Human Rights

VIENNA MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS
No philosophical idea has had a more profound impact on international relations and world politics than human rights. Within half a century since World War II and the Holocaust, human rights developed into the only universally accepted value system of our times. The recognition of states as democratic, developed and peace-loving nations today depends on their capacity and willingness to protect human rights. Long-term dictators and brutal military rulers are increasingly being ousted and held accountable for gross and systematic violations of human rights before international criminal tribunals. Even business corporations and international organisations are judged by their human rights performance. In post-conflict situations and transitions from totalitarian to democratic rule, human rights constitute an essential element of peace-building, development and good governance. Human rights open the doors to a better world for all.

The implementation of human rights in rich and poor countries, in peace operations, development projects, transition and post-conflict situations requires highly motivated and skilled human rights experts with empathy for human beings.

“Being a human rights expert is one of the most fascinating new professions for people with various backgrounds. You need to have an open mind, motivation and empathy, and we provide you with the knowledge and skills you require to work in the challenging world of universal human rights.”

MANFRED NOWAK
Professor of International Human Rights at the University of Vienna, Co-Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

Election monitoring
**The Universe of Human Rights**

With our newly designed Master of Arts in Human Rights the University of Vienna offers you the unique opportunity to study human rights in an international, transdisciplinary and practice-oriented environment.

**Aims and Objectives**
We aim at providing you with the scientific knowledge and the practical skills to work as a human rights expert in different professional environments.

**Target Group**
We welcome students who hold at least a bachelor degree, from a broad variety of academic disciplines, from all world regions, with an open mind, empathy for human beings and a strong interest to experience the fascinating world of human rights.

**Structure**
We offer an innovative and interdisciplinary approach to human rights, with a strong emphasis on practice. We keep the class size small in order to provide you with the best possible support, so you can get the most out of the programme. Your interests are taken very seriously – you have the opportunity to determine certain contents of your courses.

**Semester 1**: Courses introducing human rights, its mechanisms and its interdisciplinarity  
**Semester 2**: Courses focusing on specific human rights and specific groups  
**Semester 3**: Internship / research placement  
**Semester 4**: Moot Court and thesis writing
Vienna – The Vibrant Heart of Europe

Not only is Vienna well known as the world city with the highest quality of life, but situated in the heart of Europe, it lies at the crossroads of different cultures. People from all over the world come to Vienna to meet, to enjoy its charm and the sound of music, to study, to dance, to hold peace congresses and attend scientific conferences. Many international organisations and agencies, including the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, have chosen to be hosted in Vienna. After the end of the Cold War, the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 laid the ground for the current human rights architecture of the United Nations. Combining tradition and modernity, arts and science, work and leisure, Vienna provides the ideal international environment to spend two unforgettable years studying the art of human rights.

Field Trip
We provide you with an enlightening field trip to Kosovo, a country gaining its independence under post-conflict reconstruction, where the UN, the OSCE, the EU, NATO and other international organisations are jointly operating an international administration with a strong human rights mandate.

Internship
In the third semester you undertake an internship in an human rights organisation or a research placement at one of our partner universities. Where possible, the Master team will provide advice, guidance and contacts to Vienna-based international organisations and alumni (who have graduated from this programme) to assist you in finding the right placement.
Short Facts

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<th>Academic Degree</th>
<th>Master of Arts (MA)</th>
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<td>Duration</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Units</td>
<td>120 ECTS</td>
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<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Tuition Fee</td>
<td>for two years: € 20,600</td>
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<td>Start</td>
<td>October each year</td>
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Job Opportunities

We will train you for a career as a human rights expert to be employed by governments, international organisations, development agencies, business corporations, research institutes and civil society organisations. You might work as an election observer, human rights field officer, diplomat, trainer, mediator, consultant etc.

Faculty

Broad variety of courses taught by:
- academic lecturers from various disciplines
- human rights practitioners from international organisations
- human rights institutes
- the corporate sector
- development agencies
- civil society organisations

http://humanrights.univie.ac.at
The University of Vienna is one of the oldest and largest universities in Europe. Staffed with about 9,600 employees, the University fosters innovation in Vienna and its surroundings. About 92,000 national and international students promote intellectual exchange in the city of Vienna.

The Postgraduate Center is the competence center for professional continuing education and training at the University of Vienna. It offers more than 50 master’s programs, university continuing education and training courses and certificate courses in the fields of education and social care, health and natural sciences, international affairs and business, communication and media, as well as law.

The portfolio of the Postgraduate Center is complemented by corporate programs, as well as interdisciplinary series of events and projects aimed at creating networks between the world of academia, economy and society.

The University of Vienna guarantees academic quality in accordance with international standards. Its practical orientation and interdisciplinary nature are additional essential quality criteria. In addition, the Postgraduate Center is actively involved in the Austrian and international lifelong learning discourse.