Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights

Curriculum

University Study Program
Duration: 4 Semesters
Program Number: 992 884

This is the English translation of the original German version. Only the latter is legally binding.

Version: Winter Semester 2021/22
Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna
on 11 February 2020
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§ 1. Preamble

With the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights the University of Applied Arts Vienna aims at dealing with the challenges presented by digitalization, globalization, and neoliberalism in today’s world by investigating a dual question. On the one hand, to investigate the discourse regarding human rights as a central political factor that may both highlight and combat the disposition to crises in the new world (dis-)order; on the other hand, to pursue the question which role artistic and cultural practices may take on to serve the debate over human rights in these areas of conflict.

§ 2. Program Description and Objective

The Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights at the University of Applied Arts Vienna provides students with in-depth interdisciplinary training on history, philosophy, politics and the legal significance of internationally recognized human rights standards and their protection by international organizations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the African Union, or the Organization of American States. In addition to theoretical foundations, the Vienna Master teaches a wide range of practical skills for the implementation of human rights, and it highlight the importance of human rights for solving global problems of the 21st century. Furthermore, methods and forms of contemporary art are brought up for discussion that contradict existing inequalities and that – based on their dedicated, applied or activist self-conception – perceive themselves as part of a culture of human rights. The aim of this Master programme is to identify the connections between the global crises as well as the potential and practical applicability of artistiocultural work.

§ 3. Qualification Profile and Academic Degree

As an interdisciplinary Master’s degree focussing on legal, social, art and cultural sciences, the Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights aims, in the framework of a contemporary teaching concept, at providing comprehensive skills in the practical application of human rights. The graduates of the Vienna Master of Applied Human Rights will be qualified to work in the fields of (inter-)national human rights and its intersections to the cultural sector. Graduates will be able to critically analyse global events and developments, navigate in different human rights systems, as well as combine and apply the practice and theory of the diverse and changeable realm of human rights. Graduates will be enabled to scientifically research questions relevant to human rights, recognize violations of human rights, plan and implement human rights projects. In the implementation they work with modern communication strategies with particular reference to art and culture. Graduates of the Vienna Master will receive the academic degree „Master of Arts (MA)“.
§ 4. Language of Instruction

(1) The language of instruction is English. Appropriate English language skills are required.

(2) Students are to write seminar papers and the Master thesis in English.

§ 5. Admission

(1) Prerequisites for admission are:

1. Completed university or college degree, or at least 5 years of professional experience pertinent to the subject, the equal value of which is to be assessed by the admission committee.

2. Positive result of the admission procedure.

(2) The application procedure consists of two parts.

a) CV, motivation letter, application documents (submission in writing):

CV: applicants provide a written overview of qualifications and competences acquired as well as of the focus of their work activities to date.

Motivation letter: description of the individual motivation and professional development ideas, expectations regarding the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights, and the anticipated gain in competencies.

Application documents: Applicants send supporting documentation, such as for instance university graduation certificates, employment references, and evidence of English language skills. The up-to-date and exact procedure can always be found on the website.

b) Personal Interview (oral-practical): the management and coordination team interviews applicants as to their motivation and how they envision their future after graduating from the Master’s program.

(3) The admission procedure has been passed successfully when all parts are positively assessed.

(4) The admission committee is the same as the management and coordination team and consists of the program director, the executive director and other team members.

§ 6. Program Structure

(1) The program of the university course Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights consists of modules amounting to 120 ECTS points.

(2) The introductory semester is followed by two semesters that deal with topics more extensively. The Master thesis is to be produced in the final semester in form of a scientific work / paper.

(3) The management and coordination team supports the participants in achieving their goals in the study program and their professional development in the form of individual coaching (consultation hours).

(4) The management and coordination team itself is supported in educational and academic matters by a scientific advisory board consisting of representatives of the Angewandte, scientists, and experts from the fields of human rights, and art and culture.
(5) The Master program comprises eight compulsory modules, one of which includes producing and defending the Master thesis:

1. Interdisciplinary Introduction to Human Rights
2. International Protection of Human Rights
3. Introduction to Arts and Culture
4. Scientific Competence
5. Practical Human Rights Skills
6. The Intersection of Human Rights and Arts
7. Current Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities
8. Thesis / Final Project and Defense

(6) Master Thesis / Concluding Project

The Master thesis is produced, or the concluding artistic project including its scientific reflection is finished, in the fourth semester. Either is dedicated to an individually chosen topic from the contents covered in the university study program and serves as evidence of the participants’ ability for independent, scientific work in terms of content and methodology. The Master thesis / the concluding project is the work of one person; it will be supervised by a member of the teaching staff and will be assessed by the exam committee.

§ 7. Exam Regulations

Prerequisites for completing the Master program are:

1. active participation in the learning process and 80% student attendance in all courses; the management and coordination team may authorize exceptions in justified cases;
2. positive assessment of the written seminar papers and exams;
3. conception, organization, implementation and documentation of a research project;
4. positive assessment of the written final work (Master Thesis or Concluding Project) by the exam committee consisting of the program director and selected members of the scientific advisory board;
5. the exam committee’s positive assessment of the Master thesis defense (oral presentation).
§ 8. Study Route

I. Interdisciplinary Introduction to Human Rights (12 ECTS)

**Semester 1**

1. Understanding Human Rights (1 ECTS)
2. Law & Human Rights (2 ECTS)
3. Politics & Human Rights (2 ECTS)
4. Philosophy & Human Rights (1 ECTS)
5. History of Human Rights (1 ECTS)
6. Sociology & Human (1 ECTS)
7. Anthropology & Human Rights (1 ECTS)
8. Psychology & Human Rights (1 ECTS)
9. Interdisciplinarity of Human Rights Practice (2 ECTS)

II. International Protection of Human Rights (11 ECTS)

**Semester 1, 2**

1. United Nations (3 ECTS)
2. European Organisations (3 ECTS)
3. Other Regional Organisations (2 ECTS)
4. Non-governmental Organisations & Civil Society (1 ECTS)
5. Simulation of a Human Rights Process (2 ECTS)

III. Introduction to Arts and Culture (7 ECTS)

**Semester 1, 2**

1. Diversity of Arts & Culture (1 ECTS)
2. Art History (1 ECTS)
3. Arts & Politics (2 ECTS)
4. Cultural Studies (1 ECTS)
5. Freedom of the Arts (2 ECTS)

IV. Scientific Competence (6 ECTS)

**Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Scientific Competence, Methodologies & Academic Writing I (2 ECTS)
2. Scientific Competence, Methodologies & Academic Writing II (2 ECTS)
3. Scientific Competence, Methodologies & Academic Writing III (2 ECTS)

V. Practical Human Rights Skills (15 ECTS)

**Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Human Rights in the Field (2 ECTS)
2. Communication & Reflection (2 ECTS)
3. Adult Education (1 ECTS)
4. Study Trip 1 (1 ECTS)
5. Study Trip 2 (1 ECTS)
6. Project Management (2 ECTS)
7. Human Rights Project (6 ECTS)
VI. The Intersection of Human Rights and Arts (19 ECTS)

**Semester 2, 3**

1. Engaging with Human Rights Criticism: Postcolonial Theory & Transcultural Perspective (4 ECTS)
2. Human Rights & Artistic Strategies (3 ECTS)
3. Human Rights & Arts I \(^1\) (3 ECTS)
4. Human Rights & Arts II \(^1\) (3 ECTS)
5. Human Rights & Arts III \(^1\) (3 ECTS)
6. Human Rights & Arts IV \(^1\) (3 ECTS)

VII. Current Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities (20 ECTS)

**Semester 2, 3**

1. Challenges & Opportunities I \(^2\) (4 ECTS)
2. Challenges & Opportunities II \(^2\) (4 ECTS)
3. Challenges & Opportunities III \(^2\) (4 ECTS)
4. Challenges & Opportunities IV \(^2\) (4 ECTS)
5. Challenges & Opportunities V \(^2\) (4 ECTS)

VIII. Thesis and Defense (30 ECTS)

1. Thesis / Project Tutorial (1 ECTS)
2. Thesis / Final Project (24 ECTS)
3. Thesis / Project Presentation and Defense (5 ECTS)

OVERVIEW OF THE SEMESTERS

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
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<td>29</td>
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§ 9. Entry Into Force

The curriculum comes into effect on 1 October 2021.

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\(^1\) In the courses Human Rights & Arts I, II, III and IV, human rights will be examined through the lenses of art forms such as cinema, music, performing arts, fine arts, applied arts, architecture, and media arts.

\(^2\) The courses Current Human Rights Challenges & Opportunities I, II, III, IV and V cover topics such as Conflict Studies, Crimes Against Humanity, Torture, Non Discrimination, Gender Studies, Intersectionality, Innovation, Science, Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Environment & Climate Crisis, Sustainability, Urban Planning and Human Rights of Specific Groups.