

# UNIVERSITY OF YORK

## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:</b>	September 2014				
<b>Awarding institution</b>	<b>Teaching institution</b>				
University of York	University of York				
<b>Department(s)</b>					
Centre for Applied Human Rights					
<b>Award(s) and programme title(s)</b>			<b>Level of qualification</b>		
LLM in International Human Rights Law and Practice			Level 7 (Masters)		
<b>Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards</b>					
Postgraduate Diploma in International Human Rights Law and Practice					
Postgraduate Certificate in International Human Rights Law and Practice					
<b>Admissions criteria</b>					
Applicants are normally expected to have an undergraduate degree with honors (2:1 or higher), or its equivalent.					
For students whose first language is not English, the Centre has increased its minimum English language proficiency level to an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 for each component.					
<b>Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study</b>					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
LLM	1 year FT 2 years PT	September intake only	Yes	No	No
<b>Language of study</b>		English			
<b>Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)</b>					
Not applicable					
<b>Educational aims of the programme(s)</b>					
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:					
Students will develop intellectual and practical skills in international human rights law to prepare them for human rights work. They will also learn to link law and practice.					

Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):

Students will gain practical experience of human rights work through simulation/role play and the Malaysia- or UK-based placements.

Additionally for the Masters:

Students will learn how to conduct sustained academic research and writing on self-selected topics through an LLM dissertation (ISM).

**Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes**

*This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:*

*The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:*

**A: Knowledge and understanding**

*For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:*

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

1. International human rights law

<p>(sources, terms, key debates, specific rights)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. International, regional, and domestic mechanisms for protecting human rights (strengths and weaknesses)</li> <li>3. International human rights practice (strategy, tactics, ethical issues)</li> <li>4. The links between law and practice</li> <li>5. Relationship between international human rights law and domestic public policy</li> <li>6. The strengths and weaknesses of human rights law as a tool for social change</li> <li>7. The role of human rights defenders</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Practical skills for human rights work</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Academic literature on self-selected topics</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1-7)</li> <li>• Seminars (1-7)</li> <li>• Directed reading (1-8)</li> <li>• Virtual Learning Environment (1-9)</li> <li>• Simulation &amp; role play (1-8)</li> <li>• Problem based learning (1-8)</li> <li>• Malaysia or UK placement (1-8)</li> <li>• Independent study (1-7, 9)</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written assessments (1-7)</li> <li>• 3 hour exam (1-7)</li> <li>• Group learning portfolios (1-8)</li> <li>• Group project output (1-8)</li> <li>• Reflective diaries (1-8)</li> <li>• Dissertation (1-9)</li> </ul>
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**B: (i) Skills – discipline related**

<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use a wide range of sources for international human rights law and cite them properly</li> <li>2. Use legal methods to interpret international human rights law</li> <li>3. Deploy legal reasoning to make persuasive arguments</li> <li>4. Apply analytical, problem solving, strategic, and legal skills to identify and challenge human</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1-7)</li> <li>• Seminars (1-9)</li> <li>• Directed reading (1-11)</li> <li>• Virtual Learning Environment (1-11)</li> <li>• Simulation &amp; role play (1-9)</li> <li>• Problem based learning (1-9)</li> <li>• Malaysia or UK placement (1-9)</li> <li>• Independent study (1-11)</li> </ul>
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<p>rights violations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Identify the most appropriate mechanism or jurisdiction for remedying human rights violations</li> <li>6. Make policy recommendations for improving human rights protection and enforcement</li> <li>7. Link law and practice</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Plan and conduct human rights work</li> <li>9. Undertake a human rights field placement in Malaysia or the UK that minimizes risks and respects ethics</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Conduct in-depth academic research and writing on international human rights law</li> <li>11. Make a contribution to the academic literature on the practical application of international human rights law</li> </ol>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written assessments (1-9)</li> <li>• 3 hour exam (1-7)</li> <li>• Group learning portfolios (1-9)</li> <li>• Group project output (1-9)</li> <li>• Reflective diaries (1-9)</li> <li>• Dissertation (1-7, 10-11)</li> </ul>
<b>B: (ii) Skills – transferable</b>	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communicate cross-culturally and tolerantly</li> <li>2. Appreciate a diversity of cultural and socio-political viewpoints</li> <li>3. Speak knowledgeably about contemporary international events</li> <li>4. Communicate effectively to diverse audiences</li> <li>5. Argue persuasively</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (2, 3, 6, 7)</li> <li>• Seminars (1-7)</li> <li>• Directed reading (1-7)</li> <li>• Virtual Learning Environment (1-10)</li> <li>• Simulation &amp; role play (1-5, 7, 8)</li> <li>• Problem based learning (1-8)</li> <li>• Malaysia or UK placement (1-10)</li> <li>• Independent study (1-7, 11-12)</li> </ul>

<p>6. Collect, process, triangulate, interpret and present data using qualitative methods</p> <p>7. Link theory and practice</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <p>8. Work collaboratively in groups</p> <p>9. Solve unfamiliar problems with a minimum of supervision</p> <p>10. Organize and generate a project output</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>11. Conduct in-depth academic research and writing</p> <p>12. Organize and structure lengthy written work</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written assessments (1-7)</li> <li>• 3 hour exam (1-7)</li> <li>• Group learning portfolios (1-10)</li> <li>• Group project output (1-10)</li> <li>• Reflective diaries (1-10)</li> <li>• Dissertation (1-7, 11-12)</li> </ul>
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**C: Experience and other attributes**

<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate performance of self and others</li> <li>2. Develop intellectual, practical, and organisational skills necessary for self-managed life-long learning</li> <li>3. Work comfortably in diverse, international settings</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (2, 4)</li> <li>• Seminars (1-4)</li> <li>• Directed reading (2, 4)</li> <li>• Simulation &amp; role play (1-4)</li> <li>• Problem based learning (1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Malaysia or UK placement (1-4)</li> <li>• Independent study (2, 4, 5)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma and Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Identify and pursue targets for academic and career development</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Work independently with self-discipline and self-motivation</li> </ol>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not assessed</li> </ul>

**Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points** (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

The programme will meet the QAA standards required of an M level course. There is currently no benchmark statement for masters programmes in law.

### University award regulations

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

### Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the module guides and on the VLE.

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the module guides and on the VLE.

### Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

#### Masters

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
		Independent Study Module 60 credit module (core)	Independent Study Module 60 credit module (core)
Defending Human Rights 40 credit module (core)	Defending Human Rights 40 credit module (core)		
International Human Rights Law & Advocacy 20 credit module (core)	One 20 credit module from list below (optional)		
Applying	One 20 credit module		

International Human Rights Law 20 credit module (core)	from list below (optional)		
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### Optional modules taught at CAHR

- Culture and protest
- Truth, justice and reparations after violence

### Optional modules taught in other departments

- Conflict and development (Politics)
- Contemporary issues in toleration (Politics)
- Corporate responsibility and law (Law)
- Critical perspectives on the criminal justice system (Sociology)
- Financial citizenship and social justice (Law)
- Global governance (Politics)
- Globalisation and social policy (Social Policy and Social Work)
- Governing for the environment (Politics)
- Law and social control (Sociology)
- Legal clinics in context: street law and law reform (Law)
- Peace agreements: ending intra-state conflicts (Politics)
- Teaching and learning citizenship and global education (Education)
- Women, citizenship and conflict (Centre for Women's Studies)

### Postgraduate Diploma (if applicable)

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Same as above	Same as above	

### Postgraduate Certificate

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
International Human Rights Law & Advocacy 20 credit module (core)	One 20 credit module from list above (optional)		
Applying International Human Rights Law			

20 credit module (core)			
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**Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards**

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
	Week 1: Assessments for AuT	Week 1: Assessments for SpT  Week 1: Reassessments for AuT  Progression Board: June 2015	Week 1: Reassessments for SpT  Reassessment for Applying International Human Rights Law (exam): August 2015  Independent Study Module : September 2015	November 2015



## Overview of modules

### Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level <sup>1</sup>	Credit value <sup>2</sup>	Prerequisites	Assessment rules <sup>3</sup>	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment <sup>4</sup>	Independent Study Module? <sup>5</sup>
Defending Human Rights	POL00043M	Level 7	40	No	No	AuT, SpT Weeks 1-10 Group learning portfolios, Group project output, 2 individual reflective diaries	No
International Human Rights Law & Advocacy	POL00030M	Level 7	20	No	No	AuT Weeks 1-10 Written assessments	No
Applying International Human Rights Law	LAW00007M	Level 7	20	No	No	AuT Weeks 1-10 3-hour Examination	No
LLM Dissertation	LAW	Level 7	60	No	No	SuT, SuVac	Yes

<sup>1</sup> The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

<sup>2</sup> The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

<sup>3</sup> **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

<sup>4</sup> AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

<sup>5</sup> **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

						Dissertation	
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**Option modules – TABLE A – Choose at least one (but may choose two)**

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Culture & Protest	POL	Level 7	20	No	No	SpT Weeks 2-10 Written assessments	No
Truth, Justice & Reparations	LAW00009M	Level 7	20	No	No	SpT Weeks 2-10 Written assessments	No

<b>Transfers out of or into the programme</b>	
Not applicable	
<b>Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee</b>	
<b>Exception</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
Not applicable	
<b>Quality and Standards</b>	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation</li> <li>• The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector</li> <li>• Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes</li> <li>• The acquisition of feedback from students by departments.</li> </ul> <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office:  <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/">http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/</a></p>	
<b>Date on which this programme information was updated:</b>	20 August 2014
<b>Departmental web page:</b>	<a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/cahr/">http://www.york.ac.uk/cahr/</a>
<b>Please note</b>	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	