



LEEDS
BECKETT
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Course Specification

LLM International Human Rights Law

Course Code: LIHRL

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

LLM International Human Rights Law (LIHRL)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at October 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Laws International Human Rights Law
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma International Human Rights Law Postgraduate Certificate International Human Rights Law
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: 12 months (full time, campus based)
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus
Entry requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning . Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
Course fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Policies, Standards and Regulations

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations

There is a non-standard regulation in place for this course relating to the Masters award eligibility criteria. The exemption requires students to achieve an average of 50% or more in modules equivalent to 150 credits at this level (or above). All the remaining standard award criteria applies.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Not applicable.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your course director Dr Pavel Repyeuski

Your course administrator pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The LLM International Human Rights Law aims to expose students to current issues in the topical areas of international human rights, both in terms of the legal principles and their practical application by considering the nature and structure of international human rights in the wider contexts of civilian protection, war crimes, rule of law, security and global policy making.

The course helps students to gain a critical understanding of key areas of international human rights relating to the role and function of the United Nations and the relevant instruments and treaties, protection of civilians from violence on a local, national and international level, human rights protection within a global policymaking framework as well as the theorisation of human rights within international relations debates.

Through critical evaluation of global, regional and national human rights laws and protection students will learn how law, in the form of legal theory and legal practice, is shaped by and in turn shapes our ethical, social, and political environment. Students are encouraged to engage actively in wider reading and make both guided and independent links between their studies and world affairs, evaluating the social, economic and political success, or otherwise of international human rights.

The core module, focusing on International Human Rights Law, allows students to critically explore international human rights law and evaluate its purpose and application. The module introduces students to the law as embodied by the United Nations' international human rights instruments and treaties, and to the international human rights legal principles as developed through multilateral international and regional treaties and customary international law. Students will evaluate the international institutions whose function it is to monitor and report upon State compliance with human rights obligations and explore relevant types of rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural as well as the rights of specific groups such as women, and refugees and migrants.

As part of the course, students can choose and study various elective modules from both, Law and School of Humanities and Social Sciences covering a wide range of topical issues, such as democracy and the rule of law, war, peace and conflict, global crime and risk, global economic security, and theoretical approaches to human rights, amongst others.

The course provides students with a critical understanding of the careful balance that is required in international law between human rights protection and guaranteeing the freedoms of a democratic society. This enables students to acquire knowledge of the features and principles of different jurisdictions and legal systems and be able to compare them.

Course learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Analyse, synthesise and apply knowledge of international norms relating to international human rights and the context in which such norms function.
2	Undertake complex analysis and evaluation of the efficacy of international human rights legal norms in the context of gross human rights abuses and the vulnerability of people to state and non-state aggression.
3	Critically evaluate the theoretical underpinnings of the liberal world order – democracy, rule of law and human rights - and show an ability to combine and apply these concepts to an analysis of international and national regulatory frameworks dealing with human rights protection and abuses of rights.
4	Demonstrate self-direction, originality and autonomy in the production of a relevant piece of independent research in this field.
5	Show critical application of knowledge of relevant socio-legal theories and legal research methods and demonstrate the ability to apply key concepts of international law to a research question in this field.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

This course is offered on campus. The design and delivery of this course and its substantive content means that student cohorts will typically be diverse, coming from a range of social, cultural, academic and professional backgrounds and countries.

The course shares modules with other level 7 Academic LLM and MA programmes, in particular cores for International Human Rights Law, relevant Legal Research Methods, Dissertation, and electives. There are two core 'subject' modules for this programme (International Human Rights Law and Legal Research Methods) and the rest are various LLM and MA electives.

The student community will be supported by in person seminars and students will be encouraged to get involved with the broader School and Leeds Beckett community. Module delivery will be supplemented with the wider reading and related activities, which will form the foundation of the seminars.

Teaching activities will emphasise student-led evaluation and critique of issues, and students will respond to tutor-prepared materials, tasks, problems and questions. Module units' materials will provide a framework which will steer students to both the knowledge and critical components of the programme. Students will be given the opportunity to relate the material covered to current issues of International Human Rights Law and related areas. The variety of student body and ability for LLM and MA students to cross-choose electives provide an important opportunity for students to learn by sharing their and their peers' experience. Indicative content and approaches for each module is articulated in the respective module specification. For each module there are arrangements for feedback on student activities.

The Legal Research Methods module will provide students with founding knowledge about various research methods and how to use these in the LLM research. The dissertation, which is to be done in the area and on the topic relevant to International Human Rights Law, is an exercise in independent student learning, involving sustained research and a substantial piece of writing which is supported by both the dissertation Module Leader and an individual dissertation supervisor. The supervisor will guide the student on the planning and execution of the dissertation, the development of ideas, organisation and structure of the work. The preparation of the dissertation will require students to become involved with issues at the forefront of the disciplines concerned with this programme.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
International Human Rights Law	30	1
Legal Research Methods	30	1
Dissertation	60	Summer
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Choice of 2x 30 credit LLM modules or 3x 20 credits MA electives

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Competition Law and the Digital Economy	30	2
Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights	30	2
International Commercial Law	30	2
Disability in International Human Rights Law	30	2
Out of Control: Global Crime, Risk and Insecurity	20	2
War, Crime and Violence	20	2
Developing and Managing Projects	20	2
Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights	20	2
Cultures of Confinement, the United States since 1800 Theorising Human Rights	20	2
Theorising Peace and Conflict	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard 30-credit module equates to 300 notional learning hours and a standard 20-credit module equates to 200 notional hours. The hours may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

On this course modules may have various forms of assessment, including coursework and examination. There is a major independent study module (Dissertation) which will require the production of a dissertation of 15,000 words.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	198 hours
Independent study	1602 hours
Total	1800 hours