



Announcement

Academic year 2020/2021 – issued on 22 January 2021 – number 62

Any designations of functions are neutral in gender.

Curricula

62 Curriculum for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS)

At its meeting on 21 January 2021, the Senate approved the version of the Curriculum for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) stated below, which was resolved on 11 January 2021 by the Curriculum Committee, a body holding decision-making power, and established in accordance with section 25, para. 8, no. 3 and para. 10 of the 2002 Universities Act.

The legal basis is the 2002 Universities Act and the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies as amended from time to time.

In accordance with section 56 of the 2002 Universities Act, the University of Vienna establishes the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) at the University of Vienna:

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) at the University of Vienna aims to provide participants with a comprehensive education in the field of human rights as well as human rights protection at a national, supra-national and international level. Therefore, it prepares participants for and accompanies them on their path to professional practice. Participants acquire knowledge of the theoretical foundations, history of ideas and basics of human rights as well as a thorough understanding of the significance of human rights. This includes the identification of interdisciplinary connections and the differentiation between human rights requirements and political scopes of action. In addition to theoretical knowledge of the applicable national, international and supranational legislation, the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) also equips participants with the practical skills necessary for a career in the field of human rights.

(2) Graduates of the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) are *able* to adequately deal with issues and challenges related to human rights as part of their professional activity. They *have* a comprehensive education in the fundamentals of human rights protection at a national and international level and *have* the necessary practical skills to apply this knowledge in their professional contexts.

§ 2 Programme director

(1) The university continuing education and training programme is managed by the programme director.

(2) The programme director decides on all matters of the university continuing education and training programme for which this Curriculum or other regulations of the University of Vienna has granted them decision-making competences.

§ 3 (Scientific) advisory board

The programme director can appoint an advisory board for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS).

§ 4 Duration

The workload for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) comprises 60 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a period of four semesters of part-time studies. A model path of studies can be found in the appendix.

§ 5 Entry requirements

(1) A requirement for admission to the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) is the successful completion of a baccalaureate, bachelor's, Magister, master's, diploma or doctoral programme. Previous professional experience is an advantage, but not a prerequisite.

(2) In justified individual cases, persons who have not completed a university degree programme may also be admitted to the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS). The prerequisite is that these persons have a secondary-school leaving certificate and can provide evidence of at least five years of subject-specific professional experience in the field of human rights. The programme director decides if the qualification is basically equivalent.

(3) The programme is exclusively held in English.

(4) Persons whose first language is not English have to demonstrate a good command of English corresponding to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The programme director decides on the type of evidence that applicants have to provide.

(5) On application, the Rectorate admits persons fulfilling the entry requirements to the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) offered by the University of Vienna as non-degree programme students, subject to the availability of study places (section 7) and the qualification of the applicants after being selected as a candidate in the selection procedure (section 6).

§ 6 Selection procedure

(1) To be admitted to the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS), all

applicants have to be selected as a candidate in a selection procedure.

(2) The programme director is responsible for the implementation of the selection procedure in accordance with para. 1. The programme director selects the candidates to be admitted to the programme.

§ 7 Study places

(1) The programme director decides on the number of study places on the basis of pedagogical and administrative criteria and subject to the available budget.

(2) Participants are selected according to section 6.

§ 8 Structure – Modules with allocated ECTS credits

(1) Overview

Module	ECTS	Module
1st module: Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers	8 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
2nd module: Human Rights – General Theory and Legal Approaches	10 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
3rd module: Human Rights as a Multi-Level Approach (Human Rights Systems)	8 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
4th module: Specific Human Rights and Special Human Rights Challenges	10 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
5th module: Practical Aspects of Human Rights	7 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
Master's Thesis and Public Defence	17 ECTS credits	

(2) Module descriptions

M1	Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers <i>(compulsory module)</i>	8 ECTS credits
Prerequisite	none	

Module outcomes	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an understanding of the concept of law as well as of normative thinking and are able to distinguish between the law and other normative systems; • acquire an overview of essential aspects of public law, civil law and criminal law relevant to the field of human rights; • gain fundamental knowledge of the development and application of law in a national, international and supranational dimension and are able to distinguish between the national, the international and the supranational level; • familiarise themselves with the fundamentals of methodology in the field of law; • acquire an understanding of the interaction between different legal systems as well as of the importance of the state for the protection of human rights at the international level; • are able to contextualise human rights accordingly in these systems.
Module structure	<p>VO Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment)</p> <p>KU Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers – Application and Exercises, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)</p>
Proof of performance	Positive completion of all courses (8 ECTS credits)

M2	Human Rights – General Theory and Legal Approaches (compulsory module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisite	none	

<p>Module outcomes</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gain knowledge of the concepts of as well as the differences between fundamental rights and human rights; • familiarise themselves with the different characteristics of human rights with particular focus on their universal quality; • acquire knowledge of the main recipients of human rights standards (primarily states, the EU, international organisations), their duty to protect these standards and of the relevance of human rights for private actors and their responsibilities; • deal with the purpose and history of human rights; • acquire knowledge of the different dimensions and categories of human rights; • gain an overview of central human rights treaties and enforcement mechanisms; • acquire an understanding of the connection between human rights and politics; understand the significance of law for the protection of human rights and are aware of its interdisciplinary nature; • familiarise themselves with the central national, international and supranational sources of law with regard to the protection of human rights; • acquire knowledge of the relevance of different areas of international law for the protection of human rights (including international humanitarian law, international criminal law, international environmental law, international business law); • gain an understanding of methodological legal approaches, in particular methods of interpretation, in the field of human rights; • reflect on and recognise the central role of the ECHR in the protection of human rights in Europe, consequently allowing participants to make comparisons to other regional systems; • learn to check facts and issues for compliance with human rights and to draw up relevant complaints; • acquire fundamental knowledge in the field of strategic litigation.
<p>Module structure</p>	<p>KU Definition, History, Justification and Dimensions of Human Rights 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU Human Rights and the Law: Legal Sources, Methodology and Interpretation, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU Human Rights: Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU Assessing Human Rights Violations, Filing Human Rights Complaints and Strategic Litigation, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)</p>
<p>Proof of performance</p>	<p>Positive completion of all courses (10 ECTS credits)</p>

SSt (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester;
 pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment;
 npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment

M3	Human Rights as a Multi-Level Approach (Human Rights Systems) (compulsory module)	8 ECTS credits
Prerequisite	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn that human rights are a multi-level subject and that there are different legal systems with corresponding protection mechanisms; • learn that the nation state is the central authority regarding the protection of human rights and that the international and supranational systems of human rights are based on the notion of solidarity; • acquire a profound understanding of the European dimension (Council of Europe, ECHR, EU, CJEU) of the protection of human rights; • gain fundamental knowledge of additional regional systems of human rights protection (inter-American and African regions) as well as of developments in Arab and Asian regions; • acquire an understanding of the central role of non-governmental organisations in human rights protection: • develop a better understanding of the contribution of diplomacy to the protection of human rights; • acquire knowledge of the challenges related to the extraterritorial protection of human rights. 	
Module structure	<p>KU The Nation-State as Basic Unit for the Protection of Human Rights and the Principle of Subsidiarity, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)</p> <p>KU UN Human Rights Systems and Mechanisms, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)</p> <p>KU Regional Human Rights Systems, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)</p>	
Proof of performance	Positive completion of all courses (8 ECTS credits)	
M4	Specific Human Rights and Special Human Rights Challenges (compulsory module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisite	none	

Module outcomes	<p>Participants gain an overview of the following subdisciplines as well as profound knowledge of individual subdisciplines of human rights protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civil and political rights (in particular, the prohibition of torture, freedom of expression and freedom of religion – including religion, theocracies and human rights); • economic, social and cultural rights; collective human rights; • equal treatment and diversity as an interdisciplinary topic as well as special groups and people and groups in vulnerable situations (e.g. rights of women and feminist approaches to human rights; protection of minorities and rights of indigenous people; children’s rights; rights of LGBTQI* persons, sexual orientation and gender identity; rights of people with disabilities); • current challenges (e.g. asylum and migration law; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), environmental protection and climate; digitalisation and human rights; international human law; international criminal law; business and human rights, including corporate social responsibility and civil liability for human rights violations).
Module structure	<p>KU Human Rights Generations and Dimensions, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU Persons in Vulnerable Situations, Equality and Diversity, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU New Challenges for Human Rights, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)</p>
Proof of performance	Positive completion of all courses (10 ECTS credits)

M5	Practical Aspects of Human Rights (compulsory module)	7 ECTS credits
Prerequisite	none	

SSt (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester;
 pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment;
 npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment

Module outcomes	Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire a holistic understanding of human rights practice and the different fields of work and areas of application; • understand the necessity of an interdisciplinary and systemic approach; • familiarise themselves with an approach based on human rights and its practical application; • gain knowledge of the special challenges when protecting human rights defenders; • acquire skills in strategic planning, finding conflict solutions based on human rights (mediation), negotiation techniques as well as in the communication of human rights and in advocacy; • gain knowledge of the fundamental aspects and theories of organisational counselling; • acquire knowledge of the fundamentals of human rights education; • familiarise themselves with project acquisition and project management; • acquire competences in the field of strategic litigation.
Module structure	KU Human Rights Practice, Approaches and Human Rights Education, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU Human Rights in an Organisational Context, Monitoring and Advocacy, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) KU Human Rights Litigation, Legal Mediation and Advice, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
Proof of performance	Positive completion of all courses (7 ECTS credits)

§ 9 Master's thesis

(1) The purpose of the master's thesis is to demonstrate the participant's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing academic topics. The assignment for the master's thesis must be so chosen that the participant can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.

(2) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from one of the compulsory modules and/or alternative compulsory modules. If a different topic is selected or if there is uncertainty regarding the allocation of the selected topic, the programme director decides on whether or not the topic is admissible.

(3) The master's thesis comprises 15 ECTS credits.

(4) The master's thesis must be written in English. At the participant's request, the programme director can approve a master's thesis written in another language.

§ 10 Master's examination

(1) To be admitted to the master's examination, the participant must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations and the master's thesis must have been positively assessed.

(2) The master's examination is conducted before an examination committee as stipulated in the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies. The examination is conducted as a public defence. This form of examination consists of a defence and an examination on the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis. Grading will be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(3) The master's examination comprises 2 ECTS credits.

§ 11 Examination regulations

(1) (1) All courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Lecture (*Vorlesung*, VO), npi: Lectures are courses with non-continuous assessment. Contents are presented in the form of presentations delivered by the lecturer or in a similar form of presentation and can allow room for discussions. Knowledge is tested in a written or oral examination at the end of the semester.

(2) All courses with continuous assessment (pi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Courses (*Kurs*, KU) are courses with continuous assessment during which students examine selected areas in the field human rights and acquire additional knowledge. Course contents are presented in the form of presentations and discussions with student participation. The assessment is based on the achievements of the students in presentations, written papers and/or discussion-based exercises and, if applicable, homework assignments.

(3) Teaching in the university continuing education and training programme takes place in courses, which may also contain digital units. Courses may be held in a foreign language. The programme director has to determine and announce the courses before the start of the university continuing education and training programme.

(4) If courses are held in a foreign language, the associated examinations must also be held in the relevant foreign language.

(5) Assessment is subject to the stipulations in the 2002 Universities Act.

(6) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the Statutes.

(7) Examination content

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits. This also applies to module examinations.

(8) Examination procedure

The examination procedure is subject to the stipulations in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(9) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitutes an entry requirement for the university continuing education and training programme, cannot be recognised again in the university continuing education and training programme.

If courses taken in the degree programme, which constitutes an entry requirement for the university continuing education and training programme, are compulsory according to the Curriculum, the competent body responsible for study matters will determine what courses must be attended in place of the others. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory or elective module of the university continuing education and training programme cannot be recognised within another module within the same university continuing education and training programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

(10) Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be allocated to different proofs of performance.

§ 12 Completion of the programme

(1) Graduates of the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) receive a certificate for the completion of the final examination.

(2) Graduates of the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) are awarded the academic degree "Master of Legal Studies", abbreviated as MLS. Where the academic degree is stated this must be after the name.

§ 13 Entry into force

This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2021.

On behalf of the Senate:
The Chair of the Curriculum Committee K r a m m e r

Appendix

Recommended path of study

1st semester 28 ECTS credits / 15 SSt. Modules 1-3 and module 5/1

VO Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., np (non-continuous assessment)
KU Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers – Application and Exercises, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Definition, History, Justification and Dimensions of Human Rights, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Human Rights: Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Human Rights and the Law: Legal Sources, Methodology and Interpretation, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Assessing Human Rights Violations, Filing Human Rights Complaints and Strategic Litigation, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU The Nation-State as Basic Unit for the Protection of Human Rights and the Principle of Subsidiarity, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU UN Human Rights Systems and Mechanisms, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Regional Human Rights Systems, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Human Rights Practice, Approaches and Human Rights Education, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
2nd semester
32 ECTS credits / 9 SSt.
Modules 4-5/2, master's thesis and public defence
KU Human Rights Generations and Dimensions, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Persons in Vulnerable Situations, Equality and Diversity, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU New Challenges for Human Rights, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Human Rights in an Organisational Context, Monitoring and Advocacy, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
KU Human Rights Litigation, Legal Mediation and Advice, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
Master's Thesis 15 ECTS credits
Public Defence 2 ECTS credits