of the following individuals:

Rt Hon Lord John Alderdice of Knock

Professor Donald H Akenson, Professor of History, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Professor Vani Borooah, Professor Applied Economics (Rtd), University of Ulster

Dr Sonia Dussault, Professor of Peace Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Professor Alan English PhD, Professor of Peace Studies,
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Professor Tom Fraser, Pro VC (rtd) University of Ulster, Provost Magee Campus

Mr J Brian Garrett LLB, FCI Arb, County Court Judge (Rtd).

The Lord Rana of Malone

Mr Terence Robinson Jr, Senior Vice President International Gale, Cengage Learning Inc.

Dr Brian Scott, MBA, DBA

Ms Urmil Verma MA, M Ed, LLB, Principal, Cordia Education Complex, Sanghol, Punjab, India.



SANGHOL CAMPUS AND THE LORD RANA FOUNDATION CHARITABLE TRUST

The Rana Charitable Trust (Charity registration: RCT XR15072) was established to promote charitable and peace-making initiatives in Northern Ireland including integrated education, business development, and foreign direct investment.

From 1997 to 1999 the Trust shifted its focus to India, and funded a major building refurbishment and extension of a high school at Haibowal, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, which resulted in its formal upgrading to higher secondary school status.

In 1997 the Trust also began to develop education facilities at Sanghol, near Chandigarh, Punjab, to provide greater opportunities for local children and young people. This has expanded steadily until it is now a 25-acre campus with a variety of institutions offering education and training from nursery level to postgraduate studies, and covering a wide range of subjects including building trades, business management, teacher training, hospitality & tourism, and catering. The overall site, named the Cordia Group, also contains a range of accommodation, catering, recreational, and leisure facilities (the latest addition to which is a full-size sports stadium now under construction).

In total, the Lord Rana Trust has donated approximately £5 million to support education in India; and it is at this site, with its attendant infrastructure, that the ICS has been established.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSES

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