UNIVER I Y
LOND N

Table of Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised   20/02/2024

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, registered students should use the ask a question button in the Student Portal; otherwise the Contact Us button on each webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Human Rights programme:

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.

Key revisions made

Programme Specifications are revised annually. The quality committee of the School of Advanced Study, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the Programme   Specification 2024– 2025

The following change has been made to the Programme Specification 2024-2025:

Intermediate qualifications

The intermediate qualifications for this programme are the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma as listed above. Students may not normally request a lower intermediate qualification if studying on a higher qualification (except as an exit qualification) or accumulate these qualifications as they progress from lower to higher qualifications.

Programme t itle and qualifications

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The award certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the award. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for this programme is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the Programme Regulations under Scheme of Award.

Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study of the same qualification with the University of London.

Individual modules

All of the modules from the programme, with the exception of the Dissertation (UHM500), may be taken on a stand-alone basis as Individual modules without being registered for the MSc, PGDip or PGCert (subject to module availability). Students may study for a maximum of 2 stand-alone individual modules (a maximum of 40 credits).

Credit for stand-alone individual modules (a maximum of 40 credits) will be considered provided that the application for a related qualification is made within 3 years of the completion of the relevant modules. Neither progression nor credit is automatic.

See the Programme Regulations for more information on Individual modules.

Award titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Arts – MA

Postgraduate Diploma – PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate – PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the Quality Assurance ink (K)1.3 (D)1. 1

Some modules/courses may have additional requirements such as video and audio recording options, Microsoft Excel, STATA, statistical or other specialist software. Where this is the case, students will find information on the course webpages.

x   Explain, analyse and critique foundational and complex human rights concepts, standards and mechanisms;

x   Compare and evaluate cross-cultural human rights theories, approaches, and practices;

x   Understand, evaluate and compare multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to human rights theory and practice.

Transferable skills

MA, PGDip and PGCert students will, upon completion of the compulsory core modules, be able to:

x   Develop analytical, legal and policy writing skills by producing a range of assessed

x   Develop a nuanced understanding of research methodologies established specifically for researching human rights questions.

Intellectual and cognitive:

x   Critically evaluate a range of multi-disciplinary approaches to and methodologies of research, applying them as appropriate to their own original research project;

x   Critically evaluate their own work, including assessing the approaches and methodologies used.

Transferable skills:

x   Plan and complete a complex independent research project;

x   Develop creative and comprehensive ways of thinking and approaching research questions.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Students learn on this programme by engaging with academically rigorous and up-to-date

Students receive feedback on examined work, assessed E-tivities and written coursework. Students must also undertake a dissertation that relates to human rights. This enables the student to develop and demonstrate their capacity to carry out a substantial piece of independent academic research on a selected topic.

Students are assessed on their capacity to define a topic, to articulate a coherent scheme for examining the topic, to gather necessary data and to analyse and present this data in a way

University of London

Student feedback and engagement

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every year, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle.

The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the website.

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme can allow students to progress to a higher level qualification in both the subject area and potentially many other subject areas.

Graduate employment routes

Graduates from this programme go on to a range of different graduate employment routes. This degree is particularly suitable for individuals who seek to become human rights practitioners in the NGO, business, governmental, and inter-governmental sectors. It is also suitable for those currently working in the field of human rights who wish to develop their careers by enhancing their theoretical, practical, and policy understanding of human rights.

This MA prioritises practice as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding. Our aim is to equip students with the practical skills essential to working in the field of human rights, including advocacy, research, legal analysis and fundraising, thus enabling graduates to establish, or advance, their career in human rights. The emphasis on practical as well as scholarly approaches to human rights provides graduates with a skill-set which makes them highly employable. Graduates can also proceed to further study through research degrees, building on their acquired skills in research methods and analysis.

Potential employers include international intergovernmental organisations, such as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and non-governmental organisations, such as Amnesty International, Anti-Slavery International, and the International Red Cross;