



Curriculum for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (LL.M.)

As of: July 2023

University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 22 January 2021, 19th edition, number 61

1st amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 1 February 2022, 13th edition, number 66

Only the texts published in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna are legally binding.

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (LL.M.) at the University of Vienna provides participants with a comprehensive further education in the field of human rights as well as their protection at a national, supra-national and international level, thus preparing them for and accompanying 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 their full legal significance. 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 supra-national legislation, the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (LL.M.) 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 (LL.M.) are *able* to adequately deal with issues and challenges of human rights as part of their professional activity. They *have* a comprehensive education in the fundamentals of the protection of human rights at a national and international level and *have* the necessary practical skills to apply this knowledge in the professional contexts in which they are active.

§ 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 (LL.M.).

§ 4 Duration

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

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

found in the appendix.

§ 5 Entry requirements

(1) In addition to the general statutory requirements, a requirement for admission to the university continuing education and training programme is the successful completion of a baccalaureate, bachelor's, Magister, master's, diploma or doctoral programme, in particular in the field of law or the social sciences, the natural sciences or business and economics.

(2) The programme is exclusively held in English.

(3) 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.

(4) On application, the Rectorate admits persons fulfilling the entry requirements to the university continuing education and training programme 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 following the successful completion of the selection procedure (section 6).

§ 6 Selection procedure

(1) To be admitted to the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights, all applicants have to successfully complete 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
1a. Module: Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers	8 ECTS credits	Alternative compulsory module
1b. Module: Moot Court Competition	8 ECTS credits	Alternative compulsory module
2. Module: Human Rights – General Theory and Legal Approaches	10 ECTS credits	Compulsory module

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

3. Module: Human Rights as a Multi-Level Approach (Human Rights Systems)	8 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
4. Module: Specific Human Rights and Special Human Rights Challenges	10 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
5. Module: Practical Aspects of Human Rights	7 ECTS credits	Compulsory module
Master's Thesis and Public Defence	17 ECTS credits	

(2) Module descriptions

Depending on their previous education and subject to prior approval from the programme director, participants complete one of the following alternative compulsory modules: Participants having a previous education in business and economics, the humanities or the social sciences complete the alternative compulsory module 1a; participants having a previous education in the field of law complete the alternative compulsory module 1b. Participants having no previous education in any of these disciplines or having a previous education in both areas select one of the two modules subject to prior approval from the programme director.

M1a	Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers (alternative compulsory module)	8 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Participants <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	VO Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment) KU Introduction to Legal Studies for Non-Lawyers – Application and Exercises, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (8 ECTS credits)	

or

M1b	Moot Court Competition (alternative compulsory module)	8 ECTS credits
------------	---	-----------------------

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

Prerequisites	none
Module outcomes	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn to combine theoretical knowledge with practical skills; • have the opportunity to participate in a competitive moot court to gain practical experience in solving issues in the field of human rights, using the legal knowledge and skills they have acquired; • acquire and/or strengthen the ability to work in a team; • learn to use legal texts, jurisdiction and secondary literature from the perspective of a litigant or of the court; • practice their rhetoric skills and gain confidence in public speaking.
Module structure	UE Moot Court, 8 ECTS credits, 3 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (8 ECTS credits)

M2	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 further 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	Passing of all courses (8 ECTS credits)	

M3	Specific Human Rights and Special Human Rights Challenges (compulsory module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

Module outcomes	<p>Participants gain an overview of the following subdisciplines as well as profound knowledge of some 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	<p>Passing of all courses (10 ECTS credits)</p>

M4	Practical Aspects of Human Rights (compulsory module)	7 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire a holistic understanding of the 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, in finding conflict solutions based on human rights (mediation) and in 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	<p>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)</p>	

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (7 ECTS credits)
----------------------	---

§ 9 Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis serves 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 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) 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:

a) Exercises (*Übung*, UE) are courses with continuous assessment that serve the practical application of human rights knowledge. The course takes the form of a moot court. Moot courts comprise participation in legal competitions and require participants to prepare procedural documents, present closing arguments and prepare for the proceedings.

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

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

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 of 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 constitute an entry requirement for the degree programme, are compulsory according to the Curriculum, the competent body responsible for study matters can 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 (LL.M.) receive a certificate for the completion of the final examination.

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

§ 13 Entry into force

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

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

npi (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

(2) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 1 February 2022, number 66, edition 13 enter into force on 1 March 2022. Due to this amendment, the Curriculum for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (LL.M.) succeeds and replaces the Curriculum for the university continuing education and training programme in Human Rights (MLS) as stated in the University Gazette of 22 February 2021, 19th edition, number 62.

Appendix

Recommended path of study

Participants: Alternative compulsory module 1a

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, 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

Participants: Alternative compulsory module 1b

1st semester
20 ECTS credits / 11 SSt. Modules 1-2 and module 4/1
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) 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)

SSt. (Semesterstunde): hour per week per semester.

pi (prüfungsimmanent): continuous assessment.

np (nicht prüfungsimmanent): non-continuous assessment.

Course types and their abbreviations: see § 11.

KU Human Rights Practice, Approaches and Human Rights Education, 2 ECTS credits, 1 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)

2nd semester

40 ECTS credits / 12 SSt.

Modules 3-4/2, 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)

UE Moot Court, 8 ECTS credits, 3 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)

Master's Thesis 15 ECTS credits

Public Defence 2 ECTS credits