



universität  
wien

Postgraduate Center

EDUCATION &  
SOCIAL CARE

HEALTH &  
NATURAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS &  
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)



*"Despite many achievements in the field of human rights protection since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and the codification of human rights which gained particular momentum in 1966 with the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the development of regional human rights mechanisms, many challenges persist. Global trends such as climate change, digitalisation, demographic changes, mass migration as well as growing distrust of state and international institutions, enhanced polarisation and confrontation combined with continued attacks on the universality of human rights, demonstrate the indispensable need for a strong dedication for human rights combined with a holistic and deep understanding of human rights and related questions as a solid foundation for human rights work and activism. The Human Rights Master is intended to equip participants with such in-depth theoretical knowledge and, at the same time, provide them with practical insights and skills necessary for future-oriented and interdisciplinary discourses and results in order to make human rights a reality for all!"*

**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Lysander Fremuth**  
Scientific Director

## Content and Facts

The one-year (60 ECTS Credits) 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
<b>Alternative Compulsory Module 1a</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>Alternative Compulsory Module 1b</b>	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moot-Court</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
<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>	
<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>Master's Thesis and Defense</b>	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

## 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

Program Management

Postgraduate Center

Spitalgasse 2, Court 1

Entrance 1.14.1

1090 Vienna, Austria

T +43-1-4277-10816

humanrights@univie.ac.at

Graduation

**Master of Laws (LL.M.)**

Duration

**2 semesters  
(extra occupational)**

Units

**60 ECTS Credits**

Language

**English**

For further information concerning Start, Application Deadline and Tuition, please visit our website.

[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 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, Hof 1, Entrance 1.14.1, 1090 Vienna, Austria

P +43-1-4277-10800

info@postgraduatecenter.at



[www.postgraduatecenter.at](http://www.postgraduatecenter.at)