

APPLIED CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION STUDIES (ACTS)

Fully Accredited Two-Year Postgraduate Programme



CENTRE FOR PEACE
AND CONFLICT STUDIES



PANÑASAstra
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBODIA



The MA in Applied Conflict Transformation Studies (ACTS) is a two-year postgraduate programme for experienced peace practitioners seeking to deepen their skills, knowledge, and impact in complex conflict settings. Rooted in Action Research, ACTS encourages students to critically reflect on their practice, integrate and generate emerging theories, and apply practical strategies in real-world contexts. The programme brings together a diverse community of peace practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific, fostering cross-contextual learning and collaboration.

PRACTITIONER VOICES

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"The ACTS MA shaped me as a practitioner and decision maker. The residential seminars broke the monotony of routine work, and representing my organisation at the Peace Conference opened new possibilities for long-term peacebuilding."

- Student from India

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

6 modules across two years, including 3 residential seminars primarily in Cambodia and 3 online modules for flexible, self-directed learning.

A final Action Research thesis, defended academically, with opportunities to present at the Peace Practitioners' Research Conference.

Students don't just study conflict transformation, they practice, refine, and grow through it, building the leadership the region needs.

*Interested in ACTS but unsure you qualify?
Ask us about the ACTS Certificate option.*

A Two-Year Journey

From Theory to Applied Peace Leadership

ACTS MA is built on Action Research, a practice-based approach that generates theory from the ground, and Transformative Peace Leadership. Together, these guide students through six modules from theory to applied practice.

YEAR ONE- 2027

Module 1

Apr-June 2027

● Residential · Cambodia (mid-April to mid-May)

Introduction to Conflict Transformation

Drawing on students' own practice and contexts, this module builds shared analytical foundations in conflict transformation while forming the learning community that anchors the whole programme.

Module 2

Jul-Oct 2027

● Online (July)

Strategies for Intervention

Drawing on a specific regional context in Asia-Pacific, students examine how conflict transformation strategies take shape, what they leave unresolved, and what practitioners need to support genuine transformation.

Module 3

Nov 2027-Jan 2028

● Residential · Cambodia (Nov-Dec)

Sustaining Peace

This module engages reconciliation, transitional justice, and Transformative Peace Leadership through theory and lived practitioner experience, as students develop their Action Research proposals and participate in annual Peace Conference.

YEAR TWO- 2028

Module 4

Feb-Jun 2028

● Online

Becoming Agents of Change

This module deepens students' Action Research work, examining how ethical and participatory choices shape the relationship between research and the communities they serve.

Module 5

Jul-Oct 2028

● Online

Reflecting on Peace Practice

This module brings research and practice together — students consolidate their Action Research findings and strengthen their voice and confidence as peace practitioners.

Module 6

Nov 2028-Feb 2029

● Residential · Cambodia

Applied Theory of Conflict Transformation

The programme culminates in the academic defense of students' Action Research, with opportunities for selected students to present at the Peace Practitioners' Research Conference (PPRC).

PRACTITIONER VOICES



The ACTS programme has been truly transformative, deepening my understanding of conflict transformation while strengthening my ability to lead with reflection and inclusivity. The balance of theory and practice has given me confidence to take initiative in complex settings and to integrate participatory approaches in my community work.

— Student from Myanmar



After decades of working for peace, the ACTS MA programme provided me with new insights and a systematic framework to strengthen my practice. ACTS reshaped my approach by combining practical experience with academic rigour. It strengthened my leadership, informed my organisation's strategies, and prepared me to convene the Aceh Peace Forum in 2025, positioning Aceh as a hub for regional peacebuilding.

— Student from Aceh

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Is This Programme Right for You?

ACTS is designed for practitioners with hands-on experience in conflict-affected settings and a genuine drive to deepen their practice. If that is you, here is everything you need to know before applying.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must demonstrate professional experience and commitment to peacebuilding, with:

- 5+ years relevant experience (civil society, academia, law, youth/faith-based organisations, government, etc.)
- Bachelor's degree in a related discipline
- English Language Proficiency (IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 or equivalent)
- 25 years or older, actively engaged in peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific
- Institutional endorsement from employer/mentor/organisation
- Two Letters of Reference (one professional, one academic)
- Reliable internet access for online learning

HOW TO APPLY

- 01 Complete the application form**
Fill out the [Google Form](#) online or email your application directly to cpcs.acts@gmail.com
- 02 Submit Application (as attachment in google forms)**
Application Form, Statement of Motivation, Employer statement / Recommendation letter from Line Manager, Referee forms (minimum two)
- 03 Secure your place**
After acceptance, confirm enrolment by paying the USD 500 confirmation fee before 28 February 2027.

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS (MA)

- Curriculum vitae
- Bachelor degree
- Bachelor transcript
- High school diploma
- High school transcripts
- IELTS 6.0 or TOEFL 550
- A photo copy of valid passport

COURSE FEES

ANNUAL
TUITION

USD
2,500

DEPOSIT
FEE

USD
500

USD 5,000 total (two year program) — includes all learning resources and materials

Credited toward course costs. Due 28 February 2027.

Refundable if not accepted.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Airfare, accommodation, meals, and travel costs during in-person residential seminars are not included in the tuition fee.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Limited partial and full scholarships available to accepted students.

Applicants who can secure partial funding from their own organisations are in a stronger position to receive scholarship support.

FULLY ACCREDITED BY

Paññasastra University of Cambodia

The ACTS MA is a fully accredited, English-language postgraduate degree awarded by Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC), recognised nationally and across the region.



Application deadline: 30 November 2026

Email: cpcs.acts@gmail.com
www.centrepeaceconflictstudies.org

