



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CONSORTIUM

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON



INSTITUTE OF
LATIN AMERICAN
STUDIES

MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights

Latin American Pathway

hrc.sas.ac.uk

About the degree

The MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights is the longest-running interdisciplinary, practice-orientated human rights master's degree programme in the UK, established in collaboration with Amnesty International to provide scholarly and practical training for future human rights defenders.

The Latin American human rights pathway through the programme is offered in collaboration with the School of Advanced Study's renowned Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS). It enables students enrolled in the MA to focus their work on the human rights concerns of Latin America. All of our graduates are awarded a University of London degree.

The degree aims to develop you as a human rights practitioner and to enable you to engage with the intellectual and philosophical foundations of human rights.

This programme is:

- Unique, offering the UK's only master's-level programme in the human rights of Latin America. Students with a particular regional interest can specialise throughout their degree while placing area developments in a global human rights context, retaining breadth as well as depth.
- Career-orientated, developing the next generation of human rights defenders, advocates, and researchers through a special emphasis on building practical skills, including campaigning, fundraising, and research, all of which are important for work in human rights advocacy. This pathway is particularly suitable for those seeking a career focusing on human rights in Latin America.
- Intellectually rigorous, engaging with human rights debates at the forefront of scholarly research.
- Cutting-edge, widening the frame of human rights debates by looking at emerging regional issues, such as the impact of environmental destruction in Latin America on the human rights of indigenous peoples, and the development of social movements in response to human rights violations.





Study with us

If you want to work in the field of human rights, especially if you wish to specialise in the human rights of Latin America, or if you are currently working in the field and wish to develop your career, this course is particularly suitable for you. The degree situates human rights theory firmly within current affairs, using case studies to consider the causes and consequences of human rights violations. Graduates of the MA in Human Rights have gone on to work for an impressive range of organisations, including Anti-Slavery International and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

This degree is interdisciplinary, meaning that your understanding of human rights will be broad and inclusive, beyond the approach of any single discipline. This will enable you to understand the theoretical, legal, political, and practical aspects of human rights implementation at national and international levels, and to translate human rights theory into transformative practice working for human rights.

Although the pathway is focused on the study of human rights in Latin America, this knowledge is contextualised and broadened by participation in other

modules throughout the academic year. Your knowledge of human rights will be wide as well as deep, enabling you to locate Latin American human rights concerns in a global context.

You will benefit from small class sizes, so you can learn, debate, and discuss ideas in a friendly and open environment while receiving individually tailored feedback on your work. Our lecturers are accessible and arranging meetings to discuss aspects of the course is actively encouraged. We provide a stimulating experience for our students to help them achieve their intellectual and professional goals.

We prioritise practical experience as much as theoretical knowledge. Over the course of your degree, you will be provided with access to a wide range of human rights representatives from organisations across London through guest lectures, evening seminars, international conferences, and international study tours.

You are encouraged to participate in the wider activities of the Human Rights Consortium and the Institute of Latin American Studies by getting involved in the Consortium's research projects or human rights blog. Many students have found this interaction a unique opportunity that helps them build a career in human rights as they study.

The MA far surpassed my expectations. I dipped into so many areas that I never realised I would be interested in and honed down on Human Rights in Latin America, specifically Colombia, where I am now working. The course gave me a great overview of important issues and theories and demonstrated how they interconnect. I now feel much better equipped to enter the world of human rights and excited to see how what we have learnt plays out in reality.

Hannah Matthews, 2013



Degree highlights

In addition to providing you with the practical skills essential to pursuing a career as a human rights practitioner, this degree addresses essential questions and debates within the field of human rights, such as:

- Where do rights come from?
- What are the foundations of and justifications for human rights?
- Can the discourse of rights secure social justice and equality?

Through the Latin America pathway, you will look at key questions pertaining to human rights in a Latin American context—past, present, and future—such as:

- How have social movements and campaigning on human rights contributed to the struggle for democracy in Latin America?

- How do people continue to build lives and envision futures in circumstances of extreme inequality?
- How has resource extraction affected human rights in Latin America?

We provide tailored support in finding internships with human rights organisations that will complement your studies and professional goals. Our London location and the Institute of Latin American Studies' longstanding relationships with a variety of NGOs—including ABColombia and Latin America Bureau—provide access to a diverse and valuable range of opportunities.

We also run an annual optional one-week study tour to Geneva in the summer term that includes visits to the United Nations as well as meetings with human rights advocates inside and outside the UN framework, enabling you to learn from a wide range of experienced individuals and to build your personal networks.

Structure and assessment

The degree comprises four compulsory modules, including a dissertation, plus three optional modules. The MA is assessed through essays and examinations and through work similar to that produced by professionals in the human rights field, including legal reports, a media project, and a mock funding proposal. Class participation also forms an element of the MA assessment.

Core modules (one in autumn term, two in spring term, dissertation in summer term)

- The Politics of Human Rights in Latin America [10 ECTS] | autumn term
- Contemporary Social Movements in Latin America [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Decolonisation and Human Rights in Latin America [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Dissertation (15,000 words) [30 ECTS]

Optional modules (two in autumn term, one in spring term)

- Understanding Human Rights: Ideas and Contexts [10 ECTS] [highly recommended] | autumn term
- Securing Human Rights I: Actors and Mechanisms, Skills and Strategies [10 ECTS] | autumn term
- Translating Human Rights into Law I: The Foundations of International Human Rights Law [10 ECTS] | autumn term
- Genocide and Reconciliation [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Securing Human Rights II: Securing Human Rights in Development and in Conflict [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Translating Human Rights into Law II: Topics in International Human Rights Law [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Researching Human Rights: Social Research Methods [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Business and Human Rights [10 ECTS] | spring term
- Indigenous Peoples, Minorities and Human Rights [10 ECTS] | spring term

Please note that the list of modules is indicative and may be subject to change.



Teaching and learning

Specialist lecturers are drawn from the Human Rights Consortium and Institute of Latin American Studies. They include Dr Julian Burger, former head of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Programme at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr Damien Short (MA convenor and Reader in Human Rights), Dr Corinne Lennox (Senior Lecturer in Human Rights), Professor David Cantor (Professor of Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies), Dr Sarah Singer (Senior Lecturer in Refugee Law) and Dr Ainhoa Montoya (Lecturer in Latin American Studies).

Their research interests include environmental justice, violence, genocide and conflict, international human rights law, the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, and transitional justice.

The programme is enriched by an extensive range of guest lecturers, including academic specialists and human rights practitioners who offer practical perspectives on a number of topics. In previous academic years the course has benefited from the insights of representatives from Amnesty International, PBI Colombia, Freedom from Torture, and Minority Rights Group, among others. Speakers from NGOs provide practical, policy-orientated perspectives on the impact of human rights norms and policies on the ground, thus providing different insights into the practicalities of human rights work.

The experience of our staff, plus the insights of human rights practitioners, means that the degree stays current with new developments in the field.

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entrance requirement is a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree from a university in the UK or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. We will consider applications from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

English is the language of instruction and applicants are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency.

For more information on entry requirements, please visit sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements.

How to apply

Applications should be made online via the SAS website. For full details of the application process, please visit sas.ac.uk/study/humanrights.

Accommodation

Full-time students, and part-time students with disabilities, may apply for accommodation in one of the University of London's award-winning intercollegiate halls of residence. Our Registry office will send you housing information after you have been offered a place. To learn more about accommodation options, please visit halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation.

Course summary

Degree structure

The degree can be taken full time over one year or part time over 24 or 36 months, with entry in October only. The degree comprises four compulsory modules, including a dissertation, and three optional modules.

Students undertaking the MA part time over 24 months will complete three modules each academic year. Those undertaking the MA over 36 months generally take one module per term; this mode of study is particularly suitable for students undertaking full- or part-time work during their studies.

Part-time students may undertake more than one internship (in both years and/or during the summer between their first and second years).

Fees 2018–19 (subject to annual uplift)

Home and EU students: full time, £8,200 |
part time 24 months, £4,680 |
part time 36 months, £3,215

Overseas students: full time, £14,525

Funding

The School of Advanced Study offers a number of funding options, including bursaries, scholarships, grants, and awards. For details, please visit sas.ac.uk/funding.

Learn more

Human Rights Consortium:
hrc.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study

School of Advanced Study:
sas.ac.uk/study

The **Human Rights Consortium** (HRC) at the School of Advanced Study brings together multidisciplinary expertise across a range of areas within human rights, including ecocide, the impact of environmental destruction on human rights, indigenous rights, international refugee law, and securing rights for LGBTI people worldwide. The HRC acts as a national and international collaborative centre to support, promote, and disseminate academic and policy work in human rights and hosts a number of seminars and research-led conferences on different themes in human rights throughout the academic year.

The **Institute of Latin American Studies** (ILAS) was founded in 1965. ILAS occupies a unique position at the core of academic study of the region in the UK. Internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for research facilitation, it serves the wider community through organising academic events, providing online research resources, publishing scholarly writings, and hosting visiting fellows. It possesses a world-class library dedicated to the study of Latin America and is the administrative home of the highly respected *Journal of Latin American Studies*. The Institute supports scholarship across a wide range of subject fields in the humanities and cognate social sciences and actively maintains and builds ties with cultural, diplomatic, and business organisations with interests in Latin America.

The **School of Advanced Study** is the UK's national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities. Located at the heart of the University of London in Bloomsbury, the School provides an unrivalled scholarly community in which to pursue postgraduate study and research. Students learn from leading specialists in their fields, hone their research skills in highly regarded training programmes, expand their knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars. Funding opportunities include AHRC-sponsored London Arts and Humanities Partnership studentships, SAS studentships, and a number of subject-specific bursaries and awards.

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Please note that tuition fees are subject to annual uplift. The University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice.

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