

**UNIVERSITY OF YORK**  
**POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:</b>   | Autumn 2014                   |
| <b>Awarding institution</b>  | <b>Teaching institution</b>   |
| University of York   | University of York            |
| <b>Department(s)</b>   |                               |
| Centre for Applied Human Rights, Department of Politics  |                               |
| <b>Award(s) and programme title(s)</b>   | <b>Level of qualification</b> |
| Postgraduate Certificate in Defending Human Rights   | Level 7                       |
| <b>Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards</b>  |                               |
| Students will be able to obtain a transcript for each module completed with credit.  |                               |
| <b>Admissions criteria</b>   |                               |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Either a first degree or relevant professional experience.</li> <li>2. Competence in English language – for non-native speakers, one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IELTS: 6.5</li> <li>TOEFL paper-based: 580</li> <li>TOEFL computer-based: 237</li> <li>TOEFL iBT: 92</li> <li>Cambridge Proficiency: A,B,C</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Access to minimum IT specifications (including a personal computer with internet connection through a 56kbps dialup modem)</li> <li>4. Commitment to engage in mandatory group discussions (participating in at least three of a total of four Case Studies for every module).</li> </ol> |                               |

| <b>Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study</b>  |  |  |   |                          |              |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Programme</b>   | <b>Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)</b> | <b>Start dates/months</b><br>(if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year) | <b>Mode</b>   |                          |              |
|  |  |  | <b>Face-to-face, campus-based</b>   | <b>Distance learning</b> | <b>Other</b> |
| PGCert   | 1 year part-time                                       | Autumn term and Spring term  |   | Online                   |              |
| <b>Language of study</b>   |  | English  |   |                          |              |
| <b>Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies</b> (if applicable)   |  |  |   |                          |              |
| N/A  |  |  |   |                          |              |
| <b>Educational aims of the programme(s)</b>  |  |  |   |                          |              |
| <p>The aim of this programme is to provide human rights defenders with knowledge and practical skills to increase their effectiveness in human rights work. Specifically, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the global context of human rights work</li> <li>• Link theory and practice, applying principles to local contexts</li> <li>• Undertake practical exercises aimed at developing key skills in human rights work</li> <li>• Develop reflexivity and skills in critical thinking and problem-solving</li> <li>• Conduct academic research on human rights, integrating information from different sources</li> </ul> |  |  |   |                          |              |
| <p>Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):</p> <p>NA</p>   |  |  |   |                          |              |
| <p>Additionally for the Masters:</p> <p>NA</p>   |  |  |   |                          |              |
| <b>Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes</b>   |  |  |   |                          |              |
| <i>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:</i>  |  |  | <i>The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</i> |                          |              |

| <b>A: Knowledge and understanding</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Knowledge and understanding of:<br/><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International human rights law; the rights of human rights defenders; and international, regional and national protection mechanisms for human rights defenders</li> <li>2. Global trends in human rights work and implications for human rights defenders and the development of their organisations</li> <li>3. The risks involved in human rights work and risk mitigating strategies (individual and collective)</li> <li>4. Advocacy strategies and their appropriate application in different contexts</li> <li>5. Best practices and skills in leading, managing and developing human rights organisations.</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> | <p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1-5)</li> <li>• Online Discussions in Groups (1-5)</li> <li>• Other Online Discussion Activities (1-5)</li> <li>• Independent Study (1-5)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical Assignments (1, 3, 4, 5)</li> <li>• Essays (1-5)</li> </ul> |
| <b>B: (i) Skills – discipline related</b>   |  |
| <p>Able to:<br/><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrate information from different sources and write concisely based on research</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p>  | <p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction Course (1)</li> <li>• Other Online Discussion Activities (1)</li> <li>• Independent Study (1)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical Assignments (1)</li> <li>• Essays (1)</li> </ul>  |

| <b>B: (ii) Skills - transferable</b>   |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Able to:<br/><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn independently, managing time and resources appropriately</li> <li>2. Work in groups to solve problems, analyse scenarios, and debate complex issues</li> <li>3. Reflect critically on information presented in different formats (text, audio, video)</li> <li>4. Extrapolate key principles and apply them to different contexts</li> <li>5. Use evidence to substantiate arguments</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> | <p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1-5)</li> <li>• Online Discussions in Groups (1-5)</li> <li>• Other Online Discussion Activities (1-5)</li> <li>• Independent Study (1-5)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical Assignments (1-5)</li> <li>• Essays (1, 3-5)</li> </ul> |
| <b>C: Experience and other attributes</b>  |  |
| <p>Able to:<br/><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct risk analysis, produce and use security plans, maintain digital security, and build an organisational infrastructure to support risk management</li> <li>2. Conduct organisational assessment of a human rights organisation</li> <li>3. Prepare an advocacy report for submission to an international mechanism</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p>   | <p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1-3)</li> <li>• Online Discussions in Groups (1-3)</li> <li>• Other Online Discussion Activities (1-3)</li> <li>• Independent Study (1-3)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical Assignments (1-3)</li> </ul>                            |
| <b>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points</b> (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)   |  |
| NA   |  |

## University award regulations

To be eligible for an award from 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 student handbook and on the Department's website.

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 programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website.

## 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 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| NA          | NA          | NA          | NA              |

### Postgraduate Diploma (if applicable)

| Autumn term | Spring term | Summer term |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| NA          | NA          | NA          |

### Postgraduate Certificate

| Autumn term  | Spring term   | Summer term  |
|--|---|--|
| International Human Rights Law and Advocacy (core, 20 credits) | Working Safely: Managing Risk and Strengthening Protection (core, 20 credits) | Leading and Managing Effective Human Rights Organisations (core, 20 credits) |

**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      |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <u>Autumn Term Assessment</u><br><br>Practical Assignment and Essay (Week 15) | <u>Spring Term Assessment</u><br><br>Practical Assignment (Week 8)<br><br>Essay (Week 13)<br><br><u>Autumn Term reassessment</u><br><br>Report (Week 3)<br><br>Take home exam (Week 7) | <u>Summer Term Assessment</u><br><br>Practical Assignment (Week 8)<br><br>Essay (Week 13)<br><br><u>Spring Term reassessment</u><br><br>Report (Week 1)<br><br>Take home exam (Week 5) | <u>Summer Term reassessment</u><br><br>Report (Week 16 Summer Term)<br><br>Take home exam (Week 20 Summer Term) | Examination Board end Sept/Oct |

## 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> |
|--|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| International Human Rights Law and Advocacy                | Not available | Level 7                   | 20                        | None          | None                          | AuT<br>Week 15, Practical Assignment and Essay                    | None                                   |
| Working Safely: Managing Risk and Strengthening Protection | Not available | Level 7                   | 20                        | None          | None                          | SpT<br>Week 8, Practical Assignment<br>Week 13, Essay             | None                                   |
| Leading and Managing Effective Human Rights Organisations  | Not available | Level 7                   | 20                        | None          | None                          | SuT<br>Week 8, Practical Assignment<br>Week 13, Essay             | None                                   |

<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.

### Option modules

| Module title | Module code | Credit level | Credit value | Prerequisites | Assessment rules | Timing and format of main assessment | Independent Study Module? |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| NA           |             |              |              |               |                  |                                      |                           |
| NA           |             |              |              |               |                  |                                      |                           |



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Transfers out of or into the programme</b>  |   |
| In accordance with the University's policy on <i>Accreditation of Prior Learning</i> , students may apply for exception of up to one 20-credit module on the basis of previous certified learning.   |   |
| <b>Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee</b>  |   |
| <b>Exception</b>   | <b>Date approved</b>  |
|  |   |
| <b>Quality and Standards</b>   |   |
| 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.   |   |
| Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:   |   |
| <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> |   |
| More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office:<br><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>  |   |
| <b>Date on which this programme information was updated:</b>   | 15 September 2014   |
| <b>Departmental web page:</b>  | <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cahr/">http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cahr/</a> |
| <b>Please note</b>   |   |
| 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.  |   |
| Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.  |   |
| 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.   |   |