



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

2021

Postgraduate programmes in
Human Rights

With academic
direction from:



SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
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london.ac.uk/human-rights

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Join the World Class

1 **A mark of excellence**

Gain a University of London degree from anywhere in the world and increase your potential career development.

2 **Quality of learning**

The MA in Human Rights is a practice-based and interdisciplinary degree. It is designed and run by activist scholars based at the Human Rights Consortium at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

3 **Worldwide relevance**

The programme is designed to be of worldwide relevance, and will help you to further your career development. You will benefit from the up-to-date knowledge of specialist academics and those working in the field who teach on the MA.

4 **Access a wealth of online resources**

Study online and access course content through a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). For each module there are online tasks to complete and you can discuss your work with fellow students and tutors.

5 **Flexible learning**

With no travel, relocation or accommodation costs, studying for a University programme at a distance is cost effective. What's more, you can continue working full time.



“In a fast changing environment of worldwide access to higher education, a University of London degree continues to offer a guarantee of quality, value and intellectual rigour.”

Professor Wendy Thomson
Vice-Chancellor,
University of London

Your prestigious University of London qualification

About your qualification

When you graduate with a degree, diploma or certificate from the University of London you will receive two important documents – your Final Diploma (the parchment you receive on graduation) and a Diploma Supplement.

The Final Diploma

- Indicates that you were registered with the University of London and awarded a University of London degree, diploma or certificate.
- Gives the name of the University of London member institution that developed the syllabus and provided assessment.
- Features the University of London crest and the Vice-Chancellor's signature.

The Diploma Supplement

- Describes the nature, level and content of programme you successfully completed.
- Includes the transcript of courses taken, marks achieved and overall classification.
- States the role of the School of Advanced Study and the method of study.

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Key dates

Application deadline:

13 January 2021
16 August 2021

Registration deadline:

2 February 2021
31 August 2021

Outstanding distance learning opportunities



Dr Corinne Lennox

Programme Director, MA Human Rights, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

This degree aims to develop students as human rights practitioners. It was designed by a group of activist scholars based in the Human Rights Consortium, which is part of the School of Advanced Study at the University of London.

This programme is based on the experience of the Human Rights Consortium's campus-based MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights, the UK's longest-running, practice-based, interdisciplinary human rights degree, established in 1995. The teaching team wanted to make the degree accessible to students all over the world in order to enable those whose personal or professional circumstances might prevent them from studying in London to benefit from the skills development provided by the MA.


The MA in Human Rights prioritises the teaching and development of practical skills as well as theoretical knowledge, enabling students to directly apply their studies to their current or future human rights careers and activism. We draw insights and understanding from across the humanities and social sciences, resulting in a degree which is truly interdisciplinary.

We have an exciting and varied cohort of students, drawn from a wide range of professional disciplines, regions and personal experiences.

Some of our students already work in human rights and others are interested in transitioning to more work in this area on a professional or voluntary basis. We learn from each other, making for a stimulating peer-to-peer learning environment.

Read a Q&A with Dr Corinne Lennox in our online magazine, London Connection: bit.ly/LC-corinne-lennox





The School of Advanced Study

The MA in Human Rights has its foundations in the teaching and research of the Human Rights Consortium (HRC) at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. The HRC promotes and facilitates interdisciplinary research in human rights nationally and internationally.

The HRC is particularly concerned with bringing together human

rights scholars and practitioners, thereby enabling research to be informed by practice, and human rights practice and fieldwork to benefit from cutting-edge research.

HRC staff are active researchers, teachers and activists, and the HRC's activities include a varied programme of events as well as the management of the Human Rights Researchers' Network, which brings together scholars, practitioners and policymakers working in the field of human rights.

As a student on the MA in Human Rights, you will benefit from being taught by staff who are highly engaged with their subject networks and who have a high level of both academic and practice-based expertise. You will also be able to be part of our global community of scholars and practitioners.

Why study Human Rights?



Is the programme for you?

The MA Human Rights is focused strongly on building practical skills relevant to understanding and working in the field of human rights, whether as a human rights defender, scholar or policymaker.

You will also develop specialist knowledge on particular areas of human rights theory and practice, as well as research methods, in the individual modules undertaken as part of this degree. This includes study of cutting-edge issues, such as the impact of environmental destruction on human rights.

Offered by the Human Rights Consortium (HRC) at the School of Advanced Study, this programme is practice-orientated, exploring human rights issues from a practical, solution-based perspective as well as a scholarly one.

Flexible study

The MA programme is designed to offer a challenging interdisciplinary education with a lot of flexibility in terms of what you study, and when and how you study it. This flexibility will enable you to explore topics of personal and professional interest.

The assessment is varied with a strong focus on practical learning such as doing a legal brief, preparing a funding proposal or analysing a campaign strategy.

Employment routes

The practical skill-set developed over the course of your studies makes you highly employable and will enable you to establish, or advance, your career in human rights.

For these reasons, this degree is particularly suitable for individuals who seek to become human rights practitioners in a non-governmental organisation (NGO), governmental, intergovernmental or private sectors. It is also suitable for those currently

working in the field of human rights who wish to advance their careers by enhancing their theoretical, legal, practical and policy understanding of human rights or who wish to proceed to PhD studies.

Potential employers include international intergovernmental organisations, such as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; international NGOs, such as Amnesty International or Friends of the Earth; local or regional organisations dedicated to advocacy and defending human rights, such as the Children's Society (UK); businesses with a corporate social responsibility division; and public sector roles that involve monitoring and advising on compliance with the legal frameworks such as national equality laws.



Professor Damien Short

Module Convenor



Professor Damien Short is Co-Director of the Human Rights Consortium (HRC) and a Professor of Human Rights and Environmental Justice at the School of Advanced Study. He is the Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Human Rights (Taylor and Francis) and an expert member of the United Nations Harmony with Nature Initiative. Professor Short has spent his entire professional career working in the field of human rights and environmental justice, both as a scholar and advocate. He has researched and published extensively in the areas of indigenous peoples' rights, genocide studies, reconciliation projects and environmental human rights. He is currently researching the human rights impacts of extreme energy processes (e.g. tar sands and fracking).

Programme structure

Structure

The MA consists of six modules (three core, three elective) plus a dissertation.

Core modules

Understanding human rights

Securing human rights

Translating human rights into international law

Optional modules

Three elective modules chosen from:

Topics in international human rights law

Researching human rights: social science research methods

Securing human rights in development and conflict

Indigenous peoples, minorities and human rights

Genocide, gross human rights violations and reconciliation

Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice

Dissertation

You can also study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights, comprised of the three core modules, or the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights, comprised of three



core modules and three optional modules. It is also possible to study certain individual modules.

Overview

The MA is designed to be studied part time over a two-year period, but the registration period is five years, so you can pause your studies if you wish to.

Time commitment

You will need to spend around 15–20 hours per week studying the programme. All of the study resources that we provide are online, and you will be expected to log in to the programme's VLE frequently to participate in online discussions, submit assignments and network with tutors and your fellow students.

You will have access to a vast range of academic journals, books and primary source materials. You can make use of these resources for your independent study to explore topics of personal interest, alongside the essential readings that we offer you.

Assessment

Your work on the modules will be assessed through a combination of three activities (E-tivities) and a final examination or written coursework. The E-tivities are carefully designed to build your skills and knowledge and help you prepare for each final assessment.

You will also research and write a research proposal and 15,000-word dissertation on a topic that you choose (subject to agreement with your research supervisor).

Distance and flexible learning: how it works

The Student Portal and the VLE

As soon as you register, we send you a University of London username and password which enables you to log in to the Student Portal. All of the online resources you need to study the programme are made available via the Portal.

The VLE is the programme's intranet, an online space where you can:

- interact with tutors and fellow students through discussion forums
- download subject guides, readings and study skills resources for your modules
- upload your work and receive academic feedback.

Study materials

We provide you with a range of study resources and support:

- online study resources including a subject guide for each module; scanned readings from a range of textbooks, journals and monographs; plus access to a fully searchable Online Library with a huge stock of journals and primary source materials.

Academic support

You will interact regularly with academics.

- For each module, a tutor provides advice on readings and guides the online discussions.
- Tutors provide academic advice and guidance for each module that you study. Other programme queries can be directed to the Academic Support Officer. Alternatively, the Programme Director will be able to answer queries and provide support throughout your studies.
- You receive feedback on E-tivities and coursework for each module.
- You are allocated a research supervisor to guide your dissertation work.

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Dr Corinne Lennox

Programme Director and
Module Convenor



Dr Corinne Lennox is a Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and Co-Director of

the Human Rights Consortium (HRC). Her research interests include the human rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples; civil society mobilisation; LGBTI rights and caste-based discrimination. She has worked for many years as a human rights practitioner with various NGOs, including Minority Rights Group International, and has been a trainer and guest lecturer on human rights-based approaches to development for several international development agencies. Dr Lennox has been a consultant on minority rights for the UNDP, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

Entrance requirements

Academic

An undergraduate degree (e.g. bachelor) which is considered at least comparable to a UK upper second class honours degree, from an institution acceptable to the University.

If you do not meet the entrance requirements you may still apply. Each application will be considered on an individual basis by the Programme Director, giving attention to alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

English language

If your first degree was not taught in English, you will need to provide evidence of language ability as tested by the British Council or another registered body. This is equivalent to a score of 7.0 overall in the iELTS test, or 7.0 in both reading and writing.

Minimum computer specification

You must have regular access to a computer (or mobile device) with an internet connection so that you can access your learning materials through the VLE.

To get the most from your studies, your computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser (the latest version of Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Edge). This must accept cookies and have JavaScript enabled
- screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or greater
- sufficient bandwidth to download documents of at least 2MB
- a word processor that reads Microsoft Word format (.doc)
- Adobe Acrobat, or another PDF reader.



Victoria de Mello

Current student,
MA Human Rights



'I decided to enrol on the MA Human Rights programme after working in the international development field for five years. Following two years of a truly enriching learning experience, I am now writing my dissertation in the area to which I plan to devote my career. The programme has enhanced my professional skills and, more importantly, my confidence. Engaging in academic writing using my second language was a challenge that I am glad I have faced. I was able to tailor my learning experience to my field of practice to expand my advocacy skills and understand international human rights mechanisms that I use in my everyday work. Distance learning while working full time is not easy, but it's absolutely manageable.'

Victoria works for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on business and human rights in Asia and Africa.

How to apply and register

Getting started

You must apply online at:
london.ac.uk/human-rights

Please read the 'Guidance Notes for Applications' before you complete your application: **bit.ly/PG-guidance**

Stage 1

Submit your online application.

Stage 2

Submit your documentary evidence. This can be done online when submitting your application or at a later stage. Please see: **bit.ly/Doc-evidence**

Please do not send original documents (scanned copies are acceptable).

Stage 3

We will notify you whether or not you have been accepted.

Please note: applications will only be considered when we have received all the necessary documentation, including the references, where applicable.

Stage 4

Complete the online registration. We explain how to do this in the Offer Letter.

Stage 5

Start your studies. You will be given access to the VLE and your study materials once you have registered.

Useful information for applicants

Submit your application even if it is incomplete (for example, if you are waiting to sit an examination or to receive examination results). Do not delay – we can formally advise you on what requirements/grades you will need to obtain in order to meet our entrance criteria.

If you are unsure about whether or not you meet our entrance requirements, we might be able to advise you on this before you submit your application. However, due to our increase in workload we are unable to provide this advice between 1 September and 30 October each year. To contact us, please see: **sid.london.ac.uk**

Debbie Nolan

Current student,
MA Human Rights



'My initial instinct was to enrol on an MA in International Development degree. However, after researching the many postgraduate options on offer, I spotted the MA in Human Rights offered by the School of Advanced Study, which piqued my interest! The content of the course helped me realise that human rights underpin everything we do in the sector, and that understanding the root causes of issues facing the most marginalised in our society is key to resolving those challenges.'

Debbie is a learning and training advisor at Bond, the UK network for organisations working in international development.

Fees and further information



Fees payable to the University

The total fee payable to the University of London for the 2021–2022 academic session will be published on our website once confirmed. For the latest information on programme fees, please visit: london.ac.uk/fees

Please note: student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.

Financial assistance

Some employers in both the public and private sector may offer financial assistance to their employees. No financial assistance is available from the University.

Further information

If you want to study in London, you can also consider our campus-based MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights. For more information, please visit the Human Rights Consortium web page at: hrc.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study

Interested in finding out more about the Human Rights Consortium? You can explore our work in activist scholarship here: hrc.sas.ac.uk

“Prior to beginning my studies at the University, I had hoped to find an international distance learning MA programme that would be flexible yet intense. I knew I wanted to focus on human rights, but coming across the MA offered by the School of Advanced Study confirmed the path I wanted to take. The online learning experience has been completely positive, with timely support from the faculty, especially in terms of career development.

While studying my final two elective modules I have secured four interviews: one at an NGO, two at colleges and one at a private company. I strongly attribute this to the detailed practicality of the MA.”

Sepo Maimouna

Current student, MA Human Rights



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The Student Advice Centre

University of London
Senate House, Malet Street
London WC1E 7HU
United Kingdom

Telephone enquires: +44 (0)20 7862 8360

Online enquiries: sid.london.ac.uk



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