

# Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights

## Curriculum

**University Study Programme**  
Duration: 4 Semesters  
Programme Number: 992 884

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

**Version: Winter Semester 2022/23**

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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 of which role artistic and cultural practices may take on to serve the debate over human rights in these areas of conflict.

### § 2. Programme 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 to 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 artistic-cultural work.

### § 3. Qualification Profile and Academic Degree

As an interdisciplinary Master 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.

The Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights is set up as a postgraduate university study programme pursuant to § 56 para. 2 Universities Act and as such is the equivalent to a regular Master study programme pursuant to § 51 para. 2 subpara. 5 Universities Act. The degree entitles the holder to admission to a regular doctoral programme, under the provision that all other legal provisions are met. Graduates of this postgraduate university study programme will receive the academic degree of „Master of Arts (MA)“ in the study subject „Applied Human Rights“ – abbreviated to „MA (Applied Human Rights)“.

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#### **§ 4. Language of Instruction**

- (1) The language of instruction is English. Proficient English language skills are required.
- (2) Students are to write their scientific papers and the Master thesis / the final artistic project with scientific reflection 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 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): Vienna Master team members interview applicants regarding their motivation and how they envision their future after graduating from the Master programme.
- (3) The admission procedure has been passed successfully when all parts are positively assessed.
- (4) The panel for the admission process consists of team members of the Vienna Master programme.

#### **§ 6. Programme Structure**

- (1) The programme 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 thesis or a final artistic project with a scientific reflection.
- (3) The team of the Vienna Master supports the participants in achieving their goals in the postgraduate university study programme and their professional development in the form of individual coaching (consultation hours).
- (4) The team of the Vienna Master 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. The members of the scientific advisory board are appointed by the scientific director of the Vienna Master programme.
- (5) The Master programme comprises eight compulsory modules, one of which includes producing and defending the Master thesis:
  - I. **Interdisciplinary Understanding of Human Rights (16 ECTS)**
  - II. **Introduction to Arts and Culture (6 ECTS)**
  - III. **International Protection of Human Rights (11 ECTS)**
  - IV. **Scientific Competence and Artistic Research (4 ECTS)**
  - V. **Skills for Human Rights Practitioners (19 ECTS)**

- VI. **Intersection of Human Rights and Arts (14 ECTS)**
- VII. **Current Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities (21 ECTS)**
- VIII. **Thesis / Final Project and Defense (29 ECTS)**

(6) Master Thesis / Final Project

The Master thesis or the final artistic project including its scientific reflection is completed in the fourth semester. Either is dedicated to an individually chosen topic from the contents covered in the university study programme and serves as evidence of the participants' ability for independent, scientific work in terms of content and methodology. Only students with an academic background in an artistic subject have the option to produce a final artistic project with scientific reflection related to human rights issues. The topic and approach of the artistic project must be in line with the programme focus of human rights application. It is to be accompanied by a written, comprehensive account of the context in which the project is positioned. The Master thesis / the artistic final 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 programme 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 final artistic project) by the exam committee consisting of the Vienna Master academic staff and selected members of the scientific advisory board;
5. the exam committee's positive assessment of the thesis defense (oral presentation) in respect of the final work.

## **§ 8. Study Route**

### **I. Interdisciplinary Understanding to Human Rights (16 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1**

1. History & Philosophy of Human Rights (2 ECTS)
2. Law & Human Rights (4 ECTS)
3. Artistic Strategies & Human Rights (3 ECTS)
4. International Relations & Human Rights (1 ECTS)
5. Social-Cultural Anthropology & Human Rights (2 ECTS)
6. Psychology & Human Rights (1 ECTS)
7. Postcolonial and Decolonial Perspectives & Human Rights (2 ECTS)
8. Interdisciplinarity of Human Rights Practice (1 ECTS)

### **II. Introduction to Arts and Culture (6 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Art History in a Global Perspective (2 ECTS)
2. Arts & Politics (2 ECTS)
3. Elective Course (2 ECTS)

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### **III. International Protection of Human Rights (11 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1, 2**

1. United Nations (4 ECTS)
2. Regional Organisations in Europe (2 ECTS)
3. Regional Organisations in Africa and the Americas (2 ECTS)
4. Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Society (1 ECTS)
5. Simulation of a Human Rights Process (2 ECTS)

### **IV. Scientific Competence and Artistic Research (4 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Scientific Competence, Writing Methodologies and Artistic Research I (2 ECTS)
2. Scientific Competence, Writing Methodologies and Artistic Research II (2 ECTS)

### **V. Skills for Human Rights Practitioners (19 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination (4 ECTS)
2. Communication, Reflection and Resilience (3 ECTS)
3. Training Approaches and Methods (2 ECTS)
4. Managing a Human Rights Project (10 ECTS)

### **VI. Intersection of Human Rights and Arts (14 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Freedom of the Arts (4 ECTS)
2. Human Rights & Arts I <sup>1</sup> (4 ECTS)
3. Human Rights & Arts II <sup>1</sup> (3 ECTS)
4. Human Rights & Arts III <sup>1</sup> (3 ECTS)

### **VII. Current Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities (21 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 1, 2, 3**

1. Challenges & Opportunities I <sup>2</sup> (6 ECTS)
2. Challenges & Opportunities II <sup>2</sup> (6 ECTS)
3. Challenges & Opportunities III <sup>2</sup> (5 ECTS)
4. Challenges & Opportunities IV <sup>2</sup> (4 ECTS)

### **VIII. Thesis and Defense (29 ECTS)**

#### **Semester 3, 4**

1. Thesis / Final Project Preparation (4 ECTS)
2. Thesis / Final Project (24 ECTS)
3. Thesis / Project Presentation and Defense (1 ECTS)

### **OVERVIEW OF THE SEMESTERS**

- 1st semester 30 ECTS
- 2nd semester 30 ECTS
- 3rd semester 30 ECTS
- 4th semester 30 ECTS

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<sup>1</sup> In the courses "Human Rights & Arts I, II, III" human rights are dealt with at the intersection of fields such as Cinema, Music, Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Applied Arts, Architecture und Media Arts.

<sup>2</sup> The module includes a possible study trip. In the courses "Current Human Rights Challenges & Opportunities I, II, III and IV" topics such as Conflict Studies, Torture, Non-Discrimination, Gender Studies, Intersectionality, Digital Age, Artificial Intelligence, Environment & Climate Crisis, Sustainability, Urban Planning and Human Rights of Specific Groups are investigated.

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## **§ 9. Entry into Force**

- (1) The curriculum comes into effect on 1 October 2021.
- (2) The modifications of the study route announced in the University News Bulletin (Mitteilungsblatt) No. 34 dated 30 June 2022 apply to all students who start the university study programme with the winter semester 2022/23.

## **§ 10. Transitory Regulations**

For those students who started the university study programme before the winter semester 2022/23, the following study route continues to apply:

### **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)

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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 <sup>3</sup> (3 ECTS)
4. Human Rights & Arts II <sup>3</sup> (3 ECTS)
5. Human Rights & Arts III <sup>3</sup> (3 ECTS)
6. Human Rights & Arts IV <sup>3</sup> (3 ECTS)

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

##### **Semester 2, 3**

1. Challenges & Opportunities I <sup>4</sup> (4 ECTS)
2. Challenges & Opportunities II <sup>4</sup> (4 ECTS)
3. Challenges & Opportunities III <sup>4</sup> (4 ECTS)
4. Challenges & Opportunities IV <sup>4</sup> (4 ECTS)
5. Challenges & Opportunities V <sup>4</sup> (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)

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<sup>3</sup> In the courses “Human Rights & Arts I, II, III and IV” human rights are dealt with at the intersection of fields such as Cinema, Music, Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Applied Arts, Architecture and Media Arts.

<sup>4</sup> In the courses of Current Human Rights Challenges & Opportunities I, II, III, IV and V, 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 are investigated.