



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Human Rights Policy and Practice

120 credits

Based on [Name of National Curriculum Regulation] of [ddd.mm.yyyy]

The program description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education on [ddd.mm.yyyy]



Study programme name	Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Human Rights Policy and Practice
Degree obtained	Master in Human Rights Policy and Practice
Target group	High quality students that have demonstrated a clear commitment to human rights through the completion of a bachelors degree in a related field and/or through work or volunteer experience in a human rights field. Students should indicate a clear intention to pursue a career in human rights.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	<p>A first degree equivalent to 180 credits or 180 ECTS from an internationally recognised university or college.</p> <p>A minimum of two year's practitioner experience in the field of human rights. Practitioner experience may include regular employments, internships and voluntary work.</p> <p>Students whose first language is not English, need to acquire a minimum English language qualification. As the requirements for the different participating institutions vary, and are subject to change, students will need to demonstrate English competence according to the strictest country standards. These will be stated in the call for applications each year by the University of Gothenburg.</p>
Certificate of good conduct	
Suitability assessment	
The study programme's Learning Outcome	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The candidate can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> critically and systematically problematize human rights as a changing political, ethical and legal research-, work- and study field account for, and on a scientific basis reflect on, the international human rights system's norms, institutions and processes account for different theoretical approaches reflecting human rights as an interdisciplinary field <p>Skills</p> <p>The candidate can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> critically and systematically work as human rights professionals in situations characterized by globalisation and diversity independently identify and critically analyse how various actors affect the interpretation, development, and protection of human rights

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyse and critically discuss implementation of human rights at different levels in society and in different societal sectors • integrate and apply different theoretical approaches in the analysis of empirical case studies • independently identify and formulate research problems in the human rights field • independently conduct qualified methodologically and scientifically based human rights studies within given time frames and present the results of these studies in writing and orally to different audiences • carry out an independent, limited research or development project under supervision and in accordance with applicable norms for research ethics <p>General competence</p> <p>The candidate can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critically and independently reflect on the consequences and effects of one's own and other actors' human rights argumentations and actions • critically and independently reflect and act on ethical issues in human rights research and professional work • demonstrate insights into the possibilities and limitations of different disciplinary approaches to human rights research and implementation, as well as the role of human rights research and human rights work in society • independently identify the personal need for further knowledge in the human rights field and take responsibility for future learning
Academic content and discription of the study programme	<p>Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Human Rights Policy and Practice is a two-year full-time international Master's programme. It is interdisciplinary in scope and provides students with a thorough understanding of human rights issues through the application of human rights theory and practice in combination with law, sociology, social anthropology, international relations, civil society and political science.</p> <p>Students will be able to articulate human rights issues from a variety of perspectives, to apply theory from different fields and disciplines, to discuss and assess the strengths and weaknesses of different perspectives and critically evaluate how these perspectives can be used by different actors, agencies and stakeholders. The students will be trained in project management and organisational analysis as well as the key intellectual themes of human rights work. Placement learning is central to the programme</p>

Table: programme structure	<table><tr><td>Term</td><td>10 study points (ECTS)</td><td>10 study points (ECTS)</td><td>10 study points (ECTS)</td></tr><tr><td>1. semester (University of Gothenburg)</td><td>Human Rights as Interdisciplinary Field (15 ECTS)</td><td colspan="2">State, Market and Human Rights (15 ECTS)</td></tr><tr><td>2. semester (University of Deusto)</td><td>Researching Human Rights (15 ECTS)</td><td colspan="2">Human Rights Defenders: Objectives, Means and Contexts (15 ECTS)</td></tr><tr><td>3. semester (University of Roehampton)</td><td colspan="2">Social Movements and NGOs: Understanding Social Change (Internship) (20 ECTS)</td><td>Theorizing Human Rights (10 ECTS)</td></tr><tr><td>4. semester (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)</td><td colspan="3">Dissertation (30 ECTS)</td></tr></table>	Term	10 study points (ECTS)	10 study points (ECTS)	10 study points (ECTS)	1. semester (University of Gothenburg)	Human Rights as Interdisciplinary Field (15 ECTS)	State, Market and Human Rights (15 ECTS)		2. semester (University of Deusto)	Researching Human Rights (15 ECTS)	Human Rights Defenders: Objectives, Means and Contexts (15 ECTS)		3. semester (University of Roehampton)	Social Movements and NGOs: Understanding Social Change (Internship) (20 ECTS)		Theorizing Human Rights (10 ECTS)	4. semester (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)	Dissertation (30 ECTS)		
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Learning activities, examination and assessment	<p>The programme emphasises blended learning, and modules combine traditional lectures by academic staff, Associate Partners and Visiting Scholars with active learning sessions such as seminars, flipped classroom, and peer-assisted learning. The programme works with reflective learning methods combined with continuous feedback and “feeding forward”.</p> <p>The programme is organised as a continuous participatory learning process: lectures, assignments, practical placement, seminars and the final thesis make up the cumulative learning process over two years. Students are encouraged to collaborate with each other in developing skills and understandings throughout the study.</p> <p>The programme includes various types of exams and coursework requirements. Teaching and assessment methods are described in the course plan for each course. Please note that some courses have coursework requirements. Only students whose coursework requirements have been approved will be allowed to sit the examination. This is an intensive programme. All courses are compulsory and demand active participation from the students.</p>																				
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The study programme’s relevance	Human rights challenges are multifaceted, fast-changing and complex in their nature, management and resolution. For this reason, the study of human rights as a discipline requires a vast array of																				

	interconnected and interdisciplinary approaches to understand and address both complex local and global phenomena. More specifically, the study of human rights requires the acquisition of a philosophical approach in order to appreciate how rights become recognised and embedded in the international system, as well as in each national context. Secondly, it is fundamental to possess a thorough knowledge of the legal codification – both at the domestic and international level – of abstract human rights principles. Thirdly, it is also important to understand the sociological value of human rights as the product of a specific way of conceiving social relations and societies and to examine the interplay between universal human rights norms and local cultural dynamics. Lastly, it is important to acknowledge human rights as a crucial component of international politics and in the definition of national foreign policies and the action of international organisations (United Nations, European Union, etc.). These five fields (Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Anthropology, and International Relations) enable students to develop a holistic comprehension of human rights violations and enable the research of complex and advanced solutions to them.
Work scope	The students are expected to spend 40 hours per week on their studies, including preparation for lectures and seminars, work on term papers and other assignments.
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	<p>After completing this course, students should be able to independently and creatively carry out an advanced, scientifically-based study within a given time frame. This course gives students an opportunity to immerse themselves for a full semester in a chosen research question related to human rights. The main assignment consists of writing an extended scientific paper in the field of human rights, which can be either theoretically or empirically based. In this paper, the students should demonstrate their in-depth ability to analyze social phenomena related to human rights, with the help of social science theoretical approaches and analytical tools.</p> <p>The Master's thesis should be approximately 15,000 words in length. Where appropriate the thesis should consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an analysis of an identified human rights and social justice case(s) • a literature view • a presentation of research design and hypothesis building • a description of and justification for the selected theoretical and methodological approach • a presentation and analysis of the data • a conclusion and set of recommendations for addressing the problem • a discussion of ethical problems encountered and their resolution in the research and cultural context

	The teaching will consist of Individual tutoring.
Language of instruction and examination	The language of instruction and examination is English
Internationalisation	<p>The Consortium seeks to maximise its internationalisation impact through a series of measures aimed at integrating as closely as possible different groups of incoming HRPP students, as well as students registered on respective national programmes. This will create a truly global learning environment where there are multiple and diversified learning opportunities ranging from a multitude of cross-cultural experiences and perspectives, as well as drawing from students' own professional backgrounds.</p> <p>Internationalisation of institutional arrangements: the students attending the proposed EMHRPP will benefit from the expertise and experience of Associate Partners in multiple countries. Collaborative learning is at the heart of the proposed programme's approach to European higher education. As such, on-going communication with our Associate Partners ensures that all parties play an active role in the Programme and all parties benefit from this form of partnership in learning.</p>
Student exchange	All students will spend one semester at each of the three teaching institutions (UG, Deusto, RU) and will then will be divided equally among the four institutions (including also UiT) to write their thesis in the last semester.
Supervised professional training	
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	Administration of the common issues of the program and of the academic responsibility is handled by the programme board. The specific administration of each course such as examination and teaching is handled by the university responsible for each course.
Quality assurance	The programme will be evaluated every year, while the courses will be evaluated once during the two-year period of the study programme. The board of the programme decides which methods are to be made use of for the evaluation, as well as how the results should be reported back to the students and used for the improvement of the programme.
Other regulations	

