UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:	September 2014
Awarding institution	**Teaching institution**
University of York	University of York
Department(s)	
Centre for Applied Human Rights	
Award(s) and programme title(s)	**Level of qualification**
MA in Applied Human Rights	Level 7 (Masters)

Award(s) available *only* as interim awards
Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Human Rights
Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Human Rights

Admissions criteria
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 sets a minimum English language proficiency level of IELTS 6.5, TOEFL iBT 87, Cambridge Proficiency A, B or C or GCSE/IGCSE A, B, C.

Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study

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**
MA	1 year FT 2 years PT	September intake only	Yes	No	No

Language of study	English

Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)
Not applicable

Educational aims of the programme(s)
For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate: Students will develop intellectual and practical skills in the social sciences, law and public policy to prepare them for human rights work. They will learn to apply such skills in practice. Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable): Students will gain experience of human rights work through simulation/role play and the South Africa- or UK-based placements.

Additionally for the Masters: Students will learn how to conduct sustained, independent academic research and writing on self-selected topics through an MA dissertation.	

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	
Knowledge and understanding of: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1) Law as the dominant discourse in human rights, but also its relationship to related areas that inform law's impact e.g. the intersection between law and public policy ('the law in action') 2) Ways in which methods and insights from the social sciences, and interdisciplinary approaches, are increasingly informing human rights practice 3) Social and political processes of relevance to rights protection and abuses 4) International human rights practice (strategy, tactics, ethical issues) 5) The strengths and weaknesses of human rights as a tool for social change 6) The role of human rights defenders *Additionally for the Diploma:* 7) Practical skills for human rights work *Additionally for the Masters:* 8) Academic literature on self-selected topics	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Lectures (1-6) • Seminars (1-6) • Directed reading (1-7) • Virtual learning environment (1-8) • Simulation and role play (1-7) • South Africa or UK placement (1-7) • Independent study (1-6, 8) Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Written assessments (1-6) • Group learning portfolios (1-7) • Group project output (1-7) • Reflective diaries (1-7) • Dissertation (1-8)

B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
Able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1) Use the law, legal instruments and relevant national, regional and international institutions to advance human rights claims 2) Apply methods and insights from the social sciences to advance human rights claims 3) Deploy interdisciplinary methods and insights to advance human rights claims 4) Use social science methods and insights to understand social and political processes of relevance to rights protection and abuses *Additionally for the Diploma:* 5) Plan and conduct human rights work 6) Undertake a human rights field placement in South Africa or the UK that minimizes risks and respects ethics *Additionally for the Masters:* 7) Conduct in-depth academic research and writing on a human rights topic 8) Make a contribution to the academic literature on human rights practice	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Lectures (1-4) • Seminars (1-4) • Directed reading (1-5) • Virtual learning environment (1-8) • Simulation and role play (1-6) • South Africa or UK placement (1-6) • Independent study (1-8) Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Written assessments (1-4) • Group learning portfolios (1-6) • Group project output (1-6) • Reflective diaries (1-6) • Dissertation (1-8)

B: (ii) Skills – transferable	
Able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1) Communicate cross-culturally and tolerantly 2) Appreciate a diversity of cultural and socio-political viewpoints 3) Speak knowledgeably about contemporary international events 4) Communicate effectively to diverse audiences 5) Argue persuasively	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Lectures (2, 3, 6, 7) • Seminars (1-7) • Directed reading (1-7) • Virtual Learning Environment (1-10) • Simulation & role play (1-5, 7, 8) • South Africa or UK placement (1-10) • Independent study (1-7, 11-12)

6) Collect, process, triangulate, interpret and present data using qualitative methods 7) Link theory and practice *Additionally for the Diploma:* 8) Work collaboratively in groups 9) Solve unfamiliar problems with a minimum of supervision 10) Organize and generate a project output *Additionally for the Masters:* 11) Conduct in-depth academic research and writing 12) Organize and structure lengthy written work	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Written assessments (1-7) • Group learning portfolios (1-10) • Group project output (1-10) • Reflective diaries (1-10) • Dissertation (1-7, 11-12)

C: Experience and other attributes	
Able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1. Evaluate performance of self and others 2. Develop intellectual, practical, and organisational skills necessary for self-managed life-long learning 3. Work comfortably in diverse, international settings	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Lectures (2, 4) • Seminars (1-4) • Directed reading (2, 4) • Simulation and role play (1-4) • South Africa or UK placement (1-4) • Independent study (2, 4, 5)
Additionally for the Diploma and Masters: 4. Identify and pursue targets for academic and career development *Additionally for the Masters:* 5. Work independently with self-discipline and self-motivation	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Not assessed

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)
There is no specific benchmark statement for an MA of this kind, but the programme will meet the QAA standards required of an M level course.

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 and Advocacy 20 credit module (core)	One 20 credit module from List A below Optional module (optional)		
Social Sciences and Human Rights Practice 20 credit module (core)	One 20 credit module from List A or List B below 20 credit module (optional)		

Optional Modules
1) Asylum, Migration and Trafficking
2) Culture and Protest
3) Truth, Justice and Reparations after Violence
4) Other relevant courses taught at MA level in the university

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 and Advocacy 20 credit module (core)	One 20 credit module from List A above (optional)		
Social Sciences and Human Rights Practice 20 credit module (core)			

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 2014	Week 1: Reassessments for SpT Independent Study Module : September 2014	November 2014

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level[1]	Credit value[2]	Prerequisites	Assessment rules[3]	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment[4]	Independent Study Module?[5]
Defending Human Rights	POL000 43M	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 and Advocacy	POL000 30M	Level 7	20	No	No	AuT Weeks 1-10 Written assessments	No
Social Sciences and Human Rights Practice	POL000 44M	Level 7	20	No	No	AuT Weeks 1-10 Written assessments	No
MA Dissertation		Level 7	60	No	No	SuT, SuVac Dissertation	Yes

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[1] 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.

[2] 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)

[3] **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

[4] AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

[5] **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 – 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?
Asylum, Migration and Trafficking	LAW000 08M	Level 7	20	No	No	SpT Weeks 2-10 Written assessments	No
Truth, Justice and Reparations	LAW000 09M	Level 7	20	No	No	SpT Weeks 2-10 Written assessments	No
Cultures of Human Rights Practices	2648128	Level 7	20	No	No	SpT Weeks 2-10 Written assessments	No

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Not applicable	

Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	**Date approved**
Not applicable	

Quality and Standards
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: • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/

Date on which this programme information was updated:	11 September 2014
Departmental web page:	http://www.york.ac.uk/cahr/

Please note
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.