

VIENNA MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED HUMAN RIGHTS

Curriculum

University Course

Duration: 4 Semesters

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***This is the English translation of the original German version.
Only the latter is legally binding.***

Version: Winter Semester 2020/21

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna
on 11 February 2020

§ 1. Preamble

With the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights the University of Applied Arts Vienna aims at dealing with the challenges presented by digitalization, globalization, and neoliberalism in today's world by investigating a dual question. On the one hand, to investigate the discourse regarding human rights as a central political factor that may both highlight and combat the disposition to crises in the new world (dis-)order; on the other hand to pursue the question which role artistic and cultural practices may take on to serve the debate over human rights in these areas of conflict.

§ 2. Programme Description and Objective

The Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights at the University of Applied Arts Vienna provides students with in-depth interdisciplinary training on history, philosophy, politics and the legal significance of internationally recognized human rights standards and their protection by international organizations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the African Union, or the Organization of American States. In addition to theoretical foundations, the Vienna Master teaches a wide range of practical skills for the implementation of human rights, and it will point out the importance of human rights for solving global problems of the 21st century. Furthermore, methods and forms of contemporary art are brought up for discussion that contradict existing inequalities and that – based on their dedicated, applied or activist self-conception – perceive themselves as part of a culture of human rights. The aim of this Master programme is to identify the connections between the global crises as well as the potential and practical applicability of artistic and cultural work.

§ 3. Qualification Profile and Academic Degree

As an interdisciplinary Master's degree focussing on legal, social, art and cultural sciences, the Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights aims, in the framework of a contemporary teaching concept, at providing comprehensive skills in the practical application of human rights.

The graduates of the Vienna Master of Applied Human Rights will be qualified to work in the fields of (inter-)national human rights and its intersections to the cultural sector. Graduates will be able to critically analyse global events and developments, navigate in different human rights systems, as well as combine and apply the practice and theory of the diverse and changeable realm of human rights.

Graduates will be enabled to scientifically research questions relevant to human rights, recognize violations of human rights, plan and implement human rights projects. In the implementation they work with modern communication strategies with particular reference to art and culture.

Graduates of the university course will receive the academic degree „Master of Arts (MA)“.

§ 4. Language of Instruction

- (1) The language of instruction is English. Appropriate English language skills are required.
- (2) Students are to write seminar papers and the Master thesis in English.

§ 5. Admission

- (1) Prerequisite for the application are:
 1. Completed first university or college degree equivalent to a Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS), or at least 5 years of relevant professional experience, the equivalence of which is to be assessed by the admissions committee.
 2. Positive result of the admission procedure.

- (2) The application procedure consists of two parts:

a) CV, motivation letter, essay (submission in writing):

CV: applicants provide a written overview of qualifications and competences acquired as well as of the focus of their work activities to date.

Motivation letter: description of the individual motivation and professional development ideas as well as expectations regarding the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights (1 page max.).

Essay: applicants are to submit a subject-specific text.

b) Personal interview (oral-practical): the management and coordination team interviews applicants as to their motivation and how they envision their future after graduating from the programme.

- (3) The application procedure has been passed when all parts are positively assessed.
- (4) The committee responsible for the application procedure is identical with the management and coordination team, consisting of the Programme Director, the Executive Director, and the Programme Manager.

§ 6. Programme Structure

- (1) The programme of the university course Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights consists of modules amounting to 120 ECTS points.
- (2) The first two semesters are of an introductory nature, followed by two semesters that deal with topics more extensively. The Master thesis is due in the last semester in form of a scientific paper.

- (3) The management and coordination team supports the participants in achieving their goals in the university programme and their professional development in the form of individual coaching (consultation hours).
- (4) The management and coordination team itself is supported in educational and academic matters by a scientific advisory board consisting of representatives of the Angewandte, scientists, and experts from the fields of human rights, and art and culture.
- (5) The Master programme comprises eight compulsory modules, one of which includes producing and defending the Master thesis:
 - I. **Introduction to Human Rights from an Interdisciplinary Perspective**
 - II. **International Protection of Human Rights**
 - III. **Introduction to Arts and Culture**
 - IV. **Scientific Competences**
 - V. **Practical Human Rights Skills**
 - VI. **The Intersection of Human Rights and Arts**
 - VII. **Current Human Rights**
 - VIII. **Thesis and Defense**

(6) Master Thesis

The Master thesis is to be written in the fourth semester; it is dedicated to an individually chosen topic from the contents covered in the Master programme and serves as evidence of the participants' ability for independent, scientific work in terms of content and methodology. The Master thesis is the work of one person; it will be supervised by a member of the teaching staff and will be assessed by the examination board.

§ 7. Examination Regulations

Prerequisites for completing the Master programme are:

- (1) active participation in the learning process and 80% student attendance in all courses; the management and coordination team may authorize exceptions in justified cases
- (2) positive assessment of the written seminar papers and exams
- (3) conception, organization, implementation and documentation of a research project
- (4) positive assessment of the written thesis (Master thesis) by the examination board consisting of the programme director and selected members of the scientific advisory board
- (5) the examination board's positive assessment of the Master thesis defense (oral presentation).

§ 8. Study Route

I. Introduction to Human Rights from an Interdisciplinary Perspective (11 ECTS)

Semester 1

1. Understanding Human Rights (1 ECTS)
 - a. Pre-Course Online Preparation
 - b. Introductory Course
2. Human Rights from a Legal Perspective (2 ECTS)
3. History of Human Rights (2 ECTS)
4. Human Rights & Politics (2 ECTS)
5. Philosophy & Ethics of Human Rights (2 ECTS)
6. Human Rights as an Interdisciplinary Subject (2 ECTS)

II. International Protection of Human Rights (10 ECTS)

Semester 1, 2

1. United Nations (3 ECTS)
2. Simulation of a Human Rights Body (2 ECTS)
3. European Human Rights System (3 ECTS)
4. Other Regional Human Rights Systems (2 ECTS)

III. Introduction to Arts and Culture (8 ECTS)

Semester 1

1. Diversity of Arts and Culture (2 ECTS)
2. Art History (Art & Politics, Aesthetics) (2 ECTS)
3. Cultural Studies & Sociology (2 ECTS)
4. Freedom of the Arts (2 ECTS)

IV. Scientific Competence (6 ECTS)

Semester 1, 2, 3

1. Scientific Competence, Methodologies & Academic Writing 1 (2 ECTS)
2. Scientific Competence, Methodologies & Academic Writing 2 (2 ECTS)
3. Scientific Competence, Methodologies & Academic Writing 3 (2 ECTS)

V. Practical Human Rights Skills (15 ECTS)

Semester 1, 2, 3

1. Study Trip 1 (2 ECTS)
2. Study Trip 2 (1 ECTS)
3. Fact Finding, Reporting (2 ECTS)
4. Communication (2 ECTS)
5. Project Development (2 ECTS)
6. Research Project (6 ECTS)

VI. The Intersection of Human Rights and Arts (19 ECTS)

Semester 2, 3

1. Engaging With Human Rights Criticism: Critical Theory & Postcolonial Theory, Visual Anthropology (4 ECTS)
2. Human Rights & Arts I * (3 ECTS)
3. Human Rights & Arts II * (3 ECTS)
4. Human Rights & Arts III * (3 ECTS)
5. Human Rights & Arts IV * (3 ECTS)
6. Human Rights & Artistic Strategies (3 ECTS)

VII. Current Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities (21 ECTS)

Semester 2, 3

1. Challenges & Opportunities I ** (4 ECTS)
2. Challenges & Opportunities II ** (4 ECTS)
3. Challenges & Opportunities III ** (4 ECTS)
4. Challenges & Opportunities IV ** (4 ECTS)
5. Challenges & Opportunities V ** (5 ECTS)

VIII. Thesis and Defense (30 ECTS)

1. Thesis Tutorial (1 ECTS)
2. Thesis (24 ECTS)
3. Thesis Defense / Presentation (5 ECTS)

OVERVIEW OF THE SEMESTERS

1st semester 29 ECTS

2nd semester 32 ECTS

3rd semester 29 ECTS

4th semester 30 ECTS

* In the courses *Human Rights & Arts I, II, III, and IV*, human rights will be examined through the lenses of art forms such as cinema, music, performing arts, fine arts, applied arts, architecture, and media arts.

** The courses *Current Human Rights Challenges & Opportunities I, II, III, IV and V* cover topics such as Conflict Studies, Crimes Against Humanity, Torture, Non Discrimination, Gender Studies, Intersectionality, Innovation, Science, Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Environment & Climate Crisis, Sustainability, Urban Planning and Human Rights of Specific Groups.

§ 9 Entry into Force

The curriculum comes into effect on **1 October 2020**.