

Human rights

Essentials

Taught programme

MA degree

Human Rights

Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Human Rights

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in politics, international relations, philosophy, law, history, sociology, anthropology, development studies or a related field

MPhil and PhD

A Masters degree in a discipline relevant to your chosen area of research. Applicants should also submit an outline research proposal (four to five pages) indicating the nature, ambitions and primary questions of the research project

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

Taught programme

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Research programmes

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- Human rights at Sussex goes beyond a narrow legalistic approach and explores how human rights are socially embedded in wider processes of poverty, violence, identity, globalisation and the emergence of global forms of governance. Our Human Rights programmes reflect this critical perspective.

- Sussex has a worldwide reputation for excellence in the field of human rights. Faculty teaching on our programmes come from a range of disciplines, each of which is excellent in its own right.

- Based in the School of Global Studies, the distinctively interdisciplinary MA in Human Rights brings together expertise from anthropology, law, international relations and politics.

- Our programmes are linked to the interdisciplinary Justice and Violence Research Centre, which hosts visiting scholars and holds regular seminars and events. Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/justice

- Faculty have undertaken consultancy and commissioned work in a range of human rights fields and regional contexts. Many of our graduates find employment in rights work, within which we have very strong international networks.

UN humanitarian action responds to, but also raises, many human rights concerns

Taught programme

MA in Human Rights

1 year full time/2 years part time

This interdisciplinary programme provides you with an understanding of recent debates in the field of human rights from a range of disciplinary perspectives, including anthropology, law, international relations and politics.

You examine how human rights are embedded in wider social processes of state regulation, conflict and mass displacement, transnational social movements, and international agencies. You develop your ability to critically assess human rights instruments (international and regional), discourses and institutions, and the relationship between international human rights law, state law and local interpretations of human rights. By the end of the programme you should be able to research human rights issues in a way that contextualises state and transnational legal procedures in wider social processes such as gender, class, ethnicity and globalisation.

Sussex has a worldwide reputation for research in the field of human rights and a distinctive interdisciplinary approach that enables fresh thinking which contributes practical insights of real value to policy-makers.

Career opportunities

Human rights teaching at Sussex provides an excellent training for those intending to work in professional advocacy in human rights agencies, for those pursuing further postgraduate research or for those simply seeking to develop a critique of conventional approaches to human rights.

Our graduates have gone on to work for Save the Children, the Detention Advice Service, Human Rights Watch, and various UN agencies (including UNIFEM and UNRWA).

Programme structure

Core courses: Human Rights and the Politics of Culture • Liberalism, Modernity and Globalisation.

Options: you choose two from a wide range of options offered across the University. These normally include Activism for Development and Social Justice • Anthropology of Reconciliation and Reconstruction • Complex Humanitarian Emergencies • Embodiment and Institutionalisation of Violence, Conflict and Conciliation • Genocide in World Politics • Human Rights in International Relations • International Law in World Politics • Migration under the European Convention on Human Rights • Refugees and Development • The Politics of Citizenship and Immigration • Women and Human Rights. You may also choose one option from this list and another relevant course, subject to the approval of the programme convenor.

You also take a skills course as preparation for your dissertation.

In the summer term, you will get assistance in finding a 10-week work-study placement. You also take one research skills course from Ethnographic Methods (spring) • Methods for Development (summer) • Techniques in Campaigning, Advocacy and Activism (summer), and undertake supervised work on a dissertation.

Assessment

You are assessed by term papers of 5,000 words for each course and a 10,000-word dissertation.





A garment factory in South East Asia: the impact of globalisation is just one area you may choose to study as part of your postgraduate degree at Sussex

Specialist facilities

The University offers extensive computing facilities with a full range of data-processing and communications software. Office space is usually allocated to students taking research degrees. You will have full access to the University's main Library and its online collection, and to the British Library of Development Studies, at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), which is located on the Sussex campus.

Research programmes

We welcome enquiries from students wishing to undertake research in any areas of faculty interest.

All research students are required to complete an appropriate programme of research methods training. Students who have already completed a programme of research methods training can apply for the doctoral programme leading to a PhD.

Coursework and supervision

You will normally be required to complete some research methods training courses and possibly some specialist thematic courses drawn from the MA programme.

You will be allocated two academic supervisors with whom you work for the duration of your research programme. These are allocated according to their regional and thematic expertise, to provide a complementary 'match' with your research.

Fieldwork

Many, but not all, research students undertake fieldwork as part of their PhD research – normally during the second year of the PhD phase. Supervision continues during fieldwork, while you gather data to be written up in the final year.

MPhil/PhD in Human Rights

We recruit students wishing to undertake research in the main areas of faculty interests. You can register for a degree in human rights or in another appropriate academic discipline.

Recent thesis titles

Communal violence, displacement and minority identity in Ahmedabad, western India

Embracing trauma: human rights and post-conflict youth identity in Guatemala

Human rights discourse and the struggle against free trade in Mexico

Living beyond conflict? Identity, alterity and reconciliation among Rwandan youth

Lynchings in Todos Santos Cuchumatán: a genealogy of post-conflict violence

Negotiating rights: indigenous rights, land and the power line conflict in Venezuela

Career opportunities

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Faculty research interests

Within the School of Global Studies there is a close academic collaboration between departments and interdisciplinary research centres, particularly the Justice and Violence Research Centre. Outside the School, we have particularly strong links with the School of Law, Politics and Sociology, where a number of human rights faculty are located.

Research interests are briefly described below and on the right. For more detailed information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/justice/az_list.html

Professor Craig Barker Refer to the Law subject entry on page 118.

Professor Rupert Brown Intergroup relations and prejudice.

Professor Jane Cowan Human rights in the Balkans.

Elizabeth Craig Refer to the Law subject entry on page 118.

Professor Marie-Bénédicte Dembour Rights claims in international law.

Professor Saul Dubow History of race and national identity in South Africa.

Professor Stefan Elbe Refer to the International relations subject entry on page 110.

Nigel Eltringham Violence, genocide, international criminal justice, Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Professor James Fairhead Refer to the Anthropology subject entry on page 41.

James Hampshire Politics of citizenship and immigration; racism and immigration policy-making; state and nation-building.

Zdenek Kavan History, memory and justice.

Mark Leopold Conflict and reconstruction in Uganda.

Jan Selby Peace processes and rights.

Lisa Smirl Politics of humanitarian assistance; natural disasters and reconstruction; spatial and material theory; politics of the built environment.

Anna Stavrianakis Global civil society; the arms trade.

Maya Unnithan Refer to the Anthropology subject entry on page 41.