

MA Human Rights and Social Justice/LLM Human Rights and Social Justice

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Human Rights & Social Justice / LLM Human Rights & Social Justice
b) Programme code(s)	TBC
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Yeşim Yaprak Yıldız, Marta Minetti
e) Entry requirements	2:1
f) Academic year effective from	26/27

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

Equip graduates to understand, question and transform how human rights operate in theory, law and practice across diverse global contexts.

Develop advanced knowledge of international and domestic human rights law alongside critical, sociological and decolonial perspectives on social justice.

Build professional capabilities through practice-led learning (clinics/placements), applied research, and writing for policy, litigation and advocacy.

Overview

Human Rights and Social Justice is an interdisciplinary Master's programme rooted in Goldsmiths' strengths in critical theory and practice-based approaches to social change. Bringing together legal, sociological and critical perspectives, the programme equips you to understand, question and transform how human rights work in theory, in practice and in everyday struggles for justice. It offers two pathways, MA and LLM, enabling you to specialise either in sociological approaches to human rights or in legal study. Both pathways engage with international and domestic legal frameworks and the lived realities of inequality, state violence, displacement, climate breakdown and resistance. Core modules in theory and research methods are shared

across pathways, and a range of options allows you to tailor the degree for careers in human rights law and policy, advocacy, research, activism or doctoral study. A distinctive feature is its practice-led ethos through clinics and/or supervised placements with NGOs and community partners, supported by skills workshops on research-to-practice, professional ethics and impact.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	NA
c) HECoS Code(s):	100485 Human Rights Law 100499 Sociology
d) QAA Benchmark group:	Law/Sociology

4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
b) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
c) Home School:	Global Change If other, name here: N/A
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here:
e) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
g) Final awards:	PGDip Human Rights & Social Justice PGCert Human Rights & Social Justice MA Human Rights & Social Justice LLM Human Rights & Social Justice

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify:
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the rows below. Row d) shows total hours of directed learning, with e) and f) showing how this

Item	Information	
	is broken down in in-person vs. online learning, in hours and percentages.	
d) Total hours directed learning/year	120 in-person plus independent study	
e) In-person hours	120	100%
f) Online hours	0	0%
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time	
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months	
i) External accreditation:	No	
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A	

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

Learning Outcome		Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Identify and explain the sources, concepts, institutions and enforcement mechanisms of international and domestic human rights law.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Evaluate sociological, legal and critical theories of human rights and social justice, and connect these debates to inequality, power, violence, resistance and contemporary global issues.	7	Diversity of perspective
D3	Recognise methodological foundations of human rights research used in academic and practitioner settings, including the ethical and epistemic issues involved in producing and using human rights knowledge.	7	Political in the personal

F1	Apply methodological skills to real-world human rights problems by designing and conducting feasible, ethically informed research in academic, policy or practitioner contexts.	7	Responsible agency
F2	Assess, design and develop organisational and institutional strategies, theories of change and policy frameworks in human rights and social justice work.	7	Responsible agency
F3	Communicate persuasively via oral and written outputs tailored to diverse audiences and purposes (e.g., litigation support, policy, advocacy, community).	7	Collaboration
P1	Design, manage and conduct small-scale research projects relevant to human rights law, policy and practice.	7	Collaboration
P2	Demonstrate initiative, responsibility and effective independent working under complex and unpredictable circumstances.	7	Responsible agency
P3	Work productively and effectively in a team, organise and allocate responsibilities and provide mutual support.	7	Collaboration

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Programme structure notes (where relevant):

The programme is offered across two pathways, MA and LLM, both of which share a common interdisciplinary foundation and a practice-based learning approach.

Compulsory modules: All MA/LLM students take two core modules: Constructing Human Rights and Researching Human Rights. These modules develop theoretical, critical and methodological foundations across legal and sociological approaches to human rights and social justice.

Pathway Differentiation:

The MA pathway students can choose two option modules from a range of optional modules on sociological, political and cultural approaches to human rights and social justice, including Decolonising Politics: Actions and Ideas from the Global South; Critical and Cultural Analysis; Global Capitalism: Theory and History, and Borders and Migration.

The LLM pathway students can choose two optional modules from legally oriented modules including Gender, Sexualities, and the Law; International Human Rights: Advanced Themes and Contemporary Debates; and Art Law.

Practice-based learning: All MA/LLM students have the option of Human Rights in Practice: Clinic and Placement, a supervised practice-based module in which students gain professional experience with NGOs, grassroots organisations or community partners.

Dissertation: All MA/LLM students complete a dissertation in the summer term, supervised by academic staff in relevant departments according to pathway and research focus.

Full-time students complete the programme over one academic year. In the Autumn Term they take Constructing Human Rights and one optional module, and in the Spring Term they take Researching Human Rights and one optional module. The dissertation is undertaken across the Spring and Summer Terms.

Part-time students complete the programme over two years. In Year 1 they take Constructing Human Rights in the Autumn Term and Researching Human Rights in the Spring Term. In Year 2 they take two optional modules, one in each term. The dissertation is undertaken across the Spring and Summer Terms in Year 2.

Phase 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Constructing Human Rights	SO71125 A	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y1	MA + LLM
Researching Human Rights	SO71127 B	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y1	MA + LLM

Phase 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Decolonising Politics: Actions and Ideas from the Global South	PO71051 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	MA
Critical and Cultural Analysis	SO71051 C	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	MA

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Global Capitalism: Theory and History	PO71039 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	MA
Gender, Sexualities, and the Law	LA71011 C	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	LLM
Human Rights in Practice: Clinic and Placement	TBC	30	7	Option - Shared	2-3	Y2	MA + LLM
International Human Rights: Advanced Themes & Contemporary Debates	LA71008 A (to be revised)	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	LLM
Borders and Migration	AN71100 C	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	MA
Global Capitalism: Theory and History	PO71039 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	MA
Art Law	TBC	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	LLM
International Human Rights: Advanced Themes & Contemporary Debates	TBC	30	7	Option - Shared	2	Y2	LLM

Phase 3 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Dissertation	TBC	60	7	Compulsory	2-3	Y2	LLM + MA

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the

most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Teaching combines lectures, seminars, workshops, skills labs, and supervised practice-based learning (clinic/placement), with an emphasis on research-informed, practice-led and critically engaged pedagogy. The programme is taught by academic staff with extensive research and professional experience in human rights and social justice. Guest speakers from NGOs, legal practice and advocacy contribute across both pathways where appropriate.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Lectures and research-led seminars: providing theoretical, legal and critical grounding in human rights and social justice across both pathways

Workshops and skills labs: covering research methods, translation of theory and research into practice, and professional writing skills (including writing for policy and litigation)

Supervised practice-based learning: via clinic and placement module, in which students work with NGOs, community organisations or legal practitioners and develop applied professional skills alongside their academic study

Dissertation supervision: combining individual one-to-one supervision with group research support sessions in the summer term.

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

Assessment balances academic and practice-oriented outputs, including essays, research proposals, portfolios, reflective journals, policy briefs, case analyses, presentations and a dissertation. The clinic/placement is assessed via an evidence-based practice output and reflective portfolio

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	2	2
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live	0	0	0	0	1	1
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0	4	4
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	1	1
Written	0	0	0	0	6	6
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	14
Of which...	Individual:	12	Group:	1		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	<i>Human Rights in Practice: Clinic & Placement</i> offers partner-led clinic or supervised placement streams with NGOs, charities, activist networks, law firms and community groups (availability varies; competitive selection may apply).
c) Programme-specific requirements	DBS/clearance may be required for specific host placements, depending on role and activities
d) Programme specific costs and resources	None
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	Graduates progress to roles in local/regional/international human rights NGOs, intergovernmental organisations, corporate social responsibility/human rights teams, law firms, activist networks, local authorities and UK government departments; many proceed to doctoral study

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Constructing Human Rights		Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Researching Human Rights		Compulsory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
International Human Rights: Advanced Themes & Contemporary Debates		Option - Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights in Practice: Clinic & Placement		Option - Core	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dissertation		Option - Core	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender, Sexualities & the Law		Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borders & Migration		Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Global Capitalism: Theory & History		Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critical & Cultural Analysis		Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Law		Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>