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Postgraduate Center

EDUCATION &  
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LAW

# Human Rights

MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.)

MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (MLS)

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

# Human Rights

LL.M. (MASTER OF LAWS)

MLS (MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES)



UNIV.-PROF. DR.  
MICHAEL LYSANDER  
FREMUTH

*“We are facing difficult times: The 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. For non-lawyers an introduction to legal studies will be provided. To elaborate on the combination of theoretical knowledge with practical skills, the opportunity to participate in a trial simulation (“Moot Court”) will be offered.

## Course Content

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

## Target Group

The postgraduate program is aimed at graduates who wish to specialize in human rights, including law graduates (for the LL.M. program), as well as graduates from other disciplines (for the MLS program). The program is open for those who recently graduated, but shall also – due to its part-time format including digital learning – enable employed persons, for example in public administration, academia, the education sector, NGOs and civil society, as well as the private sector (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.



## Qualification Profile

Students 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. By participating in a “Moot Court”, participants will gain practical experience enabling them to solve human rights problems with legal knowledge, as well as strengthen their skills in a court-like competitive simulation.

## Admission Requirements

### LL.M. program:

- University degree in Legal Studies
- Exceptions: High school diploma and relevant work experience (min. 5 years) in the legal sector
- Sufficient English skills to follow and participate in lectures (B2)
- Complete application via online application platform

### MLS program:

- University degree
- Exceptions: High school diploma and relevant work experience (min. 5 years)
- Sufficient English skills to follow and participate in lectures (B2)
- Complete application via online application platform



### SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Lysander Fremuth

### CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

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## Short Facts

Academic Degree	<b>Master of Laws (LL.M.)</b> <b>Master of Legal Studies (MLS)</b>
Duration	2 semesters (part-time)
Units	60 ECTS
Language	English
Tuition Fee	€ 13,000.-
Start	anually in October

[www.postgraduatecenter.at/humanrights](http://www.postgraduatecenter.at/humanrights)  
[www.facebook.com/HumanRightsMaster](https://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 9,800 employees, the University fosters innovation in Vienna and its surroundings. About 90,000 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 70 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.

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA – POSTGRADUATE CENTER

Campus of the University of Vienna

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