Programme Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>University of London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Birkbeck College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3 | Programme Title(s)     | MA/LLM in Human Rights  
LLM/MA Human Rights (Intensive) |
| 4 | Programme Code(s)      | TMLAHMRT_C          
TMLAHRTI_C |
| 5 | UCAS code (if applicable) | N/A                |
| 6 | Home Department        | Law                 |
| 7 | Exit Award(s)          | LLM or MA Human Rights  
PGDip Human Rights  
PG Cert Human Rights |
| 8 | Duration of Study (number of years) | Full time - 1 year  
Part-time - 2 years |
| 9 | Mode of Study          | FT       X       PT   X    DL |
| 10| Level of Award (FHEQ)  | 7                  |

| 11| Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable) | N/A |
| 12| Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details (or not applicable) (include URL to PSRB) | N/A |
| 13| QAA Benchmark Group (or not applicable) | N/A |

**Programme Rationale & Aims**

The MA/LLM in Human Rights aims to provide a critical and contextual engagement with key aspects of the contemporary and historical debates on human rights, available equally to students with a law and non-law background.

The distinctive focus of the programme is on theoretically informed and multidisciplinary approaches to human rights. It aims to expose students to a critical and contextual engagement with the subject. Students study human rights in their legal, political, sociological, anthropological and philosophical contexts.

Political, social and economic challenges are frequently articulated through the language of human rights. Is the rise of human rights discourse an emblem of hope and a political horizon, mobilising resistance to human need and suffering? Or do human rights claims deflect more radical political demands and block real transformation? Can the manifold crises of contemporary life be made more intelligible through the frame of human rights? These are some of the questions taken up in this programme.

Students are introduced to a wide variety of approaches to research across a range of disciplines, and to the theoretical frameworks for advanced legal scholarship. Students will also take specialist
courses, choosing from a wide range of subjects in the area of human rights.

The programme has close ties to a number of leading human rights NGOs and is informed by critical engagement with, and analysis of, human rights practice.

The programme is particularly attractive to legal professionals, and to non-lawyers who work or would like to work in the field of human rights, allowing them to reflect critically on their role as human rights activists and practitioners.

### Entry Criteria

Good second-class honours degree in law, the humanities or social sciences; other good honours degrees will be considered.

Degrees from overseas institutions must be equivalent to a UK second-class degree.

Other relevant qualifications and appropriate professional training and experience are welcome and will be taken into account.

Excellent English language skills are essential.

### Prospectus Entry

**Overview**

The School of Law is proud to offer this exciting and innovative Master’s programme, leading to the award of an LLM or MA Human Rights. The distinctive focus of the programme is on theoretically informed and multidisciplinary approaches to human rights. It aims to expose you to a critical and contextual engagement with the subject. You will study human rights in their legal, political, sociological, anthropological and philosophical contexts.

Political, social and economic challenges are frequently articulated through the language of human rights. Is the rise of human rights discourse an emblem of hope and a political horizon, mobilising resistance to human need and suffering? Or do human rights claims deflect more radical political demands and block real transformation? Can the manifold crises of contemporary life be made more intelligible through the frame of human rights? These are some of the questions taken up in this programme.

You will be introduced to a wide variety of approaches to research across a range of disciplines, and to the theoretical frameworks for advanced legal scholarship. You will also take specialist courses, choosing from a wide range of subjects in the area of human rights.

The programme has close ties to a number of leading human rights NGOs and is informed by critical engagement with, and analysis of, human rights practice.

The programme is particularly attractive to legal professionals, and to non-lawyers who work or would like to work in the field of human rights, allowing them to reflect critically on their role as human rights activists and practitioners.
Find out more about studying law at Birkbeck. This programme is also available in an intensive format.

Why study this course at Birkbeck? • Designed for students who are interested in exploring in depth the major contemporary debates concerning the theory and practice of human rights.
• Unique programme, focusing on the study of human rights from a critical, contextual and multidisciplinary perspective.
• Critical introduction to the vibrant world of human rights practice.
• Watch our video: studying law at Birkbeck

Course structure

Two compulsory modules (one term each):
• The History and Philosophy of Human Rights
• Issues in International Law and Human Rights.

Four option modules (one term each), one of which may be a Research Project. Options may include:
• Children, Rights and Childhood
• Cultures of Rights
• Equality and the Law
• Futures: the Globalisation of Human Rights
• Human Rights in Britain (Clinical Course)
• Healthcare and Human Rights
• International Rights of Minorities
• Post-Apartheid Jurisprudence
• Refugee Law
• Social Justice
• The World Trade Organisation and the Environment.

Please note: not all options will be available every year.

Study resources

The School of Law is an internationally recognised centre for critical and interdisciplinary legal research. It provides an exciting and innovative environment for a wide range of research with a strong theoretical and policy focus. The School is the home of Birkbeck Law Press and publishes Law and Critique: The International Journal of Critical Legal Thought.

We use IT resources, such as electronic learning environments, to enhance teaching and learning. Birkbeck Library has an extensive teaching collection of books, journals and electronic resources in law and related disciplines, such as economics, politics and sociology. For example, it provides access to over 17,000 electronic journals, which are available online 24-hours a day. Find out more about our teaching and learning resources.
Birkbeck Library has an extensive collection of books, journals and electronic resources in law and related disciplines such as economics, politics and sociology. Students can also take advantage of the rich research collections nearby, including those of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Senate House Library, the British Library of Political and Economic Science (LSE Library) and the British Library.

Further study opportunities

If you are interested in further research, we offer a PhD/MPhil in Law.

Careers information

Graduates of the LLM/MA pursue or enhance careers in human rights activism, in human rights NGOs (non-governmental organisations) or IGOs (inter-governmental organisations), the legal professions, in government and the public sector, and as researchers or journalists.

Find out more about the career advice and information we offer.

### Learning Outcomes

**Generic skills related to law**
- an ability to place law in its historical, philosophical, ethical, social, political, cultural and economic context. In particular we aim to encourage students to interrogate the interface between the theory and practice of law;
- knowledge of current theoretical debates on human rights and points of focus in the field of advanced legal theory;
- skills training in planning and undertaking independent research;
- opportunities for students to explore advanced legal research in the context of existing knowledge and competing intellectual approaches to the study of law;
- an understanding of interdisciplinary and comparative research within legal scholarship which enables students to make informed and creative use of bodies of literature developed in law, the humanities and social sciences;
- a broader and deeper understanding of issues, contexts, and approaches raised at undergraduate level.

**Subject specific skills**
- An understanding and analysis of the ways in which concepts of human rights have been socially and politically constructed and an appreciation of the ways in which the dominant theories can be understood as ethno-centric;
- An appreciation of the limitations of law and legal strategies in relation to human rights abuses and the alternative strategies which are available in the political and social sphere;
- Opportunities for students to understand the concept of human rights in the context of international and contemporary case studies;
- Engagement with human rights protection and advocacy, including option modules taught with leading non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Transferable skills
- The ability to collect and collate materials and effectively communicate them to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- The ability to work both independently and in a group.
- Language and communication skills (including, where appropriate, foreign languages).
- Computing and Internet skills.

18 Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning and teaching take place in 90 minute seminars, in which tutors use a variety of teaching methods, maximising student interaction and critical engagement.

Assessment methods vary by module but in almost all cases assessment is by 4000 word research essay. But Human Rights in Britain - a “quasi-clinical” module run in cooperation with the AIRE centre - is assessed by two pieces of drafting by students in respect of one of their live cases under review (10% each) and a critical essay (80%).

19 Programme Description

Two compulsory modules (one term each):
- The History and Philosophy of Human Rights
- Issues in International Law and Human Rights.

Four option modules (one term each), one of which may be a Research Project. Options may include:
- Children, Rights and Childhood
- Cultures of Rights
- Equality and the Law
- Futures: the Globalisation of Human Rights
- Human Rights in Britain (Clinical Course)
- Healthcare and Human Rights
- International Rights of Minorities
- Post-Apartheid Jurisprudence
- Refugee Law
- Social Justice

Please note: not all options are available every year.
**Programme Structure**

**Full Time programme**

**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LADD005S7</td>
<td>The History and Philosophy of Human Rights</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LADD028S7</td>
<td>Issues in International Law and Human Rights</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four Options chosen by student</td>
<td>4 x30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part Time programme**

**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LADD005S7</td>
<td>The History and Philosophy of Human Rights</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Option chosen by student</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Option chosen by student</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LADD028S7</td>
<td>Issues in International Law and Human Rights</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Option chosen by student</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Option chosen by student</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regulations**

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy:  
  
  Good second-class honours degree in law, the humanities or social sciences; other good honours degrees will be considered.

  Degrees from overseas institutions must be equivalent to a UK second-class degree.

  Other relevant qualifications and appropriate professional training and experience are welcome and will be taken into account.

  Excellent English language skills are essential.

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning:  

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme:  
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A
### Student Attendance Framework – in brief

The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf).

**Principle**

Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**

Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

**E-Registers**

All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

---

### Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities).

### Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner’s reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [here](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality).

---

### Programme Director

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Director</th>
<th>Professor Bill Bowring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Start Date (term/year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date (term/year)</th>
<th>Pre 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Date approved by TQEC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date approved by TQEC</th>
<th>Pre 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Date approved by Academic Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date approved by Academic Board</th>
<th>Pre 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Date(s) updated/amended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s) updated/amended</th>
<th>July 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>