

International Human Rights Law

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This programme will provide you with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the far-reaching impact of international law on international relations, with a special emphasis on human rights issues and their relevance to domestic law.

Introduction

The Liverpool Law School is one of the oldest law departments in the UK and has a prestigious international reputation. We focus on social relevance and aim to influence public debate and policy at local, national, European and international levels.

Our master's degree in international human rights law is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of public international law with a specific focus on the international regime of human rights protection. You will gain the advanced knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for.

We are defined by our commitment to teaching law through a social justice lens. Our modules show how the law reflects or fails to address different forms of inequality and oppression, focusing on fairness, equality and the promotion of equal rights for all members of society. You will take part in research-informed modules led by leading experts in the field, exploring issues of real-world significance organised around three broad themes: the nature and character of

international law, international and regional human rights regimes, and the role of international human rights law in solving real-world problems such as the climate crisis.

We also offer a wide range of extra-curricular and careers opportunities to help you become a well-rounded and employable graduate. This includes internships, pro bono projects and talks and workshops from practising lawyers and judges who have played important roles in uncovering miscarriages of justice or reforming the law.

Who is this course for?

This master's is suitable for graduates of Law or a relevant degree subject such as Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy, International Relations, Banking, Management Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences and Economics who have an interest and want to pursue a career in human rights in domestic, European and international law.

What you'll learn

- Advanced legal research skills that are necessary to enable you to reach a superior understanding of international human rights law
- How to analyse, evaluate and interpret primary and secondary legal sources
- How to understand and apply English, European and International legal terminology, both orally and in writing
- Critical, analytical and research skills
- Oral discussion skills by participating in debates and problem-solving exercises
- How to apply legal knowledge to practical situations

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

All students must take Legal Research Training and the Dissertation module (60 credits). You must select at least 3 taught specialist modules to the value of 60 credits from the list of module specialisms (see below). These required modules may vary slightly from year to year, and are chosen because of their particular contemporary relevance to the specialism of International Human Rights Law.

The remaining 60 credits may be taken from any master's programme offered by the school. This includes modules in Business and Commercial Law and Medicine and Healthcare Law. Optional modules are also available on methodology topics such as Socio-Legal Methods, Socio-Legal Theory, Quantitative Methods, Interviewing, Observation and Focus Groups.

Your dissertation is researched and written during semester 3. The process of preparing the dissertation is supported by legal research training in semester 1, by a dissertation workshop and library training in semester 2, and by individual supervision during semester 3.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (LAW511)	20
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLANNING (LAW506)	20
LGBTQ+ RIGHTS (LAW555)	20

Optional modules	Credits
PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (LAW563)	20
THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EUROPE (LAW573)	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

All students must take Legal Research Training and the Dissertation module (60 credits). You must select at least 3 taught specialist modules to the value of 60 credits from the list of module specialisms (see below). These required modules may vary slightly from year to year, and are chosen because of their particular contemporary relevance to the specialism of International Human Rights Law.

The remaining 60 credits may be taken from any master's programme offered by the school. This includes modules in Business and Commercial Law and Medicine and Healthcare Law. Optional modules are also available on methodology topics such as Socio-Legal Methods, Socio-Legal Theory, Quantitative Methods, Interviewing, Observation and Focus Groups.

Your dissertation is researched and written during semester 3. The process of preparing the dissertation is supported by legal research training in semester 1, by a dissertation workshop and library training in semester 2, and by individual supervision during semester 3.

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Modules

Optional modules	Credits
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (LAW508)	20
INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (LAW521)	20

Optional modules	Credits
LAW AND GLOBAL HEALTH (LAW522)	20
CLIMATE JUSTICE (LAW558)	20
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE LAW: THEORY AND PRACTICE (LAW562)	20
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY (LAW564)	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Your dissertation is researched and written during semester 3.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (LAW540)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching methods depend upon the module but most modules are taught via in-person seminars on campus. Each module will normally have a two-hour weekly seminar for a small group of students. You will have reading and other tasks to prepare for each seminar; independent study is an important part of your learning at this level. Online resources and

exercises, group work and presentations all help to ensure that you develop a strong set of transferrable skills.

How you're assessed

In semesters one and two, you will take modules totalling 120 credits. Your dissertation, completed over the summer, is worth 60 credits. You are required to complete 180 credits to achieve a full LLM.

Assessment takes different formats depending on each module's learning objectives. Many modules have two assessments: a smaller piece of work, such as a case commentary or plan, mid-way through the module, followed by a more substantial essay at the end. Semester one modules are formally assessed in January, while semester two assessments take place in May and June.

Your 12,000-word dissertation is completed during the summer period (July to September). You will receive legal research training and be assigned an expert supervisor, ensuring you are fully prepared and supported throughout the process.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

Careers and employability

Our LLM in International Human Rights Law provides rigorous training in legal analysis and develops critical thinking, independent research and project management skills. This programme prepares you not only for a career in legal practice but also for roles in international organisations, civil society, academia and other professional fields where expertise in human rights law is valued.

Recent graduates have gone on to pursue careers in:

- Leading law firms
- Doctoral research and academia
- Education
- Civil service
- Civil society organisations
- International courts and tribunals, including the International Criminal Court and the European Court of Human Rights
- Global institutions such as the United Nations

You'll have access to a wide range extra-curricular opportunities including networking, skills and research events, as well as our extensive employability programme. We organise visits from professionals and researchers working in international human rights and encourage you to actively engage with the department's [International Law and Human Rights Unit](#), the [Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law Unit](#) and the [European Children's Rights Unit](#). Students are also supported in taking part in external mooted competitions, gaining practical experience and enhancing their professional skills.

The School of Law and Social Justice has a traineeship agreement with the European Court of Human Rights, giving our LLM students the opportunity to compete for an internship in Strasbourg.

This LLM equips you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue a fulfilling career in international human rights law, social justice or related professional fields, while also providing an ideal foundation for further postgraduate research.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

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Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Law (BA or LLB) or a closely related subject, including Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy, International Relations, Banking, Management Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences and Economics.

Applicants are considered on the basis of academic ability, potential and other relevant considerations are also taken into account. Applicants who have marginally missed the benchmark indicated above are considered on a discretionary basis.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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