

Master programme in
Human Rights Practice, 80 credits (120 ECTS)
(Erasmus Mundus)

1. Programme Aims

The Master programme in Human Rights Practice is an international programme organised by a consortium of three universities; Roehampton University, University of Tromsø and Göteborg University. It is mainly designed for students who want to take up careers in human rights work in civil society organisations, governments and the public sector and business.

The Master programme aims to prepare the students to:

- 1) work with the protection, promotion and implementation of human rights effectively in a changing global context
- 2) know and develop analytical expertise in human rights perspectives, contexts and organisations
- 3) evaluate and apply this knowledge to different cases and practices
- 4) develop programmes of action and policies as appropriate
- 5) compare analytically human rights practice across different cultures and nation-states

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Students who successfully complete the MA will be able to:

- 1) Understand and critically review the contribution of the social sciences (mainly anthropology, law, international relations and sociology) to human rights theory, practice and institutions.
- 2) Understand and critically review human rights practice within the context of local, national and global civil society.
- 3) Understand, critically review and apply organisational and management theories within the context of civil society.
- 4) Understand, critically review and apply a range of appropriate research and project management techniques.

Cognitive Skills

Students who successfully complete the MA will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a high level of professional responsibility for their work
- 2) Analyse and evaluate the organisation and structure of civil society organisations
- 3) Critically analyse, through the use of 'critical incidents', the management practice of civil society organisations.

- 4) Analyse and evaluate the role and effectiveness of local, national and international human rights organisations
- 5) Demonstrate an ability to reflect on, evaluate and respond to the relationship between academic study and professional experience
- 6) Critically analyse and assess comparative data on human rights and social justice issues from around the world
- 7) Carefully formulate evidence-based judgements about a range of social and ethical issues
- 8) Use professional reflection in a systematic and evidenced-based manner
- 9) Demonstrate cultural and emotional sensitivity in their responses to issues

Practical Skills

Students who complete the MA successfully will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- 1) The selection and application of appropriate research methods and project management techniques
- 2) The preparation and writing of reports for different audiences
- 3) The development and use of case studies
- 4) The undertaking of research projects with minimum guidance
- 5) The development of policy proposals as possible solutions to human rights and social justice issues
- 6) Reflection on personal and career management

Key Skills

Students who complete the MA successfully will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- 1) Organising and presenting arguments
- 2) Effective communication of research findings and other outputs
- 3) Effective teamwork
- 4) Effective management of time and an understanding of the impact of resource limitations.
- 5) Adaptability and sensitivity to new situations and environments

2. Structure

Year ONE Autumn Semester (Göteborg)

Title	Credit
Human Rights Practice: An Interdisciplinary Approach	10 ECTs
Human Rights: Legal Perspectives	10 ECTs
Globalisation: Challenges to Human Rights	10 ECTs

Year ONE Spring Semester (Roehampton)

Title	Credit
Human Rights: Sociological Interrogations	10 ECTs
Civil Society and Organisational Management	20 ECTs

Year TWO Autumn Semester (Tromsö)

Title	Credit
Research and Project Management	20 ECTs
Culture, Ethnicity and Human Rights	10 ECTs

Year TWO Spring Semester (Göteborg, Roehampton, Tromsö)

Title	Credit
Dissertation	30 ECTs

3. Programme Contents

A. Human Rights Practice: An Interdisciplinary Approach, 10 ECTS

This module lays the foundation for the whole Masters programme. The module introduces the main themes of the master's course and presents its broad interdisciplinary and problem oriented approach. to Human Rights, drawing together perspectives, knowledge and theories from International relations, Law, Political science, Education and Ethics. The module also gives an introduction to the international human rights system.

Learning outcomes for the module

Students who successfully complete this module will have the knowledge, confidence and theoretical background to:

- Describe critically the features of the international Human Rights system and its constraints, possibilities and applications;
- Analyse contemporary national and international developments from a Human Rights perspective;
- Search for and critically examine statements and actions, which are made with reference to Human Rights and present this verbally and in writing;
- Analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Human Rights discourses and present this verbally and in writing;
- Access competently and effectively selected sources of information on human rights;
- Articulate ways in which the student can contribute to the implementation of human rights based approaches.

B. Human Rights: Legal Perspectives, 10 ECTS

This module encourages critical thinking both about the role of law and legal thinking within the field of human rights and how to use the logic and language of law in human rights practice. The module aims to give the students basic knowledge of international, regional and national institutions for human rights and of legal thinking and legal applications of human rights conventions. How is human rights understood from the perspective of law? How are the different articles and court sentences dealing with human rights used within a legal framework?

Learning outcomes for the module

By the end of the module, students who successfully complete this module will have the knowledge, confidence, and theoretical background to:

- deal with legal issues concerning human rights with familiarity;
- with access competently and effectively selected legal sources on human rights;
- describe the features of different legal human rights systems and their constraints and opportunities;
- analyse human rights court cases using a legal perspective;
- articulate ways in which the student can use human rights law to protect, promote and implement human rights;

C. Globalisation: Challenges to Human Rights, 10 ECTS

The international human rights system is based on the relationship between the state and its citizens. From a legal point of view an individual can only demand his/her rights from the state and the state is responsible for the protection of the human rights of the individual.

Today this foundation of the human rights system is challenged by a number of transnational phenomena commonly labelled globalisation. The module raises the question of where the responsibility for human rights should/can lie in a world where human beings, goods, ideas, and capital move across state borders, at the same time as the state's power monopoly is weakening.

Learning outcomes for the module

By the end of the module, students who successfully complete this module will have the knowledge, confidence, and theoretical background to:

- access competently and effectively selected sources of information on global issues;
- describe the features of globalisation and the constraints and opportunities it affords the human rights system;
- make considered and articulate assessments of the trends and pressures on state and non-state actors working with human rights in the current global context;
- articulate ways in which the student can contribute to the protection, promotion and implementation of human rights in an era of globalisation.

D. Human Rights: Sociological Interrogations, 10 ECTS

This module seeks to familiarize students with much of the sociological literature concerning human rights. The sociological approach illuminates the social processes through which rights are both constructed and violated in particular social settings. Both national and international contexts of human rights will be explored, enabling students to sociologically analyse both universal and culturally specific dimensions of human rights practices and institutions.

Learning outcomes for the module

At the end of this module, the students will be able to:

- display an understanding of the historical relationship between sociology and human rights;
- articulate their knowledge of sociological theory as it pertains to human rights;
- think critically about the limitations of legal, political and anthropological perspectives on human rights;
- apply sociological theory and research methods to specific human rights issues
- clearly differentiate between theoretical debates and practical concerns, and to examine the relationship between the two.

E. Civil Society and Organisational Management, 20 ECTS

This module has been designed to develop students' awareness and critical analysis of civil society and civil society organisations in global, national and local contexts. The module incorporates the students' placement learning. Students will be expected to link their work on placement to their theoretical studies through guided reflection, on-line discussion, management audits and reports of the key features of their work experience.

Learning outcomes for the module

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- understand and critically respond to civil society debates;
- identify the factors that support civil society development;
- define the parameters of civil society in different nation states;
- identify the construct of the external environment and apply it to specific organisations;

- identify the common features of all organizations as identified by Organisation Theory and Management writers;
- appreciate the significance of the planning hierarchy and its consequence to organisational behaviour;
- understand the role and process of project management;
- understand and critique the nature of the roles and priorities of resource management, both human and non-human, in organisations;
- reflect critically on their placement experiences and share these experiences with other students.

F. Culture, Ethnicity and Human Rights, 10 ECTS

The module addresses issues raised in the interface of the alleged universalism of human rights principles and the relativism of cultural and ethnic diversities. As a parallel to the module “Globalisation: Challenges to Human Rights”, it explores the relevance to human rights issues of the fact that there exist cultural and ethnic boundaries in the world, and that such boundaries challenges the implementation of human rights. The module has a special emphasis on indigenous peoples and collective aspects of human rights, questions related to cultural survival and protection of natural resources, rights to ownership of land, etc.

Learning outcomes for the module

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Develop a comparative and reflexive perspective on indigenous conditions in a Human Rights perspective worldwide;
- Critically examine definitions of the concept of culture and apply this to the context of cultural differences as background for development and change of ethnic boundaries with an impact on the situations of indigenous peoples;
- Understand theoretically similarities and variations in the relationships between members of indigenous peoples and between indigenous peoples and majority populations;
- discuss the impact of modernization and globalization on indigenous identities and cultures.
- Understand the dynamics of ethnic boundaries with a specialised knowledge of indigenous minority relations to majorities and governments;

- Analyse the challenges and opportunities of modernisation and globalisation experienced by indigenous peoples;
- Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of Human Rights discourses related to the prospects of indigenous peoples concerning self-government and land rights issues.

G. Research and Project Management, 20 ECTS

This module focuses on different aspects and stages of research project management. The course will provide knowledge of and practice in a range of social science research methods and writing as a preparation for independent research on Human Rights related issues. Furthermore, the course will address methodological challenges to research on Human rights practice, specifically ethical challenges.

This module also enables students to develop research and project management skills that will enable them to perform in a service agency or in the NGO sector. For example, they will be made familiar with log-frame analysis as the key tool in preparing and evaluating the success of projects.

This module is taught predominantly at the University of Tromsø but some elements are taught at Roehampton and Göteborg.

Learning outcomes for the module

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Design their own research project.
- Discuss and evaluate the different stages in the research process.
- Write academic texts and other reports in a convincing style with due reference to the audience
- Demonstrate knowledge of and practice in fieldwork methods, interview techniques, participant observation, and statistical methods etc.
- Evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses of different research methods.
- Critically assess ethical issues and theoretical frameworks within different research contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to gather and analyse research data.
- Understand and evaluate different and appropriate project management tools
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the politics of research on human rights practice

H. Dissertation, 30 ECTS

The dissertation module within a master's programme responds to the requirement to undertake a special study in depth of some aspect of the Programme and thereby realise many of the learning outcomes. In particular, it provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate an innovative approach to the problems of human rights and social justice practices in local communities and, in appropriate cases, to formulate policy recommendations.

Learning outcomes for the module

After completing the dissertation students will be able to competently and professionally:

- adopt appropriate methods for the research design and hypothesis building;
- analyse, synthesise and evaluate data;
- formulate policy recommendations that address problems in a programmatic format;
- formulate solutions in dialogue with peers, tutors, agency personnel and clients to ethical dilemmas which arise in research practice;
- autonomously plan and manage the research process making effective use of resources;
- autonomously integrate theory and experience in constructively responding to human rights and social justice problems;
- demonstrate a creative approach to problems.

4. Preconditions

To be admitted to the programme the following is required:

- A Bachelor's Degree in relevant subjects
- Proficiency in English
- A written statement of personal interests within the field of human rights, and the expected outcomes of the studies intended.
- The programme is given on the condition that the consortium receives funding from the Erasmus Mundus funds. The maximum number of students in the programme is 30.

5. Examination

Students are continuously being evaluated by oral and/or written assessments. Examinations are graded on a scale of fail, pass or high pass. Students who fail in their examination will be offered an extra examination. Students who fail in their second examination have the rights to as for another examiner.

After the programme is completed the students can apply for a diploma with the denomination Master degree in Human Rights Practice. The Master degree is graded on a scale of pass or high pass. Students with 50 percent or more of high pass (including the dissertation) are awarded high pass in their Master degree, all others are awarded pass.