

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
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	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	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>also take specialist courses, choosing from a wide range of subjects in the area of human rights.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
--	---

15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in law, the humanities or social sciences; other subjects will be considered.</p> <p>Degrees from overseas institutions must be equivalent to a UK second-class degree.</p> <p>Other relevant qualifications and appropriate professional training and experience are welcome and will be taken into account.</p> <p>Excellent English language skills are essential.</p>
-----------	--

16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Generic skills related to law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Subject specific skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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;
-----------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). <p>Transferable skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
--	--

17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Learning and teaching take place in 90 minute seminars, in which tutors use a variety of teaching methods, maximising student interaction and critical engagement.</p> <p>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%).</p>

18	Programme Description
	<p>Two compulsory modules (one term each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The History and Philosophy of Human Rights - Issues in International Law and Human Rights. <p>Four option modules (one term each), one of which may be a Research Project. Options may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. <p>Please note: not all options are available every year.</p>

¹⁹	Programme Structure			
Full-Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD005S7	The History and Philosophy of Human Rights	30	Compulsory
7	LADD028S7	Issues in International Law and Human Rights	30	Compulsory
7		Four Options chosen by student	4 x30	Option
Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD005S7	The History and Philosophy of Human Rights	30	Compulsory
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD028S7	Issues in International Law and Human Rights	30	Compulsory
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option
7		Option chosen by student	30	Option

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; *COMPULSORY* – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; *OPTIONAL* – Student can choose to take this module

²⁰	Programme Director	Professor Bill Bowring
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Pre 2008
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Pre 2008
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Pre 2008
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	July 2018