

Crisis Negotiations and Peace Mediation

Lead with confidence in high-stakes diplomacy

In an era of rising conflict, polycrises, and disinformation, this course equips you to lead effectively in high-stakes diplomatic environments by developing the strategic mindset, practical skills, and ethical grounding essential for crisis negotiations and peace mediation.

Drawing on cutting-edge research and real-world case studies, it explores a professional ecosystem defined by agility, trust-building, and adaptive approaches, highlighting the shift from traditional security-driven responses to relational, non-coercive methods. Through interactive modules, you will learn to navigate complex political spaces, engage diverse actors, and foster inclusive dialogue.

Key outcomes

The Crisis Negotiations and Peace Mediation programme will enable you to:

- Apply strategic negotiation techniques in high-pressure diplomatic contexts during armed conflicts, political transitions or peace processes
- Engage effectively in peace mediation processes, understanding the roles of mediators, frameworks for dialogue, and strategies for building inclusive and sustainable agreements
- Analyse ethical dilemmas and decision-making challenges in crisis diplomacy, particularly when navigating competing political, security, and humanitarian imperatives
- Strengthen cross-cultural and multistakeholder negotiation skills to manage power asymmetries, build consensus

INFORMATION

FEE CHF 2'950

DATES See exact dates on the website

FORMAT 5 days in-person

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

→ Executive Certificate of Attendance for the Crisis Negotiations and Peace Mediation programme

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This programme is particularly relevant for mid-to senior-level practitioners from various organisations working or aspiring to work as:

- → Early career diplomats and members of permanent missions
- → Professionals in the fields of humanitarian affairs, security, and international cooperation
- Policy and governance officers and head of programme





PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Day 1: Building the foundations of peace mediation

- Foundations in conflict resolution and peace mediation
- Mediation practice from ceasefires to peace agreement

Day 2: Negotiating with power holders

- → Engaging and transforming armed actors
- → Mediation support practices: Instruments, initiatives, outcomes

Day 3: Crisis leadership in practice

- Foundations in crisis diplomacy and hostage negotiations
- Case studies in crisis management and peace mediation: Norway, Switzerland and Oman

Day 4-5: Mastering negotiation under pressure

- Practice exercise in hostage negotiation and peace mediation
- → Future skills for negotiators and diplomats

Academic Advisor Achim Wennmann

Professor Achim Wennmann is the Director for Strategic Partnerships of the Geneva Graduate Institute, and Professor of Practice in the Institute's Interdisciplinary Programme, where he holds the Nagulendran Chair in Peace Mediation.

"By the end of the course, participants will be prepared to champion a vision for peace diplomacy that is practice-based, innovative, and adapted to face a new era of conflict resolution and peacemaking."

Achim Wennmann, Academic Advisor of the programme

Geneva Graduate Institute



A well-established reputation

The Geneva Graduate Institute is an institution of research and postgraduate education dedicated to the study of world affairs since 1927. Over the past ten years, the Institute's Executive Education programme has trained over 3,000 professionals.

International Geneva

Centrally-located in Geneva, the Institute's Executive Education Programme attracts a unique mix of participants from all sectors, countries and positions. Join our network of over 20,000 alumni, we propose a unique platform for inspiring exchanges and networking opportunities.