



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

2025

Postgraduate programmes in  
**Human Rights**

With academic  
direction from:



SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
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[london.ac.uk/human-rights](https://london.ac.uk/human-rights)

World class. Worldwide.

# Join the World Class

**1 A mark of excellence**  
Gain a University of London degree from anywhere in the world and increase your potential career development.

**2 Quality of learning**  
The MA Human Rights is a practice-based and inter disciplinary degree. It is designed and run by activist scholars based at the Human Rights Consortium, which is part of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

**3 Worldwide relevance**  
The programme is designed to be of worldwide relevance, and will help you to further your career development. You will benefit from the up-to-date knowledge of specialist academics and guest practitioners who support learning on the programme.

**4 Access a wealth of online resources**  
Study online and access course content through a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). For each module there are online tasks to complete and you can discuss your work with fellow students and lecturers.

**5 Flexible learning**  
With no travel, relocation or accommodation costs, studying for a University of London programme at a distance is cost effective. What's more, you can continue working full time.

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‘In a fast changing environment of worldwide access to higher education, a University of London degree continues to offer a guarantee of quality, value and intellectual rigour.’

Professor Wendy Thomson  
Vice-Chancellor,  
University of London

# Your prestigious University of London qualification

## About your qualification

When you graduate with a degree, diploma or certificate from the University of London you will receive two important documents – your Final Diploma (the parchment you receive on graduation) and a Diploma Supplement.

## The Final Diploma

- Indicates that you were registered with the University of London and awarded a University of London degree, diploma or certificate.
- Gives the name of the University of London federation member that developed the syllabus and provided assessment.
- Features the University of London crest and the Vice-Chancellor's signature.

## The Diploma Supplement

- Describes the nature, level and content of programme you successfully completed.
- Includes the transcript of courses taken, marks achieved and overall classification.
- States the role of the School of Advanced Study and the method of study.



# Contents

## Postgraduate programmes in Human Rights

Outstanding distance learning opportunities	6
Why study Human Rights?	8
Programme structure	10
Distance and flexible learning: how it works	11
Entrance requirements	12
How to apply and register	13
Fees and further information	14

## Key dates

### September intake

Application deadline:  
1 August 2025

Programme start:  
September 2025

### February intake

Application deadline:  
13 January 2026

Programme start:  
February 2026

# Outstanding distance learning opportunities



## Dr Corinne Lennox

Programme Director, MA Human Rights, School of Advanced Study, University of London

This programme aims to develop students as human rights practitioners. It was designed by a group of activist scholars based in the Human Rights Consortium, which is part of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

This programme was launched in 2018, building on more than 20 years of experience in postgraduate human rights education. The teaching team wanted to make the degree accessible to students all over the world in order to enable those whose personal or professional

circumstances might prevent them from studying in London to benefit from the skills development provided by the MA.

The MA, Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) Human Rights prioritise the teaching and development of practical skills as well as theoretical knowledge, enabling students to directly apply their studies to their current or future human rights careers and activism. We draw insights and understanding from across the humanities and social sciences, resulting in a degree which is truly interdisciplinary.

We have an exciting and varied cohort of students, drawn from a wide range of professional disciplines, regions and personal experiences. Some of our students already work in human rights and others are interested in transitioning to more work in this area on a professional or voluntary basis. We learn from each other, making for a stimulating peer-to-peer learning environment.

Read a Q&A with Dr Corinne Lennox in our online magazine, Student Insider: [bit.ly/SI-Corinne-Lennox](https://bit.ly/SI-Corinne-Lennox)

## The School of Advanced Study

The Human Rights programme has its foundations in the teaching and research of the Human Rights Consortium (HRC) at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. The HRC promotes and facilitates interdisciplinary research in human rights nationally and internationally.

The HRC is particularly concerned with bringing together human rights scholars and practitioners, thereby enabling research to be informed by practice, and human rights practice and fieldwork to benefit from cutting-edge research.

HRC staff are active researchers, teachers and activists, and the HRC's activities include a varied programme of events which bring together scholars, practitioners and policymakers working in the field of human rights.

As a student of the MA, PGDip and PGCert, you will benefit from being taught by staff who are highly engaged with their subject networks and who have a high level of both academic and practice-based expertise. You will also be able to be part of our global community of scholars and practitioners.



‘I knew a lot more than I thought I knew, but I didn’t have that vocabulary and the academic grounding to be able to express it. So I think it really gave me a newfound confidence in being able to speak up during meetings and contribute to research and strategy conversations.

I moved continents, I moved jobs, I moved house, and I was able to fit studying in within all of that, which I don’t think other universities really offer in the same way.’

**Philippa Stewart**  
Graduate, MA Human Rights

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Philippa is a Digital  
Consultant for the United  
Nations Human Rights.



# Why study Human Rights?



## Is the programme for you?

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The MA, PGDip and PGCert is focused strongly on building practical skills relevant to understanding and working in the field of human rights, whether as a human rights defender, scholar or policymaker.

You will also develop specialist knowledge on particular areas of human rights theory and practice, as well as research methods, in the individual modules undertaken as part of this degree. This includes study of cutting-edge issues, such as the impact of environmental destruction on human rights.

Offered by the HRC at the School of Advanced Study, this programme is practice-orientated, exploring human rights issues from a practical, solution-based perspective as well as a scholarly one.

## Flexible study

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The programme is designed to offer a challenging interdisciplinary education with a lot of flexibility in terms of what you study, and when and how you study it. This flexibility will enable you to explore topics of personal and professional interest.



The assessment is varied with a strong focus on practical learning such as doing a legal brief, preparing a funding proposal or analysing a campaign strategy.

## Employment routes

The practical skill-set developed over the course of your studies makes you highly employable and will enable you to establish, or advance, your career in human rights.

For these reasons, this degree is particularly suitable for individuals who seek to become human rights practitioners in a non-governmental organisation (NGO), governmental, intergovernmental or private sectors. It is also suitable for those currently working in the field of

human rights who wish to advance their careers by enhancing their theoretical, legal, practical and policy understanding of human rights or who wish to proceed to PhD studies.

Potential employers include international intergovernmental organisations, such as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; international NGOs, such as Amnesty International or Friends of the Earth; local or regional organisations dedicated to advocacy and defending human rights, such as the Children's Society (UK); businesses with a corporate social responsibility division; and public sector roles that involve monitoring and advising on compliance with the legal frameworks such as national equality laws.



## Professor Damien Short

Module Convenor



‘The professional, vocational orientated and practice-based content of our MA is its main distinguishing feature. Our master’s degree is particularly suitable for individuals who want to work as human rights practitioners in the NGO, business, governmental and intergovernmental sectors. Indeed, our MA training is praised by employers for delivering the necessary practical skills human rights professionals need for a successful career.’

Professor Damien Short is Co-Director of the HRC and a Professor of Human Rights and Environmental Justice at the School of Advanced Study. He is the Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Human Rights (Taylor and Francis) and an expert member of the United Nations Harmony with Nature Initiative.

# Programme structure

## Structure

The MA consists of six modules (three core, three elective) plus a dissertation.

## Core modules

Understanding human rights

Securing human rights

Translating human rights into international law

## Optional modules

### Three elective modules chosen from:

Topics in international human rights law

Researching human rights: social science research methods

Securing human rights in development and conflict

Indigenous peoples, minorities and human rights

Genocide, gross human rights violations and reconciliation

Human rights, sustainable development and environmental justice

Women's human rights

## Dissertation

You can also study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights, comprised of the three



core modules, or the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights, comprised of three core modules and three optional modules. It is also possible to study certain individual modules.

## Overview

The MA is designed to be studied part time over a two-year period, but the registration period is five years, so you can pause your studies if you wish to.

## Time commitment

You will need to spend around seven to 10 hours per week for each module you are studying in the programme. All of the study resources that we provide are online, and you will be expected to log in to the programme's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) frequently to participate in online discussions, submit

assignments and network with lecturers and your fellow students.

You will have access to a vast range of academic journals, books and primary source materials. You can make use of these resources for your independent study to explore topics of personal interest, alongside the essential readings that we offer you.

## Assessment

Your work on the modules will be assessed through a combination of three activities (E-tivities) and a final examination or written coursework. The E-tivities are carefully designed to build your skills and knowledge and help you prepare for each final assessment.

MA students will also research and write a research proposal and 15,000-word dissertation on a topic that you choose (subject to agreement with your research supervisor).



# Distance and flexible learning: how it works

## The Student Portal and the VLE

As soon as you register, we send you a University of London username and password which enables you to log in to the Student Portal. All of the online resources you need to study the programme are made available via the Portal.

The VLE is the programme's intranet, an online space where you can:

- interact with lecturers and fellow students through discussion forums
- download subject guides, readings and study skills resources for your modules
- upload your work and receive academic feedback.

## Study materials

We provide you with a range of study resources and support:

- online study resources including a subject guide for each module; a range of teaching videos; scanned readings from a range of textbooks, journals and monographs; plus access to a fully searchable Online Library with a huge stock of journals and primary source materials.

## Academic support

You will interact regularly with academics.

- For each module, a lecturer provides advice on readings and guides the online discussions.
- Lecturers provide academic advice and guidance for each module that you study. Other programme queries can be directed to the Academic Support Officer. Alternatively, the Programme Director will be able to answer queries and provide support throughout your studies.
- You receive feedback on E-tivities and coursework for each module.
- You are allocated a research supervisor to guide your dissertation work.

## Connect with us online



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## Dr Corinne Lennox

Programme Director  
and Module Convenor



Dr Corinne Lennox is a Reader in Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth

Studies (ICwS) and the co-director of the Human Rights Consortium (HCR). Her research interests include the human rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples; civil society mobilisation; LGBTI rights and caste-based discrimination. She has worked for many years as a human rights practitioner with various NGOs, including Minority Rights Group International, and has been a trainer and guest lecturer on human rights-based approaches to development for several international development agencies. Dr Lennox has been a consultant on minority rights for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

# Entrance requirements

## Academic

An undergraduate degree (e.g. bachelor's) which is considered at least comparable to a UK upper second class honours degree, from an institution acceptable to the University.

If you do not meet the entrance requirements you may still apply. Each application will be considered on an individual basis by the Programme Director, giving attention to alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

## English language

If your first degree was not taught in English, you will need to provide evidence of language ability as tested by the British Council or another registered body. This is equivalent to a score of 7.0 overall in the IELTS test, or 7.0 in both reading and writing.

## Minimum computer specification

You must have regular access to a computer (or mobile device) with an internet connection so that you can access your learning materials through the VLE.

To get the most from your studies, your computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser (the latest version of Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Edge). This must accept cookies and have JavaScript enabled
- screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or greater
- sufficient bandwidth to download documents of at least 2MB
- a word processor that reads Microsoft Word format (.doc)
- Adobe Acrobat, or another PDF reader.



## Victoria de Mello

Graduate,  
MA Human Rights



'I decided to enrol on the MA Human Rights programme after working in the international development field for five years. Following two years of a truly enriching learning experience, I am now writing my dissertation in the area to which I plan to devote my career. The programme has enhanced my professional skills and, more importantly, my confidence. Engaging in academic writing using my second language was a challenge that I am glad I have faced. I was able to tailor my learning experience to my field of practice to expand my advocacy skills and understand international human rights mechanisms that I use in my everyday work. Distance learning while working full time is not easy, but it's absolutely manageable.'

Victoria works for the UNDP, on business and human rights in Asia and Africa.



# How to apply and register

## Getting started

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You must apply online at:  
[london.ac.uk/human-rights](https://london.ac.uk/human-rights)

Please read the 'Guidance Notes for Applications' before you complete your application: [bit.ly/PG-guidance](https://bit.ly/PG-guidance)

## Stage 1

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Submit your online application.

## Stage 2

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Submit your documentary evidence. This can be done online when submitting your application or at a later stage. Please see: [bit.ly/Doc-evidence](https://bit.ly/Doc-evidence)

**Please do not send original documents** (scanned copies are acceptable).

## Stage 3

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We will notify you whether or not you have been accepted.

**Please note:** applications will only be considered when we have received all the necessary documentation, including the references, where applicable.

## Stage 4

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Complete the online registration. We explain how to do this in the Offer Letter.

## Stage 5

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Start your studies. You will be given access to the VLE and your study materials once you have registered.

## Useful information for applicants

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Submit your application even if it is incomplete (for example, if you are waiting to sit an examination or to receive examination results). Do not delay – we can formally advise you on what requirements/grades you will need to obtain in order to meet our entrance criteria.

If you are unsure about whether or not you meet our entrance requirements, we might be able to advise you on this before you submit your application. However, due to our increase in workload we are unable to provide this advice between 1 September and 30 October each year. To contact us, please see: [sid.london.ac.uk](https://sid.london.ac.uk)

## Atiq Sayed

Graduate, MA Human Rights



'As a social worker with two decades of experience with the UK authorities, the UN and humanitarian sector, I always felt the need for a top-up of my qualification. After an extensive research and consultation with my former UN colleagues in the field, my choice was narrowed down to the MA Human Rights. Human rights is helping me a great deal in my social work role and in my work with unaccompanied children.'

Atiq is an advisor to UK local government on refugee protection.

# Fees and further information



## Fees payable to the University

The total fee payable to the University of London for the 2025–2026 academic session will be published on our website once confirmed. For the latest information on programme fees, please visit: [london.ac.uk/fees](https://london.ac.uk/fees)

Please note: student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees

shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.

## Financial assistance

Some employers in both the public and private sector may offer financial assistance to their employees. No financial assistance is available from the University.

## Further information

Interested in finding out more about the HRC and the ICwS? You can explore our work here: [commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/hrc](https://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/hrc)

## Kelsea McCready

Graduate, MA Human Rights



‘My favourite thing about the programme was talking to students from all over the world and getting their opinion on events that are happening and learning from each other.

Even though I was online, my tutors and instructors were very accessible and always open to have Teams meetings or even just a chat or email. You’re going to get a really well-rounded global education. It feels amazing to be graduating today – it went by really fast and it’s kind of surreal, but I’m really happy.’

Kelsea is now a PhD Candidate at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London.



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London WC1E 7HU  
United Kingdom

Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)20 7862 8360

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