

COURSE CONVENOR BACKGROUND



Professor Beverley Milton-Edwards is regarded as one of the world's leading experts on violence, terrorism and security. A member of The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's, work on radical Islamic movements including Hamas, Hizballah, al-Qaeda and more recently ISIS has resulted in seminal research publications and a role in informing and advising some of the highest diplomatic decision and policy-making in the Middle East. She was recently awarded a Visiting Fellowship at the world's number one Think Tank, Brookings, where she will undertake a project on Security Governance in the Middle East and the Challenge of Islamism.

Professor Beverley Milton-Edwards (PhD Exeter)

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“Completing the MA in Violence, Terrorism and Security at Queen's University Belfast has proven to be one of my most educationally thought-provoking and rewarding life experiences to date.”

Brian C. Mueller MA VTS 2011
Marshall Scholar, US Air Force

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SCHOOL OF
HISTORY,
ANTHROPOLOGY,
PHILOSOPHY
AND POLITICS



MA
**VIOLENCE,
TERRORISM
AND SECURITY**

**GLOBAL
CHALLENGES:
CONFLICTS AND
COOPERATION IN
CONTEXT**

**SHAPING
A BETTER
WORLD
SINCE 1845**

MA VIOLENCE, TERRORISM AND SECURITY

The study of Violence, Terrorism and Security has long been an important arena of academic research and debate. The rise of groups like ISIS in Iraq and Syria and the legacies of 9/11 and al-Qaeda has now brought the subject to the forefront of academic, policymaking, media and popular debates. Questions over the nature, evolution, causes, and normative justifications of violence, terrorism and security are now an embedded aspect of public discourse. These issues have also driven an exponential growth in these areas in academia.

The MA in Violence, Terrorism and Security offers students the opportunity to study these three key areas through a variety

of theoretical lenses, in an innovative and interdisciplinary academic environment, with world-leading scholars. The programme aims to help students develop a critical and analytical approach to violence, terrorism and security in the contemporary world. It challenges conventional wisdom and opens up the debate about the role of violence in relation to political power in the current era. Successfully completing the MA can enhance students' opportunities for career advancement by developing their knowledge, understanding and skills. This includes independent research training, growth in analytical and intellectual skills, and advancement in practical and technical expertise.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Students take six taught classes/modules, plus conduct a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words.

Core Classes/Modules

- Approaches to Research Design
- Conflict Intervention
- Contemporary Security
- Global Terrorism
- Violence, Terrorism and Security

Plus, one class/module from the following:

- Ethnic Conflict
- International Political Economy
- Philosophy of Conflict and War

Note that this is not an exclusive list and these options are subject to staff availability.

Assessment and Feedback: Teaching is delivered from a wide range of pedagogical

approaches. Students are provided various methods of assessment, both formal and informal as well as formative and summative in order to enhance the student learning experience. Each class/module typically consists of two or three main pieces of formal assessment and can include essays, policy reports, simulations, presentations, among other forms of assessment.

Feedback is provided throughout the programme for continuous student reflection and growth. Teachers provide thorough and systematic feedback on assessed work. Feedback is also available from your personal tutor as well as via various support mechanisms and training courses in the university such as from the Student Guidance Centre.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Our teaching staff have global standing as experts in their field. They regularly interface with policy-makers, state governments and sectoral actors giving expert advice and expertise to the field.
- Queen's University, located in Belfast, Northern Ireland offers a unique opportunity for our students to access and engage with a community context previously challenged by violence, terrorism and security.
- It is anticipated that internship opportunities in Belfast will be made available to students.
- Outstanding research institutes, campus facilities, and student support and guidance.
- Our programme attracts international award holders of the highest calibre, including Marshall and Mitchell scholars. Study with like-minded students from various backgrounds in VTS. Some of our students have previous experience in the United Nations, national police forces, military, among many others, before coming to study with us.
- Graduates now serve in the most senior ranks of a number of National Police Services, and Law Enforcement Agencies, Border and Immigration Control, National Armed Forces including the US Army, US Air Force, British Army and Irish Defence Forces. Graduates also work as senior government policy advisers, in international NGOs and the media.

I decided to study “Violence, Terrorism and Security” to build on my undergraduate degree in International Relations and previous work experience with the German Bundeswehr. The VTS programme provided me with detailed knowledge and critical understanding of the motivation and political background of violence, terrorism and security. It also prepared me with the skills to assess conflicts and violence topics from different perspectives. After graduation, I attended the postgraduate course “Peace and Security Studies” in Hamburg. Now I am seconded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, where I see on a daily basis how a conflict and violence affects a whole society. I recognised in Luhansk my personal outcome from the VTS course: Nothing in a conflict is black and white – it is all grey with shades of red.

Peter Finke

VTS class of 2013-2014

