



JOINT FACULTIES
OF HUMANITIES
AND THEOLOGY

Master's programme in Human Rights Studies, 120 credits

A programme overview

This is an overview of our two-year master's programme in Human Rights Studies. Here you'll find information about what you can expect as well as what is expected of you. We will go through the first year, the third semester and the Master's thesis.

Tabel of contents

First year courses	2
First semester courses	2
Formal eligibility, second semester	2
Second semester courses	2
Third semester, fieldwork or internship	3
Formal eligibility third semester	3
Third semester course	3
Ethical guidelines	4
Assignments and readings	4
Insurance	4
Fieldwork/ Internship agreement	4
Before you go	4
Master's Thesis	4
Formal eligibility fourth semester	5
Thesis supervision	5
Mid-seminar	5
Thesis seminar	5
Degree & alumni	5

First year courses

During your first week as a master student you will get an introduction to our faculty and division and meet our staff. You also start your first course. Grading criteria for each course can be found in Canvas. Marking scale: Fail (Underkänd), Pass (Godkänd), Pass with distinction (Väl Godkänd).

First semester courses

Human Rights in the Global World: Agents, Indicators and Institutions, 15 credits

In our changing society, agents crucial from a human rights point of view are the state, formal institutions and trans- and international organisations, but also non-governmental organisations and activist groups. During this course you will study conceptual questions and matters of principle, such as how human rights can or should be conceptualised, how they relate to other political values and instruments, and figure in value conflicts. You will discuss and research how 1) agents with the rights and responsibilities to implement human rights, 2) political and social institutions working with human rights and 3) the practical and theoretical standards (indicators) that develop rights in different sectors, promotes or inhibit human rights. In relations to global and political changes, as economy, environment, conflicts,

migration and activism, you will critically analyse the affect these have on actors, institutions and indicators as well as the consequences these entail.

Human Rights in the History of Politics and Philosophy, 15 credits

The historiography of human rights is a dynamic field of research and there are ideological as well as conceptual struggles over its historiography. In this course, you critically analyse perspectives on the political and philosophical history in modern times. The main focus will be on current trends in philosophy and historiography, how the understandings and language of human rights and the purpose for which they have been invoked have changed over time, and how this reflects in our understanding and use of them today. You will study the formation of concepts and ideas about the role of human rights in political and philosophical history and debate various ways of legitimisation, authorisation and critique of human rights.

Formal eligibility, second semester

In order to register in the second semester, you must have passed at least 15 credits, from the first semester in the Master's programme in Human Rights Studies. If you don't meet the eligibility, you won't be able to start your courses.

Second semester courses

Human Rights Studies: Research Methods and Research Ethics, 15 credits

This course provides you with specialised knowledge of methods in the research area of human rights. The focus is on both qualitative and quantitative methods but with special emphasis on qualitative methods in multidisciplinary research. You will also study research ethics with a focus on principles of good scientific practice and regulations for ethics review and procedures on issues of misconduct.

Thematic Specialisation Course I & II, 7.5 credits each

Our specialisation courses are related to the current research conducted at our division, and aims to give you the opportunity to be acquainted with our research in Human Rights Studies. These courses can vary from semester to semester. So far, we've offered courses on *Human Rights Monitoring in Anthropological Perspective*; *Human Rights in Images and Media*, *Land and Housing Rights*; *Feminist Political Philosophy*; *Foreign Policy* and *Participatory Research for Grassroots Perspectives*. These courses will give you an understanding of advanced research in the multidisciplinary field of human rights studies, which will give you knowledge and skills you need for your second year.

Third semester, fieldwork or internship

In your second year, you use the knowledge and skills from the first year to do your own research in order to prepare for and write your master's thesis. During your third semester, you gather knowledge or data for your research question(s) and in the fourth semester, you write your thesis.

Formal eligibility third semester

In order to register in the Field course, you must have passed the first year, 60 credits in the Master's programme in Human Rights Studies. If you don't meet the eligibility, you will not be able to start your internship or conduct fieldwork.

Third semester course

The third semester course *MRS14, Human Rights Studies: Field course, 30.0 credits* consists of fieldwork or internship. This semester, you get the opportunity to obtain knowledge through practical experience and test theories and knowledge from previous studies. By

the end of the second semester, you will be assigned a supervisor who will give guidance on how to plan, execute and report. Your supervisor will also be your course examiner. Regardless if you choose fieldwork or internship, it should be carried out within the autumn semester period. It can take place in Skåne, Sweden or internationally, almost anywhere except where the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has advised against all travel. It is your responsibility to find an internship or to plan a fieldwork.

Fieldwork

Conducting a fieldwork gives you the opportunity to spend a semester "on the field" and allows you to gather data for your thesis. Your choice of field relates to your thesis research topic and research question(s). Data collection can be primary/secondary data and include search in archives or access to non-public material, interviews, focus groups, participation observations and more.

You can collect your data at e.g. an archive, academic department or embassy, a research centre, think-tank, NGO, company, foundation, etcetera.

If you choose to do fieldwork abroad, you need to have a contact person in the field at e.g. an organisation, academic institution or a research centre.

Internship

Conducting an internship gives you an opportunity to gain practical experience within the field of Human Rights Studies as well as make new contacts and build networks. An internship also gives the opportunity to test your capabilities and skills in practice. Please note that human rights must form a substantial component of the duties involved and relate to your thesis topic.

Some internships e.g. UN internships advertise already in January/February, so it could be good to start looking at internships early on. Do not hesitate to contact an organisation of interest even if they do not advertise internships. Not all organisations advertise, but can still be interested in having an intern. To find an internship do research on webpages and social media, ask your contacts or friends, and make a list of placements of interest and possible deadlines. If we at Human Rights Studies receive word of internships, we will email them to all students.

Ethical guidelines

When carrying out your internship, fieldwork and thesis project you must follow Swedish law and codes of conduct regarding research ethics. This includes the guidelines on good research practice developed by The Swedish Research Council and regulations at Lund University. Before initiating any kind of data collection, you must consult your supervisor. Remember; always introduce yourself, your master student status and affiliation, your supervisor and thesis topic, when making contact with e.g. scholars or interviewees.

Assignments and readings

Assessment is through a written project plan at the start of the course and a written field study report that is based on the completed fieldwork or internship. The report is to describe the assignment, the implementation and the findings, as well as include a self-evaluation of your own work.

Depending on your field, readings (approximately 400-500 pages) are decided upon in dialogue with your supervisor.

Insurance

If you go abroad you will be covered by Student UT and if you stay in Sweden you will be covered by the same insurance as during your studies.

Fieldwork/ Internship agreement

When you decided on a fieldwork project or found an internship you need to have it approved by us at Human Rights Studies and a three-party agreement needs to be signed by you, your contact person and your supervisor.

You hand in the agreement to your supervisor. If you are not in Lund you can scan and email it. Make sure that the scanned copy is of high quality.

Before you go

If you conduct fieldwork or internship abroad you need to prepare before you go. It is your responsibility to check all details regarding travel arrangements, VISA, accommodation, vaccinations etc. Make sure that you bring your personal medical insurance card (MIC) provided by your programme coordinator.

Master's Thesis

Your fourth semester is devoted to your degree project, required length is 15 000–20 000 words including footnotes. You choose your topic, in consultation with your supervisor, within the field covered by the programme. The purpose of the degree project is to demonstrate your ability to make an independent contribution to human rights research. The master thesis is an individual work, co-authored theses are normally not allowed. By the beginning of the fourth semester, you will get detailed information on seminars, thesis design and structure, research ethics and more.

Formal eligibility, fourth semester

In order to register in the fourth and last semester, you must have passed at 90 credits in the Master's programme in Human Rights Studies. If you do not meet the eligibility, you won't be able to start your courses.

Thesis supervision

Supervision can be done individually, in pairs or small groups. Students are also encouraged to organise in peer groups, reading and discussing each other's work as they progress. Each student is assigned 20 hours of supervision. In addition to personal meetings – on campus or on-line – this includes time for the supervisor to prepare, to read drafts, and write comments.

Mid-seminar

In addition to personal supervision, you will have a mid-seminar, where a fellow student act as discussant of your ongoing work. You will also act as discussant of another student's work. This is an opportunity to get feedback, to practice giving feedback in a constructive manner, and to prepare for the thesis seminar.

Thesis seminar

A necessary requirement is to defend your thesis at a final Master's Thesis Seminar. As a participant in the seminar, you have three mandatory roles: 1) Respondent: submit your own thesis for discussion and defend it 2) Opponent?: discuss a fellow student's thesis 3) Participant: take active part in the discussion of all theses submitted in your seminar group. A seminar leader opens the seminar. Each thesis is assigned one hour for discussion. After the seminar, a lecturer that did not act as your supervisor will examine your thesis.

Degree and alumni

Once graduation celebrations are over and you have completed the programme, it is time to apply for a degree certificate.

When this is done, you can join Lund University Alumni Network and most importantly, you can sign up to be a Human Rights Studies Alumni. To be a HR Alumni email the programme coordinator.