

Summer 2025 Peace Scholars Course Description

This interdisciplinary seminar provides students with an opportunity to study peace and dialogue from a Norwegian perspective. Peace Scholars will do this while spending six weeks in Oslo and will visit a number of key Norwegian institutions during their stay. The course explores and attempts to answer questions such as how dialogue is relevant and used in Norwegian society? What role does societal dialogue play in the modern Norwegian welfare state? How does Norway manage diversity and inclusion with regard to nationally recognized minorities and immigrants? How does Norway's identity as a peace nation affect its foreign policy, including humanitarian aid and peacebuilding on the one hand, and security on the other, especially in light of the Ukraine war and uncertainty about US alliance commitments?

Each week Peace Scholars will participate in a seminar to discuss readings taking from a range of disciplines including history, political science, anthropology, political economy, and sociology. There will also be a guest lecture held by a Norwegian academic or civil society representative and a visit to a Norwegian institution. Once a week Peace Scholars will also participate in a dialogue workshop to learn the basics of Transformative Dialogue. This will include learning skills related to engaging in dialogue as well as organizing and facilitating dialogue. Finally, at the end of each week Peace Scholars will meet to talk about that week's readings, visits and lectures to reflect about what they have learned. In 2024 Peace Scholars had an opportunity to engage in a dialogue day with Norwegian young people through the Dialogue Pilots organization and we plan to repeat this in 2025 as well.

In addition to these activities, Peace Scholars will complete an independent research project on a topic related to the course content and to Norway. They will present this research at the end of the six weeks to the rest of the Peace Scholar group as well as at a Peace Scholar conference to be held at Norway House in Minneapolis in April 2026.

Visits and guest lectures are subject to the availability of Norwegian institutions to host us, but in 2024 these included visits to the [National Museum of Art](#), [the Norwegian Confederation of Businesses](#), [the Dialogue Pilots](#), [Islamic Cultural Centre Oslo](#), the [Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies](#), [the Council for Religious and Life Stance Communities in Norway \(STL\)](#), and [the Peace Research Institute in Oslo](#). The seminar is intended for juniors and seniors, but applications from sophomores will also be considered.

During the first week in Oslo we will engage in several activities to get to know one another and to get to know Oslo. This will include a walk along the river Akerselva which runs from [Nordmarka](#), the woods north of the city, all the way to the fjord, and [a hike to and stay in a cabin](#) in Nordmarka.