

Netra Kaphle, Nepal

I feel privileged to have spent my time in Coventry, where understanding the conflict and peace-building approaches are the most important aspect of the course. I have been encouraged to constantly rethink, question and analyse my assumptions about conflict and peace issues more broadly. The course not only gave me new skills and knowledge but also delivered excellent practical understanding and broader insights that equipped me to think creatively, work strategically and correspond effectively. I feel full of energy and confident to contribute in conflict transformation and peace-building issues in the days to come.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and acknowledgement to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust and to Coventry University who provided me with the invaluable opportunity to do an MA in Peace and Reconciliation Studies.



Li Tongtong, People's Republic of China



I can hardly say how much I appreciate the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for providing me with the most memorable experiences in Peace and Reconciliation Studies.

The course opened doors for me to re-consider the

world and myself with new perspectives. I have previously studied journalism and bilingual broadcasting, and I'm very fortunate that my scholarship has allowed me to further my studies in peace and war issues. It will help me to report international news with professional and rational perspectives later. With those theories I learned from the course, I am very confident that I can express my views to my audiences in a more balanced and perceptive way.



Xu Mengyao, People's Republic of China

Thanks to the generosity of the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust, my experience in Coventry enhanced my knowledge level and expanded my vision of the world. I have learnt to communicate, understand and love people who are different from me, which I consider to be the real meaning of peace. This will be the most rewarding lesson in my life. I appreciate the generous help from the Trust, because I am now a big step closer to fulfilling my academic ambitions. I sincerely hope that one day I will be able to do such things to help other people, as the Ferguson Trust does today.



In previous years, Ferguson Trust scholarships have assisted similar groups of committed students. Graduates now include a leading member of the Centre for Nonviolent Action, Belgrade; a peace and reconciliation specialist at Save the Children Nepal; several staff working on post-genocide and reconciliation issues at Documentation Centre of Cambodia; Palestinian peace activists; and many others.

For more information on scholarships at Coventry University, please get in touch with Development Office staff using the contact details below.

The Ferguson Trust Scholarship Foundation

Development Office
Coventry University
Priory Street
Coventry
CV1 5FB

Tel: +44 24 7688 8589

Email: development.mc@coventry.ac.uk

www.coventry.ac.uk/alumni

The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement was set up in memory of two generations of the Ferguson family to promote their particular interests in education, international friendship and understanding, and the promotion of world peace and development.

Coventry University is extremely grateful to have received a number of donations from the trust to promote the activities of the Centre for Peace & Reconciliation Studies, which has included scholarships in the Masters Degree of Peace and Reconciliations Studies. These students have enjoyed a productive year and are thankful for the opportunities which the scholarships have afforded them. They are now making decisions about how they will use their new skills, knowledge and experience to make a difference in places of conflict around the world.

Professor David Noon, Dean of the Faculty of Business, Environment and Society



The mission of the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies (CPRS) is to expand and deepen our understanding of the processes that lead to peace and reconciliation by non-violent means. This is achieved by asking such questions as:

How do we move beyond cycles of hatred and violence in conflict situations?

How can we build community out of division and distrust after a formal peace settlement has been agreed?

What is the role of forgiveness in such processes?

What do we mean by reconciliation?

These questions are wrestled with regularly by people living with conflict situations around the world.

The Ferguson Trust scholarships have played a crucial role in advancing the study of peace and reconciliation here at Coventry. They provide probably the only opportunity for people from low-income countries and especially from conflict areas to pursue further studies. Graduates can then return to make a real difference in their own communities and beyond. Such students also make a tremendous contribution to the academic community at the University, and to student life in the City of Coventry.

My Faculty is enormously proud of the achievements of all the students of Peace and Reconciliation Studies, and I offer my personal congratulations for all their endeavours to date. I am certain that their future success in their chosen careers will be in no small part attributable to the generosity of the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement and the dedicated team of staff within CPRS.

Deusdedit Nkurunziza, Uganda

I am very grateful to have received a scholarship from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust. The scholarship has helped to sharpen my own attitudes and to look at history and life events more positively and constructively. The international and multicultural atmosphere at Coventry University and on the course has also helped to open up my horizons through interacting and learning from fellow students. I have made new friends and in the process, discovered that peacebuilding is about building human relationships.

My qualification, experience, knowledge and skills acquired are going to help me to develop a nonviolence, forgiveness and reconciliation programme in my country when I return. I will remain an active advocate and trainer in conflict resolution and peace education. I am also working with a team to set up the East African Institute of Governance and Conflict Management (EAIGCM), to provide a forum for further research and training in this field. I am therefore looking forward for further collaboration with the Centre of Peace and Reconciliation Studies and with Coventry University.



Mobalaji Oyeniji, Nigeria

The scholarship came at a point when I was defining my career and it has offered me the opportunity to study in a field that is of great relevance in our present world. This

opportunity has influenced my choice of a future career in development work and, more importantly, it will position me to contribute to the development of a better world.

Sarieu Mahdi, Sierra Leone

Many people in countries emerging from violent conflict cannot afford to pursue postgraduate studies in either their own countries or in the developed countries. I have been fortunate to complete an MA in Peace and Reconciliation Studies at Coventry University free from the stress of having to struggle to raise tuition fees, due to the scholarship I received from the Ferguson Trust.



I am now equipped with many theories and tools of analysis to either undertake further research studies or take up specialised jobs. I am confident that I can meaningfully contribute to my family and those I will eventually work with in breaking the chain of wrong perception, pain, illiteracy and poverty.



Peter Maregere, Zimbabwe

My sincere and utmost appreciation to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for providing the wonderful opportunity for me to complete

an MA in Peace and Reconciliation Studies at Coventry University. Attending Coventry University was a rewarding experience as it allowed me to share my experience, enhance my capacity, broaden my scope and immensely improve my analytical ability to work for a just and peaceful society.

I am confident that my education at Coventry University will help me to play a central role in the attainment of peace not only in my native Zimbabwe but throughout the continent. This course has enhanced my praxis to work for a just and egalitarian society.

Ali Dhahir Ali, Iraq

The Ferguson scholarship was a great opportunity for me to get more skills in peace and reconciliation as I was working in one of the community development and conflict resolution NGOs in Iraq, work which I will resume when I return back. Studying in Coventry gave me more confidence and enhanced my ability to deal with different kinds of conflicts, and being here with other peace studies colleagues from different backgrounds gave me the opportunity to share experience across diverse cultures.



Maurice Beseng, Cameroon

I am very grateful for the assistance from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust, which enabled me to attend Coventry University and greatly eased my financial burden. This psychological boost eased my worries and gave me more time to concentrate on the Peace and Reconciliation course. My good result means the future looks brighter and more secure for me, and I look forward to applying my wealth of experiences in the increasingly demanding field of peacemaking and peacebuilding.



Ritah Kambona, Uganda

The scholarship has paved a way for others to touch my life in many positive ways. I have been taught the skills to broaden my mind, not only in the realm of education but in the world around me.

James Kiven, Cameroon

I am indebted to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for awarding me the scholarship that has enabled me to study on the MA Peace and Reconciliation Studies course. My experience on the course was beyond expectation, and I am confident that the skills I have acquired will make a big difference in my contribution to peace building in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A special feature of this year was the opportunity to meet people and make friends with colleagues from all over the world, especially those people who have similar experiences and aspirations as myself. It would have been impossible for me to broaden my horizons in this way without attending this programme in the UK.



I hope that more people will have this sort of opportunity and will myself work to support talent in peace, reconciliation and development in a similar way at every stage of my career. I now have a dream of pursuing a PhD in a topic related to peace studies, hopefully to promote in the long term better prospects for social justice in my country.