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**Changes made to the programme 2022 2023**

- The core and elective module pass rules have been updated in [Section 4](#).
- There are new progression rules in place for students wishing to transfer from the PGCert or PGDip to the PGDip or MA (see [Section 7](#)).
- The exit qualifications of PGCert and PGDip are now classified (see [Section 8](#)).
- The classification rules for all awards have been updated and are now based on the overall weighted average mark achieved

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## **Alternative assessments during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please note that this statement replaces any published i(y)1f.r4s of

# 1 Structure of the programmes

## Qualifications

### 1.1

The following named qualifications are awarded under the Human Rights programme:

Master of Arts (MA) in Human Rights



**2.6**

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

**Maximum and minimum number of modules you can study in a study session**

**2.7**

You do not have to register for any new modules in a particular session if you do not want to. However note that when you initially register for the programme you must register for (core module) Understanding Human Rights UHM010.

**2.8**

The maximum number of new modules for which you can register in any study session is two, and the maximum number of modules for which you can be registered in any session, including failed or resumed modules, is three, subject to regulations governing progression.

See [Section 7](#) (regulations 7.5–7.



### 3.1

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

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## **4 Assessment for the programme**

In line with our General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please refer to Programme Specifications for details on equipment that may be required for alternative assessments.

### **Summary table of assessment**

Each module is assessed by one or more 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 study sessions when the modules run.

### 4.1

**Programme  
structure**

**3 compulsory core modules**

**3 elective  
modules from**

**1 compulsory**



**4.10**

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 defer a module after failing the E-tivities at your first attempt, you may use your second attempt on resuming the module.

**4.11**

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

**4.12**

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; and

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

**4.13**

If you defer the Dissertation UHM500 on a second occasion we cannot guarantee continuity of dissertation supervision when you resume.

**Penalty for missing a deadline**

If you think you may miss a deadline, contact the Student Administrator through the [VLE](#) immediately. See also mitigating circumstances below.

**4.14**

You must keep to the deadlines stated in the Module Timetable on the VLE. If you are late in

<b>Excess number of words over the word limit expressed as a percentage</b>	<b>Marks deducted from the original mark</b>
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.

Instructions, word limits and deadlines for submitting E-tivities, coursework and dissertation items are given in the [Programme Handbook](#) or in the Module section of the VLE.

### **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 examination room.

#### **4.16**

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.

See the [Examination timetables](#) for examination dates and times.

See also the [General Regulations](#) for rules about taking written examinations

### **Mitigating circumstances**

For more information about mitigating circumstances, see Section 11 of the [General Regulations](#) and the examinations section of our website.

#### **4.17**

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. This must not be any longer than three weeks after an examination and not after the deadline date for E-tivities, coursework or the dissertation.

#### **4.18**

Under these circumstances if you are unable to meet a deadline you may apply for an

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Note that one E-tivity fail can be carried forward provided that the overall module has been passed. See 'Passing a module' in



## 6 Assessment offences and penalties

You must comply with the [General Regulations](#), including the areas relating to plagiarism.





### **8.3**

The overall mark for Securing Human Rights UHM020 is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the three E-tivities (1, 2 and 3) and the two coursework items in a ratio of 12:12:6:35:35.

### **8.4**

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 three E-tivities (1, 2 and 3) and the coursework item in a ratio of 12:12:6:70.

### **8.5**

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

## **Qualification requirements**

### **8.6**

To be awarded the MA Human Rights you must achieve a final overall weighted average mark of at least 50%. Module marks of between 45–49% can be condoned in all modules, excluding UHM500, up to a maximum of 20 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

### **8.7**

To be awarded the PGDip Human Rights, you must achieve a final overall weighted average mark of at least 50%. Module marks of between 45–49% can be condoned in all modules, up to a maximum of 20 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

### **8.8**

To be awarded the PGCert Human Rights, you must achieve a final overall weighted average mark of at least 50%. Module marks of between 45–49% can be condoned in all modules, up to a maximum of 20 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

## **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 qualification, 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:

<b>Mark Range</b>	<b>Classification</b>
70% – 100%	Distinction
60% – 69%	Merit
50% – 59%	Pass

0% – 49%	Fail
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## **Merit and Distinction**

### **8.12**

To be considered for the award of Merit you should obtain a weighted average mark of 60%-69% across all modules.

### **8.13**

To be considered for the award of Distinction you should obtain a weighted average of at least 70% across all modules.

## **Progressing to a higher qualification**

### **8.14**

If you wish to progress from the PGCert to the PGDip or MA, or from the PGDip to the MA,

No more than three years have passed between the award of the PGCert and your registration for the PGDip or MA.

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

#### **8.20**

If you have been awarded the PGDip Human Rights and who wish to progress to the MA Human Rights, we will consider your request subject to the following conditions:

You were not awarded the PGDip as an exit qualification following your failure to progress or complete your studies.

No more than three years have passed between the award of the PGDip and your registration for the MA.

You will be required to surrender the PGDip prior to the award of the MA being made.

#### **Individual modules taken on a standalone basis**

#### **8.21**

All standalone individual module assessments are marked and graded according to the assessment criteria for the MA Human Rights.

## Appendix A Structure of the qualifications

Elective modules will run subject to availability and not all elective modules will necessarily be available every year. There are two study sessions each year which run from February to June and from September to January. Core modules run in both sessions and elective modules (if available) run in one session or the other. The structures of the qualifications, the module codes, the module titles and the schedule of session(s) in which modules run are as follows:

### MA Human Rights

Three compulsory core modules (20 credits each):

Module code	Module title	Sessions in which the module will run (subject to availability)
UHM010	Understanding Human Rights	February – June and



## 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 written examination (70%) and three 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 three E-tivities (30%).**

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

### **Topics in International Human Rights Law UHM130**

Building on the prerequisite module on Translating Human Rights in International Law UHM030, 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 three E-tivities (30%).**

**Prerequisite: Translating Human Rights in International Law UHM030.**



## **Researching Human R**

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

### **Dissertation UHM500**

The dissertation is a key part of the MA programme,

## 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 (excluding the participation-based E-tivity) 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
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### **Assessment Criteria for the participation-based E-tivity**

This E-tivity is worth 6% of each module, excluding the dissertation module. Marks are awarded on a pass or fail basis.

A student will be granted all of the allocated marks for the E-tivity if they actively participate in at least 7 of the 10 discussion forums of each module. If they fail to actively participate in the required number of discussion forums they will receive a grade of 0 (zero). 'Active participation' means:

Posting thoughtful, c