

Curriculum

Vienna Master of Arts of Human Rights



a) Core Module:
Introduction to Human Rights from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Aims of the module:

- Knowledge of the concept of human rights
- Understanding the inter- and transdisciplinary of human rights
- Knowledge of the basic principles, structures and approaches of each discipline with regard to human rights (from a legal, historical, theological, philosophical, anthropological, psychological, sociological, political/international relations' and media perspective)
- Knowledge of the contributions of the various disciplines to the understanding of human rights issues in certain situations
- Knowledge about the development of human rights
- Ability to identify various interdisciplinary aspects of a human rights related issue and to take these into account when dealing with this issue

b) Core Module:
International and Regional Human Rights Systems

Aims of the module:

- Knowledge of the various UN human rights standards as well as the human rights institutions/mechanisms of the UN system, such as the treaty monitoring bodies and procedures and the Charter based mechanisms (Human Rights Council, General Assembly, Security Council etc.)
- Knowledge of the various human rights standards of the Council of Europe and the European Union
- Knowledge of other regional human rights mechanisms in the context of i.e. the OSCE, the Organization of American States, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the League of Arab States
- Ability to apply the acquired knowledge to specific cases and situations
- Comparative knowledge of strengths and weaknesses of regional human rights standards and mechanisms, in theory as well as in practice, from an interdisciplinary point of view
- Ability to prepare, present and defend a case during the simulation of a human rights body meeting or of an international trial

**c) Core Module:
Current Human Rights Issues from an Interdisciplinary Perspective**

Aims of the module:

- Understanding the interdisciplinarity of human rights through analysing current and complex phenomena that are of utmost importance in the field of human rights
- Knowledge of the multi-disciplinary contributions to the understanding of the causes, factors and effects of such phenomena
- Knowledge of current human rights violations in different regions of the world, as well as the interdisciplinary analysis of its causes, factors and effect
- Knowledge of international and regional legal instruments to protect against and prevent human rights violations
- Acquire practical skills for ending human rights violations
- Acquiring a professional attitude towards the complexity of dealing with human rights violations

**d) Core Module:
Specific Human Rights and Human Rights of Specific Groups**

Aims of the module:

- Knowledge of specific civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- Understanding equality, diversity and the principle of non-discrimination
- Knowledge of human rights of specific groups
- Ability to apply international human rights law to specific practical cases and situations with regards to human rights of specific groups
- Ability to identify practical problems and good practices in the implementation of human rights of specific groups
- Understanding the relationship between human rights and peace, human rights and democracy and human rights and development
- Knowledge of approaches on how to tackle human rights challenges in specific difficult settings, such as human rights in conflict, human rights and terrorism, human rights and poverty
- Ability to understand and apply a human rights based approach to development, poverty reduction and other issues
- Knowledge of specific newly emerging human rights issues, such as human rights and business, human rights and environment, human rights and climate change, as well as transcultural human rights
- Ability to identify human rights challenges in specific difficult/emerging settings and knowledge of approaches to tackle these new human rights issues

**e) Core Module:
Practical Human Rights Skills**

Aims of the module:

- Knowledge of practical skills required in everyday work with human rights, such as advocacy, monitoring, fact finding, reporting, human rights work in the field etc.
- Ability to deal with practical challenges in the field of human rights
- Ability to apply this knowledge in concrete cases that might occur in the field
- Ability to work in an international, inter-cultural environment
- Ability to reflect thought patterns critically against the background of other traditions and cultures
- Ability to set up, manage and implement human rights projects

**f) Core Module:
Scientific Competence**

Aims of the module:

- Knowledge of working methods to write different types of human rights papers/contributions in various disciplines
- Ability to acquire knowledge of and to critically assess the current state of research and controversies regarding a specific human rights topic
- Ability to conduct professional human rights research in various disciplines
- Ability to evaluate specialised literature and sources
- Ability to write a well-structured, well-reasoned thesis about an innovative human rights topic
- Ability to present a human rights paper and to discuss it using academic arguments
- Ability to reflect critically one's own academic paper

**g) Core Module:
Internship Related Courses**

Aims of the module:

- Ability to put into practice the knowledge that has been acquired in the first academic year by undertaking a semester abroad or an internship in the field of human rights
- Ability to identify relevant and current developments in the field of human rights and to make use of this information for the Master thesis
- Ability to provide analyses of these developments/events and discuss them interactively within a moderated online platform with the supervisor
- Ability to present the experiences made throughout the internship/semester abroad in front of an audience and to put the experience into writing (internship report)

h) Thesis