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Postgraduate Center

EDUCATION &
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BUSINESS

COMMUNICATION &
MEDIA

LAW

Human Rights

MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.)

In Cooperation with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute
of Fundamental and Human Rights

Human Rights

LL.M. (MASTER OF LAWS)



UNIV.-PROF. DR.
MICHAEL LYSANDER
FREMUTH

“We are facing difficult times: The still ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has led to restrictions imposed on human rights unknown since the end of the Second World War, the foundation of the United Nations and the establishment of the modern human rights architecture. Indeed, the health crisis has become a human rights crisis, but it can only be solved on the basis of human rights. Due to the manifold restrictions on human rights that have been imposed to tackle the pandemic, everybody has become aware that we are exercising human rights every day. The pandemic has highlighted how crucial human rights are in our daily lives. Knowing and understanding human rights has been proven to be of outstanding relevance. Correspondingly, we want to offer assistance with the Human Rights Master, responding to the right to have access to lifelong human rights education and training as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (A/RES/66/137 of 19 December 2011).”

Content and Facts

The one-year (60 ECTS) postgraduate program “Human Rights” of the University of Vienna has a clear jurisprudential profile. It is, however, not confined to teaching abstract legal theories but will also convey practical skills that are necessary for working in the field of human rights.

Based on the academic excellence of the University of Vienna and on the expertise of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights for conducting applied research, this postgraduate program can best be described with the words: “Where Science meets Practice!”

The master program addresses the multi-layered field of human rights and reflects different relevant legal frameworks, as well as the corresponding protection mechanisms. Topics covered by the program will be, i. a., legal human rights know-how including theoretical foundations of international human rights protection, methodology, as well as necessary competences for people working in a human rights-related environment. Depending on the educational background of participants there are two alternative compulsory modules: For non-lawyers an introduction to legal studies will be offered. To elaborate on the combination of theoretical knowledge with practical skills, lawyers have to participate in a trial simulation (“Moot Court”).

Course Content

MODULE	ECTS CREDITS
Alternative Compulsory Module 1a	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers• Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers – Application and Exercises	
Alternative Compulsory Module 1b	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moot-Court	
Human Rights – General Theory and Legal Approaches	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition, History, Justification and Dimensions of Human Rights• Human Rights and the Law, Legal Sources, Methodology and Interpretation• Human Rights: Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms• Assessing Human Rights Violations, Filing Human Rights Complaints and Strategic Litigation	
Human Rights as a Multi-Level Approach (Human Rights Systems)	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Nation-State as a Basic Unit for the Protection of Human Rights and the Principle of Subsidiarity• UN Human Rights Systems and Mechanisms• Regional Human Rights Systems	
Specific Human Rights and Special Human Rights Challenges	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Rights Generations and Dimensions• Persons in Vulnerable Situations, Equality and Diversity• New Challenges for Human Rights	
Practical Aspects of Human Rights	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Rights Practice, Approaches and Human Rights Education• Human Rights in an Organizational Context, Monitoring and Advocacy• Human Rights Litigation, Legal Mediation and Advice	
Master's Thesis and Defense	17
Total	60

Admission Requirements

- University degree particularly in Legal Studies, as well as in Social, Natural or Economic Sciences or Humanities
- Sufficient English skills to follow and participate in lectures (B2)
- Complete application via online application platform



Qualification Profile

Participants of this master program will acquire in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the field of fundamental and human rights. They will be able to assess current challenges to human rights protection and to develop strategies within the human rights protection framework. Graduates will be able to make use of their skills and knowledge in a broad variety of contexts, ranging from private business to public service, as well as academia.

Target Group

The postgraduate program is aimed at graduates who wish to specialize in human rights, in particular law graduates, but also graduates from other disciplines. The program is open for those who recently graduated, but shall also enable employed persons, for example in public administration, academia, the education sector, NGOs and civil society, as well as the private sector (e.g. corporate lawyers, attorneys, legal trainees, consultants) to participate. Completing the Human Rights Master will ensure that participants can adequately address and integrate human rights into their future work.



SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Lysander Fremuth

CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

Agnes Raschauer, Bakk. MA

Postgraduate Center

Spitalgasse 2, Court 1

Entrance 1.14.1

1090 Vienna, Austria

T +43-1-4277-10838

humanrights@univie.ac.at

Short Facts

Academic
Degree

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Duration

2 semesters
(extra occupational)

Units

60 ECTS Credits

Language

English

Tuition Fee

€ 13,000.-

Start

anually in October

www.postgraduatecenter.at/humanrights

www.facebook.com/HumanRightsMaster

In Cooperation with:



LUDWIG
BOLTZMANN
INSTITUTE
Fundamental and Human Rights

Human Rights



The University of Vienna is one of the oldest and largest universities in Europe. Staffed with about 10,000 employees, the University of Vienna fuels innovation in Vienna and its surroundings. Around 90,000 national and international students foster intellectual exchange in the university city of Vienna.

The Postgraduate Center is the competence center for professional continuing education and lifelong learning at the University of Vienna. Our aim is to support people on their personal educational and career paths. We offer a wide range of master programs, continuing education programs, and certificate courses as well as cutting-edge open continuing education and training formats. We offer research-based, interdisciplinary, top quality, international and practice-oriented programs. This serves as a contribution of the University of Vienna to our knowledge society, the university's third mission and successful lifelong learning.

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA – POSTGRADUATE CENTER
Campus of the University of Vienna
Spitalgasse 2, Court 1, Entrance 1.14.1, 1090 Vienna, Austria
P +43-1-4277-10800
info@postgraduatecenter.at



www.postgraduatecenter.at