

University of Bradford

Wednesday, June 28th

The Department of Peace Studies and graduate programmes offered

Dr. Jim Whitman, Director of the MA Programme

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/peace/>

About the Presenter

- Dr. Whitman was born a U.S. citizen and left for the UK in 1971 to attend college.
- He has earned his PhD from Bradford's Department of Peace Studies, before working at Cambridge (Wolfson College) for 7 years.

Department of Peace Studies

Overview

- Oldest & largest peace studies department in the world
- Academic department, not an activist/campaign organization
- Diverse range of backgrounds academically
- Open, informal department (appointments not needed to meet with faculty)
- Safe place to discuss difficult issues
- 36 academic faculty members
- One of Rotary's 6 International Peace Centers
- Enrollment: 120 MA students, 70 PhD students, 225 undergraduates

Research Centers

- [The Africa Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.](#)
- [The Bradford Disarmament Research Centre.](#)
- [The Centre for Conflict Resolution.](#)
- [The Centre for International Co-operation and Security.](#)
- [The International Centre for Participation Studies.](#)

Degrees Offered

- Currently, 3 MA degrees (adding 2 more by 2008)
 - Peace Studies
 - International Politics & Security Studies
 - International Conflict Resolution
 - African Security Studies (coming 2006)
 - Participation Studies (coming 2008)
 - increasing political participation on the local & national levels
- Also offer an MRes, MPhil, and PhD

About the MA Programmes

- Bradford believes in research-led teaching
 - Only faculty lecture (no PhD students)
 - Research informs the teaching
- Taught MAs are "hard degrees – not party MAs)
- 7 or 8 essays required over the year

-One Year, full time program (12 months)

-20,000 word dissertation

- Usually begun in May, due by September
- Many students write dissertation after leaving Bradford's campus

-MA Student Profile

- 30 countries represented – majority are NOT from the UK
- All ages, from many professions
- Non-standard students included (those with practical experience but no BA)

About the PhD Programme

-Methodology training is given during the first year

-Good supervisor fit can produce extraordinary results

-Bad relationships can be difficult, however new processes (2nd supervisors, etc.) are now in place to prevent/balance these situations

-Advice on the PhD

- Do your homework! The “best” professor may have a dozen students already.
- Find yourself a good teacher

Application Criteria

-Most important factors are CHARACTER and a GENUINE INTEREST/DESIRE to learn about Peace Studies

University of Bradford

University Overview

-One of the 10 largest universities in the UK

-10,000 students

-Origins date back to the 1860s, officially chartered in 1966

-8 Academic Schools (colleges)

-170 undergraduate degree courses, 80 postgraduate

City of Bradford

-In the North

-Cosmopolitan, becoming an urban population center

-Former industrial city: still recovering and on the verge of a major makeover

-Cheap (relatively) cost of living

-Ethnically diverse

-Some class/race tensions (riots four years ago, many employment issues)

Q&A

Q: How is Bradford different than other Peace Studies programs in the UK & Ireland?

A: Ireland emphasizes conflict resolution; Bradford does everything. Bradford is also an academic degree, not practical training

Q: What sort of jobs do graduates enter after completing the MA programmes?

A: -Less than 25% of MA grads go on to do a PhD

-Alumni pursue a wide range of opportunities, including think tanks, institutes, internships, etc.

-Some go on to neighborhood mediation and field work

-Many go back to former professions (police, military, etc.)

Q: Is Bradford a good place for Border Studies?

A: Durham is really the university for this.

Q: Do you have partnerships with US peace study programs?

A: No

Q: Do your programs have the opportunity for international fieldwork?

A: The MA has no formal fieldwork. However, informal study trips have been organized (usually by the students themselves) to locations such as Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, and Brunei. PhDs will complete fieldwork where appropriate.

Q: Is there anything you wish we (as representatives of US universities) knew or would do differently?

A: Please teach your academics to write reference letters!

- Explain lesser performances
- Include the student's CHARACTER! Try to link high performance to character

Q: What differences do you see between US students and other students?

A: -There is a large cultural difference in essay writing. US students write descriptive essays, while UK faculty want argumentative essays.

-US students may be worried about offending a supervisor by consulting with other faculty as well. Just tell your supervisor what you're doing!

-While Bradford is generally very informal, this may not be the case everywhere, due to generational differences amongst faculty.

-On these types of issues regarding relationship "norms," take your lead from the UK students

Q: How can we help US students applying to British PhD programs?

A: -Make sure the program being applied to includes the student's SPECIFIC focus.

Along with this, be sure faculty will be available to supervise the student. If no faculty are available matching the student's interest, they may be denied simply because there is no one there to supervise them.

-Essay should show an understanding of the themes and interests the student wants to pursue

-Show a comprehension of the scope and resources of the department

-Students should do their homework!!!!

Prepared by Dana Vredevelde, The Ohio State University (vredevelde.5@osu.edu)