UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Programme Regulations 2018

Human Rights

MA
Postgraduate Diploma
Postgraduate Certificate

Important document – please read
This document contains important information that governs your registration, assessment and programme of study

Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

About this document

Last revised 2 May 2018

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

The Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the School of Advanced Study which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The Programme Regulations, which may refer to the Programme Handbook and the VLE, provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study. Further information about how to use the Programme Regulations and Programme Handbook can be found in the Student Guide.

In addition to the Programme Regulations you will also have to keep to the General Regulations. These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the International Academy and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes. They also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us using the 'ask a question' link in the Student Portal homepage: https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk.

Terminology

Throughout the regulations, 'we', 'us' and 'our' mean the University of London, and 'you' and 'your' mean the student, or where applicable, all students. Additionally, the following terminology, which is specific to the Human Rights programme, is used in these regulations:

Module: individual units of the programme are called modules. All modules are worth 20 credits, except for the dissertation which is worth 60 credits.

Core module: a compulsory module that must be taken.

Elective module: a module that is chosen from a number of options.

Dissertation module: a compulsory module that must be taken to complete the Master's degree.

Resume: when you have deferred a module and start studying it again.

Restart: when you have failed a module or failed to complete it and register for the module a second time.

Changes made to the programme 2017-18

The programme is offered for the first time this year.

Since they were first published, the regulations have been amended to reflect that each module will run for a 14-week term, followed by a two week revision period, rather than a 20 week term as originally stated.

The programme title was changed in April 2018 from *Understanding and Securing Human Rights* to *Human Rights.* This document has been revised throughout to reference only the new title of *Human Rights.* No other changes have been made to the programme.[1]

---

[1] The programme is referred to as *Human Rights* throughout this document although all details apply equally to the programme's former title *Understanding and securing human rights.* Students registering with the University of London after April 2018 will receive their award with the title *Human Rights.* Students who registered prior to April 2018 will be able to choose *Human Rights* or *Understanding and Securing Human Rights* as the title of their award/s.

1 Structure of the programmes

1.1

The MA in Human Rights consists of:

- three compulsory core modules (each worth 20 credits)

- three elective modules (each worth 20 credits)

- one compulsory dissertation module (worth 60 credits).

1.2

The Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights consists of:

- three compulsory core modules (each worth 20 credits)

- three elective modules (each worth 20 credits).

1.3

The Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights consists of:

- three compulsory core modules (each worth 20 credits).

2 Registration

Effective date of registration

See the Glossary for the definition of Effective date of registration.

2.1

Your effective date of registration will be

- 1 October if you first registered before a September registration deadline, or

- 1 February if you first registered before a January registration deadline.

Period of registration

2.2

The minimum and maximum periods of registration to complete the programme are counted from your effective date of registration.

2.3

The minimum period of registration to complete the MA in Human Rights is two years. The maximum period of registration allowed to complete the MA in Human Rights is five years.

2.4

The minimum period of registration to complete the PGDip in Human Rights is eighteen months. The maximum period of registration allowed to complete the PGDip in Human Rights is five years.

2.5

The minimum period of registration to complete the PGCert in Human Rights is one year. The maximum period of registration allowed to complete the PGCert in Human Rights is five years.

2.6

If you progress from the PGCert to the PGDip or MA, or from the PGDip to the MA, your maximum period of registration will continue to be counted from your effective date of registration for the first award for which you registered.

Registering for modules

Each module runs for a 14-week term that begins in either February or September, followed by a two week revision period before the final assessment. Refer to Appendix A to see which modules run in each term.

To register for a module, you must select it and pay for it by the deadline date. When you register for a module you are committing to studying the module in that study session so you should only register for modules that you are ready to study.

All students start by taking the module, *Understanding Human Rights UHM010*. Students can choose to take the module, *Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030* at the same time in the first term.

The third core module *Securing Human Rights UHM020* runs in the September term only. See the progression rules in section 7 which state what you must do before registering for *Securing Human Rights UHM020* and the elective modules.

2.7

If you register for a core, elective or dissertation module, you must study it when you are eligible to take it in the first term that it runs.

Maximum and minimum number of modules you can study in a term

2.8

You do not have to register for any new modules in a particular term if you do not want to. However note that:

- when you initially register for the programme you must register for Understanding Human Rights UHM010, and

- if you have deferred or failed a module(s) in the previous term you will be required to resume or retake those modules at the earliest opportunity.

2.9

The maximum number of new modules for which you can register in any term is two, unless you are also required to retake a failed module or resume a deferred module, in which case the maximum number of modules you can be registered for is three.

Replacing a module

2.10

We will consider requests to replace elective modules but will not consider requests to replace core modules or the dissertation module.

2.11

We will consider a request to replace an elective module with another if you make a request using the 'ask a question' link in the Student Portal homepage. It will be our decision whether or not to approve a request.

2.12

We will not approve a request to replace an elective module with another if you have already submitted an E-tivity on the module.

2.13

If you fail an elective module on the second attempt, you will be permitted to replace the module with another elective module. We will only allow you to replace a module under these circumstance on one occasion.

2.14

We will only approve requests to replace elective modules for up to a maximum of:

- one module for which you have not submitted an E-tivity, and

- one module where you have failed the module on the second attempt.

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

See the Glossary for definitions of accreditation of prior learning and credit transfer.

3.1

We will consider credit transfer but will not recognise or accredit prior learning for this programme.

4 Assessment for the programme

Each module is assessed by one or more of elements of assessment. The elements of assessment used on this programme are coursework, E-tivity, examination and dissertation. These elements of assessment may in turn comprise more than one item of assessment.

The method of assessment for E-tivities, coursework, dissertations and written examinations is described in the assessment rubric on the VLE.

See Appendix A for the full module titles and the terms times when the modules run.

Summary table of assessment

4.1

Programme structure	3 compulsory core modules				3 elective modules from		1 compulsory dissertation	
Module	UHM010 *and* UHM030		UHM020		UHM110, UHM120, UHM130, UHM140, UHM150, UHM160.		UHM500	
Element of assessment	E-tivity	Examination	E-tivity	Course work	E-tivity	Course work	Dissertation proposal	Dissertation thesis
Element weighting	30	70	30	70	30	70	15	85
Item of assessment	Two E-tivities, each worth 15%.	One three-hour written examination item, worth 70%.	Two E-tivities, each worth 15%.	Two items of course work, each worth 35%.	Two E-tivities, each worth 15%.	One item of course work worth 70%.	One dissertation proposal worth 15%	One dissertation thesis worth 85%

Taking assessments

4.2

When you register for a module you must take the assessment(s) for that module at the first available opportunity.

4.3

If you do not attempt a module's assessment(s), and you have not deferred the module or there are no mitigating circumstances, you will lose one of your attempts at the assessment(s).

Deferring assessments for a module

4.4

If after having registered for a module you no longer wish to take it that term, we will allow you to defer taking the module's assessments if you notify us by the deferral deadline. The deadline dates for deferring modules are given in the Module Timetable on the VLE.

4.5

We will not allow you to defer a module if you have taken its written examination, submitted (any of) its coursework or submitted its dissertation thesis.

4.6

If you defer a core or elective module you must resume the module and take assessments in the next available term which will be one year after the original start date. If you defer the Dissertation UHM500 you must submit the dissertation proposal and the dissertation report in the next term which will be six months after the original start date.

4.7

If you defer a core or elective module after you have taken the E-tivities the marks achieved for E-tivities will be carried forward. If you failed to submit the E-tivities and used one of your attempts at the E-tivities before you notified us of your decision to defer, you will only be permitted one further attempt at the E-tivities when you resume the module.

4.8

We will allow you to defer taking each module once without paying an additional fee.

4.9

You must request our permission to defer a module on a second occasion. If we give permission:

- for core and elective modules: you must pay a new module fee by the deadline date when you resume the module in the next available term and

- for the dissertation module: you must pay the dissertation-second-deferral fee when restarting the module.

4.10

If you defer the Dissertation UHM500 we cannot guarantee continuity of dissertation supervision if you defer submission of the dissertation thesis on a second occasion.

Passing a module

You can pass a core or elective module with a mark of less than 50% in one of the E-tivities provided that the examination or coursework assessment achieves a mark of at least 50%, the other E-tivity mark is at least 50% and the overall combined weighted mark for the module is at least 50%.

4.11

You will pass a core or elective module if you obtain a combined weighted mark for the elements of 50% or greater, including a grade of at least 50% in the examination or coursework and 50% or more in at least one E-tivity.

4.12

You will pass the dissertation module if you obtain a combined weighted mark for the elements of 50% or greater, including a grade of at least 50% in the dissertation thesis.

Taking assessments

See section 5 for what happens if you do not attend a written examination or do not submit a coursework item, E-tivity or dissertation.

4.13

When you register for a module you must take the assessments for the module in the sequence given in the Module Timetable on the VLE and at the first available opportunity.

4.14

You must retain a copy of all of your submissions to us in the event of any electronic difficulties in their submission to us or return from us.

Submission of E-tivities, coursework and the dissertation

> Note that the deadline dates and times are UK times and that it is your responsibility to adjust to UK time if you are in another time-zone.

4.15

E-tivities, coursework and dissertation items must be submitted through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) by the submission dates given in the Module Timetable on the VLE.

Penalties for missing a deadline or exceeding a word limit

> Instructions, word limits and deadlines for submitting coursework, E-tivity and dissertation items are given in the Programme Handbook.

Penalty for missing a deadline

> You will lose marks if you do not keep to these rules. For example: all assessments are graded out of 100, so work ordinarily graded at 65/100, but submitted up to 24 hours late, will receive a final mark of 62.
>
> If you think you may miss a deadline, contact the Student Administrator through the VLE immediately. See also mitigating circumstances below.

4.16

You must keep to the deadlines stated in the Module Timetable on the VLE. If you are late in submitting an item of coursework, E-tivity or dissertation we will reduce the mark you receive by deducting three marks from the original mark for every day that the item is late. Work submitted more than 10 days after the deadline will not be marked. It will count as an attempt at the assessment and will be assigned a mark of zero.

4.17

If you are unable to meet a deadline for medical reasons or unforeseeable, unmanageable or uncontrollable personal circumstances you may apply for an extension to the deadline and provide accompanying medical or other independent evidence.

Penalty for exceeding the word limit

> You will lose marks if you do not keep to these rules. For example: work ordinarily graded at 65/100, but which exceeds the word limit by 15%, will receive a final mark of 60.

4.18

You must keep to the word limits stated in the assessment rubric which is provided on the VLE. If you exceed the word limit for an item of coursework, E-tivity or dissertation we will reduce the mark you receive as follows:

Excess number of words over the word limit expressed as a percentage	Marks deducted from the original mark
Up to and including 10%	0
From 11% up to and including 20%	5
From 21% up to and including 30%	10
More than 31%	The work will not be marked. It will count as an attempt at the assessment and will be assigned a mark of zero.

Dates for written examinations

See the Examination timetables for examination dates and times.

See also the General Regulations for rules about taking written examinations

4.19

If a module has a written examination:

- the examination for a September term module will take place in January, and

- the examination for a February term module will take place in late May or early June.

Materials and aids allowed in the examination room

See the Admission Notice which is sent to you in advance of the examination for further detail on what you may take into the examinations room.

4.20

You are allowed to take a maximum of one side of A4 paper notes into the examination room for each examination. The notes may be handwritten, typed or a combination of both. No attachments to the paper are allowed. No other written materials are permitted within the examination room unless they are on the Permitted Materials List attached to your Admission Notice.

Mitigating circumstances

For more information about mitigating circumstances, see section 10 of the General Regulations and the examinations section of our website. Note that mitigating circumstances should be submitted as soon as you become aware that your performance may be adversely affected, and not after the deadline date for coursework, dissertations and E-tivities.

4.21

You must bring any mitigating circumstances to our attention as soon as you become aware that your performance may be adversely affected by serious circumstances beyond your control, and not longer than three weeks after an examination and not after the deadline date for coursework, dissertations and E-tivities.

5   Number of attempts permitted at assessments

Number of attempts permitted at an item of assessment

5.1

The maximum number of attempts permitted for an E-tivity, coursework item, written examination or dissertation item is two.

If you pass an item of assessment

5.2

If you obtain a mark of 50% or more for any item of assessment from any module you may not retake that item.

If you do not submit or otherwise fail an E-tivity

5.3

If you do not submit an E-tivity it will count as an attempt, you will be given a mark of zero for the item and it will be classified as a fail. If you achieve a mark of less than 50% in an E-tivity you may retake it within 14 days of the E-tivity result release date.

If you do not submit coursework items or dissertation items

5.4

If you do not submit an item of coursework or an item of the dissertation it will count as an attempt, you will be given a mark of zero for the item and it will be classified as a fail.

If you do not attend the written examination for UHM010 or UHM030

5.5

If you are absent from the written examination for UHM010 or UHM030 on a first occasion it will not count as an attempt, but you will be required to make an attempt at the next opportunity which will be in six months' time.

5.6

If you are absent from the written examination for UHM010 or UHM030 on a second occasion it will count as an attempt, you will be given a mark of zero for the examination, it will be classified as a fail and you will be required to make an attempt at the next opportunity which will be in six months' time.

If you fail a module at the first attempt

5.7

If you obtain an overall mark of less than 50% for a core, elective or dissertation module at the first attempt this will be classified as a fail and you will be required to make one further attempt at the item(s) of assessment in which you obtained a mark of less than 50%.

If you pass an item of assessment at a second attempt your mark will be capped

5.8

If you make a second attempt at any item of assessment of a core, elective or dissertation module the overall mark given for the item of assessment will be capped at 50%.

If you have to make a second attempt at the written examinations for UHM010 and UHM030

5.9

If you are required to make a second attempt at a written examination you must attempt it at the next opportunity. If you first failed the examination in June, the next opportunity to retake it is January of the following year. If you first failed the examination in January, the next opportunity to retake it is June or the same year. To retake the examination you must make another examination entry and pay the examination resit fee by the examination entry deadline.

5.10

If you are absent twice from the written examination for a module, your registration for that module will be cancelled. To restart the module, you must pay a new module fee. You may restart each of UHM010 and UHM030 in this way on one occasion. Any previous marks for E-tivities and the number of permitted deferrals for the module will carry forward.

If you have to make a second attempt at the coursework for core module UHM020

5.11

If you are required to make a further attempt at a coursework item(s) for UHM020 you must submit the coursework within 28 days of the results release date. Submission at the second deadline will count as your second and final attempt.

5.12

If you do not submit the required coursework within 28 days of the results release date, your registration for UHM020 will be cancelled. To restart the module, you must pay a new module fee. You may only restart UHM020 on one occasion. Any previous marks for E-tivities and the number of permitted deferrals will carry forward.

If you have to make a second attempt at the coursework for elective modules UHM110, UHM120, UHM130, UHM140, UHM150 and UHM160

5.13

If you are required to make a further attempt at coursework for an elective module you must submit it within 28 days of the results release date. Submission at the second deadline will count as your second and final attempt.

5.14

If you do not submit the required coursework within 28 days of the results release date, your registration for the elective module will be cancelled. We will not allow you to restart an elective module.

If you have to make a second attempt at the Dissertation UHM500

5.15

If you are required to make a further attempt at the dissertation proposal you must re-submit a reworked dissertation proposal, in the same term, by a date specified by us.

5.16

If you are required to make a further attempt at the dissertation thesis you must re-submit a reworked dissertation thesis in the next term, by a date specified by us and pay the dissertation thesis resubmission fee.

If you fail a module at the second attempt

5.17

If you fail a core module at the second attempt your registration for the programme will cease and the Board of Examiners will consider if you qualify for an exit award.

5.18

If you fail an elective module at the second attempt, you will be permitted to replace the module with another elective module. You are allowed to do this on one occasion for one module only. If you fail a second elective module on the second attempt your registration for the programme will cease and the Board of Examiners will consider if you qualify for an exit award.

6 Assessment offences and penalties

See Plagiarism rules in Section 7 of the General Regulations for regulations and penalties that apply.

Refer to the dissertation section of the Programme handbook for further details on writing and submitting your dissertation.

Plagiarism

6.1

If you draw on your own previous written work, whether submitted as coursework for your current degree, or for a previous degree or qualification, this must be clearly stated to avoid self-plagiarism. If you draw on work from E-tivities or coursework that you have undertaken as part of this programme for the dissertation module, then you must have this approved by your dissertation supervisor and this must amount to no more than 3000 words in total.

7 Progression within the programme

First modules

7.1

You must begin by registering for the core module Understanding Human Rights UHM010 in the first term that you register. You can opt to register for Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030 at the same time.

Before taking Securing Human Rights UHM020 or a first elective module

7.2

You must have attempted the two E-tivities for Understanding Human Rights UHM010 before you can register for Securing Human Rights UHM020 or any elective module.

Before taking the dissertation module

7.3

You must have attempted the examination element or the entire coursework element in six modules and passed at least five modules before you can register for the Dissertation UHM500.

Number of modules you can take in a term

7.4

If you are not retaking any modules and have no deferred modules, we will allow you to register for up to two new modules in the next term.

7.5

If you have one deferred or failed module, we will allow you to register for up to two new modules in the next term but you must attempt the assessments for the module you are carrying at the next available opportunity.

7.6

If you have more than one deferred or failed module, we will not allow you to register for any new modules in the next term and you must attempt the assessments for the modules you are carrying at the next available opportunity.

8   Schemes of award

Marking criteria

See Appendix C for the Assessment Criteria.

8.1

All assessments will be marked according to the published Assessment Criteria.

Award requirements

8.2

To be awarded the MA in Human Rights you must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each of the three core modules, three elective modules and the dissertation module.

8.3

To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights, you must achieve a mark of at least 50% in in each of the three core modules and in three elective modules.

8.4

To be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights, you must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each of the three core modules.

Calculating the module mark

8.5

The overall mark for each of Understanding Human Rights UHM010 and Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the two E-tivities and the written examination item in a ratio of 15:15:70.

8.6

The overall mark for Securing Human Rights UHM020 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the two E-tivities and the two coursework items in a ratio of 15:15:35:35.

8.7

The overall mark for each of the elective modules, namely UHM110, UHM120, UHM130, UHM140, UHM150 and UHM160, is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the two E-tivities and the coursework item in a ratio of 15:15:70.

8.8

The overall mark for each of the Dissertation UHM500 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the dissertation proposal and the dissertation thesis in a ratio of 15:85.

Mark scheme

8.9

Marks awarded for each element of the assessment of a module and the overall module mark will be rounded to the nearest whole number

8.10

To calculate the final grade for the award, the marks for the modules are weighted according to their credit values. Each core and elective module is worth 20 credits. The dissertation module is worth 60 credits.

8.11

The following mark scheme is used for the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and MA:

Mark Range	Classification
70% – 100%	Distinction
60% – 69%	Merit
50% – 59%	Pass
0% – 49%	Fail

Merit and distinction

8.12

To be considered for the award of Merit you should obtain a mark of 50% or more in each core and elective module, a mark of 60% or more for the dissertation module and a weighted average mark of 60%-69% across all modules.

8.13

To be considered for the award of Distinction you should obtain a mark of 60% or more in each core and elective module and obtain a mark of 70% or more in the dissertation module and a weighted average of at least 70% across all modules.

Progressing to a higher award

8.14

If you wish to progress from the PGCert to the PGDip or MA, or from the PGDip to the MA you must notify us of your intent to do so prior to accepting an intermediate award. Should you accept an award and then wish to progress to a higher award on the programme you will need to return the award if we allow you to progress. At the end of your registration with us, you will receive only the highest award for which you have qualified.

Exit awards

8.15

The Board of Examiners has discretion to grant a PGCert or PGDip in Human Rights as an exit award to a student of the MA or PGDip who does not successfully complete the award for which they registered but who does meet the criteria for a PGCert or PGDip given in the award requirements.

If you have accepted an exit award

8.16

If you have accepted the award of the PGCert in Human Rights as an exit award we will not allow you to transfer your registration to the PGDip in Human Rights or the MA in Human Rights.

8.17

If you have accepted the award of the PGDip in Human Rights as an exit award we will not allow you to transfer your registration to the MA in Human Rights.

If you have accepted an award

8.18

We will consider applicants who have already been awarded the PGCert in Human Rights and who wish to complete the PGDip or MA in Human Rights subject to the following conditions:

- The award was not made as an exit award as a result of your failure to progress or complete your studies.

- A maximum of three years have passed between the award of the PGCert and your registration for the PGDip or MA.

- Applicants will be required to surrender the PGCert prior to the award of the PGDip or MA being made.

8.19

We will consider applicants who have already been awarded the PGDip in Human Rights and who wish to complete the MA in Human Rights subject to the following conditions:

- The award was not made as an exit award as a result of your failure to progress or complete your studies.

- A maximum of three years have passed between the award of the PGDip and your registration for the MA.

- Applicants will be required to surrender the PGDip prior to the award of the MA in being made.

Date of award

8.20

The date of the award will correspond to the year that the requirements for the award were satisfied.

Appendix A – Structure of the awards

Elective modules will run subject to availability and not all elective modules will necessarily be available every year. There are two terms each year which run from February to June and from September to January. Core modules run in both terms and elective modules run in one term or the other. The structures of the awards, the module codes, the module titles, the first term that the module will run and the normal schedule thereafter are as follows:

MA in Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	First term that the module will run	Schedule after the first term
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February 2018	February – June and September – January
UHM020	Securing Human Rights	September 2018	September – January
UHM030	Translating Human Rights into International Law	February 2018	February – June and September – January

Plus any three elective modules (20 credits each) from a choice of six options:

Module code	Module title	First term that the module will run	Schedule after the first term
UHM110	Genocide, Gross Human Rights Violations and Reconciliation	February 2019	February – June
UHM120	Securing Human Rights in Development and in Conflict	February 2019	February – June
UHM130	Topics in International Human Rights Law	September 2018	September – January
UHM140	Researching Human Rights: Social Research Methods	February 2019	February – June
UHM150	Human Rights and Development	September 2018	September – January
UHM160	Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights	February 2019	February – June

Plus one compulsory dissertation module (60 credits)

Module code	Module title	First term that the module will run	Schedule after the first term
UHM500	Dissertation	September 2019	February – June and September – January

Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	Term that the module will first run	Schedule after the first term
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February 2018	February – June and September – January
UHM020	Securing Human Rights	September 2018	February – June and September – January
UHM030	Translating Human Rights into International Law	February 2018	February – June and September – January

Plus any three elective modules (20 credits each) from a choice of six options:

Module code	Module title	Term that the module will first run	Schedule after the first term
UHM110	Genocide, Gross Human Rights Violations and Reconciliation	February 2019	February – June
UHM120	Securing Human Rights in Development and in Conflict	February 2019	February – June
UHM130	Topics in International Human Rights Law	September 2018	September – January
UHM140	Researching Human Rights: Social Research Methods	February 2019	February – June
UHM150	Human Rights and Development	September 2018	September – January
UHM160	Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights	February 2019	February – June

Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	Term that the module will first run	Schedule after the first term
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February 2018	February – June and September – January
UHM020	Securing Human Rights	September 2018	February – June and September – January
UHM030	Translating Human Rights into International Law	February 2018	February – June and September – January

Appendix B – Module outlines

Core modules

Understanding Human Rights UHM010

This module utilises a broad range of approaches from the social sciences and humanities in order to develop a nuanced understanding of human rights and human rights abuses. It aims to provide an insight into some of the key debates and an overview of important literature in this growing area of scholarship. Students will emerge with a deeper and more complex understanding of what human rights are and why they are important, of both their potential and limitations, and of the increasingly wide range of contexts in which they are being applied, used and abused. The first section is entitled 'Ideas of Rights' and is designed to address questions such as what is a right and what are the main critiques of the human rights discourse? Topics covered include an introduction to the history and philosophy of human rights, classical theories, multi-cultural recognition theory, interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to human rights and universalism versus cultural relativism, environmental rights. In the second half of this module we will look at 'Rights in Context'. This section primarily draws on disciplinary insights from political economy, sociology and international relations. It looks at the structures and processes which provide a backdrop to many current human rights debates, claims and violations.

Assessment: one three-hour, seen, written examination (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Securing Human Rights UHM020

This module critically examines strategies employed by inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, civil society groups and governmental agencies to secure human rights. It also reflects on and builds skills for human rights practice. It exposes students to the practical work of various human rights actors, the contexts in which they operate, the techniques they use, and the challenges they face. The module includes contributions from human rights practitioners, who will engage directly with the students and via videos. The module is divided into two parts. Section A – Actors and Mechanisms gives students an overview of the role of various key players in implementing human rights, namely the state, NGOs and the UN system. Section B – Skills and Strategies familiarises students with practical abilities needed to run human rights projects such as lobbying; media; campaigning; using a human rights-based approach in project management; and research, monitoring, reporting. The assessment will build skills to analyse advocacy strategies for securing human rights and also give students the opportunity to design their own human rights project and to prepare a funding proposal.

Assessment: two items of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Translating Human Rights into International Law UHM030

This module aims to provide all students – regardless of whether they have a legal background - with a firm understanding of how human rights are translated into international law. The module begins by providing a basic grounding in public international law. Each session introduces foundational concepts in international law and ties these to important debates within international human rights law. The second half of the module builds a critical understanding of the main international and regional human rights systems through which human rights standards are developed and enforced in practice. Students will gain confidence in dealing with and critiquing the law, constructing legal arguments, analysing facts against a legal framework and problem-solving, reading international law materials and conducting legal research.

Assessment: one three-hour, seen, written examination (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Elective modules

Genocide, Gross Human Rights Violations and Reconciliation UHM110

This module utilises a broad range of approaches from the social sciences and humanities in order to develop a nuanced understanding of genocide and reconciliation processes. It aims to provide an insight into some of the key debates and an overview of important literature in the fields of genocide studies, transitional justice, memory and reconciliation studies. Students will emerge with a deeper and more complex understanding of the concept and law of genocide, the theory and practice of 'reconciliation' and the appropriateness of applying such concepts to key case studies.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Securing Human Rights in Development and Conflict UHM120

In this module, the concepts explored in Securing Human Rights are used to review strategies employed by actors to secure human rights in the context of development and conflict situations, broadly understood. This module also reflects on and builds skills for human rights practice and includes contributions from human rights practitioners, who will engage directly with the students and via videos. The module is divided into two parts. In Section A, entitled "Securing Human Rights in Development", students will be introduced to the use of human rights-based approaches to development, how international development agencies work on human rights issues, the particular challenges of protecting women's human rights in development, the responsibilities of businesses in human rights protection, and the practice of securing human rights through domestic level capacity building and litigation on poverty-related issues. In Section B, entitled "Securing Human Rights in Conflict", students will examine the various issues facing human rights officers in field operations, the special protection mechanisms used to safeguard human rights defenders living in (or targets of) conflict, how to address the needs of refugees and IDPs, the particular issues faced by women in conflict and the difficulties of securing human rights in the transition to peace. The assessment will be practice-based and students will be asked to write a policy paper on a key topic in development or conflict.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Topics in International Human Rights Law UHM130

Building on the pre-requisite module on The Foundations of International Human Rights Law, this module aims to develop a more advanced legal understanding around a broad range of crucially important aspects of human rights principles and practice. The module is divided into two parts. Section A – Securing Social Justice through Human Rights Law – explores how international law engages with key questions of social justice that go to the very heart of the discipline, ranging from the principle of equality to economic, social and cultural rights, the human rights of women and the growing field of business and human rights. Section B – Securing Human Rights during Armed Conflict – focuses on how law seeks to protect human dignity during armed conflict and other public emergencies, including an introduction to International Humanitarian Law, and international law on refugees and internally displaced persons.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Researching Human Rights: Social Science Research Methods UHM140

This module will introduce students to the theories and methods of qualitative social sciences research and how they can be applied to the study of human rights. It will assist students in developing skills for understanding and evaluating the process and outcomes of applied research. Students will reflect on the theoretical context, key concepts and tools of social sciences research in order to articulate a critical perspective on human rights. Students will learn how to identify a range of ethical issues and how to overcome them, understand how qualitative data is collected, analysed, interpreted, appreciate how quantitative and qualitative methods can be combined in interdisciplinary human rights research and articulate methodological steps for Human Rights Impact Assessments. This module is particularly recommended for students interested to pursue further study at PhD level or to develop a career conducting human rights research.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Human Rights and Development UHM150

This module will equip students to understand the conceptual, legal and practice-based links of human rights with development. The module begins by briefly clarifying why post 1945 human rights and development were forced apart and the gradual move back towards one another, including situating the human rights story in the context of decolonisation, which was a vital factor in the rise of international development aid. Students will then be introduced to key policy frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and to relevant programming tools established by the human rights system including human rights indicators and the AAAQ (available, accessible, acceptable, and of good quality) framework used to elaborate key economic and social rights. This knowledge will be consolidated with an introduction to human rights-based approaches (HRBA) in development and their applicability, including the critical examination of the impact of applying HRBAs to development projects in different sectors.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights UHM160

This module will investigate key historical and contemporary human rights issues faced by indigenous peoples and ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities that emanate from the relationship they have with the states in which they live, other communities and the international system. Topics covered range from colonial genocide and contemporary settler/indigenous relations to discrimination and accommodation of non-dominant ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and struggles for equality and non-discrimination more generally. The module will also look into how indigenous peoples and minorities are protected by international human rights law, considering the rights that have been established, the jurisprudence that has been developed, and the mechanisms for implementation that are currently used in practice. The module will provide an opportunity to reflect how these rights have been constructed and framed, from the collective rights of indigenous peoples to the individual rights of 'persons belonging to minorities', and how they are protected and implemented in practice. The module will also provide a space for consideration of contemporary challenges relating to political participation, conflict, development and other matters that affect indigenous peoples and minorities. The assessment will include an opportunity to prepare a report to a UN body on the rights of a specific indigenous or minority group.

Assessment: one item of coursework (70%) and two E-tivities (30%).

Dissertation UHM500

The dissertation is a key part of the MA programme, and builds independent research skills through three components. This module includes a 'conducting human rights research' taught element, the submission of a research proposal and the submission of a final dissertation. The 'conducting human rights research' component will help students to develop the skills and knowledge that will be used to construct a research proposal and to undertake a substantial piece of independent research in the human rights field for the dissertation. Once the dissertation topic is approved, the MA programme staff will endeavour to provide a specialist in the topic chosen by the student to supervise the dissertation research.

Assessment: one dissertation proposal (15%) and one dissertation thesis (85%).

Appendix C – Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria for coursework, dissertations, E-tivities and examinations

The following criteria will be used in determining marks for coursework, dissertations, E-tivities and examinations. Final marks will be reduced if there are word-count and lateness penalties. All final marks are approved by the Board of Examiners.

Mark	Criteria
80-100 Distinction	- Very significant ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment. - Very significant ability to evaluate literature and theory critically and make informed judgements. - Very high levels of creativity, originality and independence of thought. - Very significant ability to evaluate critically existing methodologies and suggest new approaches to current research or professional practice. - Very significant ability to analyse data critically. - Outstanding levels of accuracy, technical competence, organisation, expression.
70-79 Distinction	- Significant ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment. - Clear evidence of wide and relevant reading, referencing and an engagement with the conceptual issues. - Capacity to develop a sophisticated and intelligent argument. - Rigorous use and a sophisticated understanding of relevant source materials, balancing appropriately between factual detail and key theoretical issues. Materials are evaluated directly and their assumptions and arguments challenged and/or appraised. - Correct referencing. - Significant ability to analyse data critically. - Original thinking and a willingness to take risks.
60-69 Merit	- Ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project or coursework assignment. - Strong evidence of critical insight and thinking. - A detailed understanding of the major factual and/or theoretical issues and directly engages with the relevant literature on the topic. - Clear evidence of planning and appropriate choice of sources and methodology with correct referencing. - Ability to analyse data critically. - Capacity to develop a focussed and clear argument and articulate clearly and convincingly a sustained train of logical thought.
50-59	Ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework

Pass	assignment.
	• A reasonable understanding of the major factual and/or theoretical issues involved.
	• Evidence of some knowledge of the literature with correct referencing.
	• Ability to analyse data.
	• Shows examples of a clear train of thought or argument.
	• The text is introduced and concludes appropriately.
40-49 Fail	• A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:
	• Limited ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment.
	• Some awareness and understanding of the literature and of factual or theoretical issues, but with little development.
	• Limited ability to analyse data.
	• Incomplete referencing.
	• Limited ability to present a clear and coherent argument.
20-39 Fail	• A Fail will be awarded in cases in which there is:
	• Very limited ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment.
	• Fails to develop a coherent argument that relates to the research project or assignment.
	• Does not engage with the relevant literature or demonstrate a knowledge of the key issues.
	• Incomplete referencing.
	• Contains clear conceptual or factual errors or misunderstandings.
	• Only fragmentary evidence of critical thought or data analysis.
0-19 Fail	• A Fail will be awarded in cases which:
	• No demonstrable ability to plan, organise and execute a research project or coursework assignment.
	• Little or no knowledge or understanding related to the research project or assignment.
	• Little or no knowledge of the relevant literature.
	• Major errors in referencing.
	• No evidence of critical thought or data analysis.
	• Incoherent argument.