

Quality Assurance

Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice Programme Specification: Postgraduate

Information for students: the programme specification is the definitive document summarising the structure and content of your degree programme. It is reviewed and updated every year as part of Keele's Curriculum Annual Review and Development process. The document aims to clarify to potential and current students what you can expect from the study of the subject over the course of your programme.

This programme specification applies to students starting the programme from September 2017 onwards.

Names of programme(s) and award title(s)	MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice PGDip in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice PGCert in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice
Mode of study	Full time / part time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Master of Arts (MA); Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip); Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
Duration:	One year full time / two years part time

Details of professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) (if appropriate):

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/professionalstatutoryregulatorybodies/>

External Examiner(s) names: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

1. What is the philosophy of the Programme?

In light of ongoing international problems such as war, famine, intervention, poverty and discrimination against vulnerable people, the language of human rights and justice play a highly significant role in an increasingly globalised world. However, the universal nature of human rights and justice is found increasingly controversial, given cultural, ethnic and other forms of diversity. Responding to these critical debates, Keele's postgraduate programme in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice provides a distinct practical and theoretical exploration of human rights law and philosophy as well as the politics thereof at domestic, regional and international levels. It embeds this study in a keen awareness of issues of social justice and economic globalisation.

Developed by the Law School and the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations & Environment (SPIRE), the programme provides a reflective analysis of the theoretical foundations of human rights and addresses the challenges of interdisciplinary analysis. It also engages with discourses on equality, discrimination and minority rights; global trade, trafficking and economic law in an era of globalisation; and the politics of violence and terror in contemporary global politics. In combination, these areas of study provide distinct and important insight into high-profile human rights issues in the contemporary world.

The course aims:

The primary aim of the MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice is to provide students with an intensive period of study in which to develop practical and theoretical knowledge of human rights law, politics and philosophy, at domestic, regional and international levels. The course also aims to provide key critical perspectives on human rights theory and practice, drawing in particular on feminist and subaltern critiques to engage with issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, ethnicity, religion and power in relation to human rights realisation.

In terms of objectives, the course should equip students with the knowledge and skills to enable them to:

- Demonstrate critical awareness of the social and political contexts in which human rights law, politics and practices operate.
- Appraise human rights law at domestic, regional and international levels.
- Evaluate the political underpinnings of human rights law, philosophy and practice.
- Develop awareness of relevant literature on key critical perspectives on human rights theory and practice, and the ability to reflect critically upon this literature.
- Develop subject specific knowledge and skills as well as transferable skills.
- Retrieve, sift, and select extensive legal and non-legal documentary materials and to extract from them the material points to an advanced level.
- Enhance their intellectual and analytical skills in order to interrogate practical problems and to justify decisions.

- Enhance their written and oral communication skills.
- Develop strategies for self-directed study and time management, which enable them to demonstrate the ability to work independently in a coherent, focused and productive way.
- Engage in an informed and reasoned way with current debates relating to human rights law, politics and practice.
- For the MA, demonstrate a thorough knowledge of a particular issue or topic and the ability to produce a substantial piece of original research.
- Develop a life-long commitment to learning, through on-going critical enquiry of themselves and their environment.

By the end of the programme, graduates of this programme would be expected to have gained:

- Detailed knowledge of a range of human rights issues, and particularly of legal and non-legal theories, principles and methods.
- An ability to analyse critically concepts and theories from diverse interdisciplinary perspectives, particularly of Law, Politics, International Relations, Economics and Philosophy.
- A critical awareness of the social and political contexts in which human rights law, philosophy and practices operate.
- Subject-specific and non-subject-specific research skills, particularly those demanded by extended self-study in the dissertation component of the programme.
- An informed and reasoned analysis of current debates relating to human rights law, politics and practices.
- A capacity to evaluate evidence and respond constructively to criticism and alternative arguments.
- A life-long commitment to learning, through on-going critical inquiry of themselves and their environment.

How does the programme equip students for further study or employment?

The programme is designed to enable recent graduates to develop subject-specific and broader capacities relevant to many professions. Participation in the programme encourages attributes such as creative problem-solving, effective communication, independent and autonomous thought and a critical appreciation of the global and environmental implications of one's studies. Whilst many students will have developed these abilities in their day-to-day working lives, they have the opportunity to deepen them significantly by taking this programme. In particular, the programme encourages students to locate, evaluate and synthesise complex and potentially conflicting information. These skills enable students to proceed to further academic study, such as doctoral research, and are relevant to practical work in the field of human rights, such as NGOs, civil service and diplomacy, legal advocacy or in broader-based care-work for victims of human rights violations. In sum, the course would enrich students' professional lives, and prepare graduates for further study or work in governmental and non-governmental organisations, human development agencies and voluntary sector.

Graduate Attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to further develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Whilst you will undoubtedly have already developed these skills and abilities to varying degrees, such existing capabilities can always be deepened and enriched. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to develop further as a well-rounded postgraduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in during and after your studies at Keele. Please refer to the programme webpages for a statement of how you can achieve the Keele Graduate Attributes through full engagement in the programme and other educational opportunities at Keele. Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

2. How is the Programme taught?

The modules are taught between September and April, and the dissertation is submitted in the following September. Modules are taught during semesters 1 and 2, with a 2-hour seminar per week. Following the conventional University academic calendar will enable the students to further engage with University life and with the myriad curricular and extra-curricular activities offered by the University throughout the year.

The programme consists of 3 core modules and 5 elective modules from the School of Law and SPIRE (School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations & Environment). Allowing the students to engage with a broad range of elective modules strengthens the interdisciplinary nature of the Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice Programme.

Full-time Masters students complete the programme in one academic year. Part-time students undertake the taught modules during one year and their dissertation in the following year, thereby taking two years in total to complete the degree.

Programme Team:

The programme is delivered by a group of academics at Keele with diverse, interdisciplinary and international teaching interests and significant research expertise. The majority of teaching is undertaken by staff from the School of Law and SPIRE. Individual staff biographies can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/law/people/academicstaff/>

The teaching programme is further enhanced by lectures by guest speakers from the School of Law, SPIRE and external speakers (e.g. in the past we had Peter Gooderham, the United Kingdom Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, as well as people working in human rights NGOs and researchers in the field).

The 3 core modules of the Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice Programme provide a distinctive overview of human rights theory and practice and the politics of human rights and justice in an era of globalisation. The first, 'Foundations of Human Rights', provides an important background which explores historical, philosophical and structural aspects of human rights, including different models of legal, political and philosophical inquiry. This introductory module is followed by 'Equality, Discrimination and Minorities', which focuses on conceptual and institutional efforts regarding equality, non-discrimination and vulnerable communities, and which builds themes of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, gender, religion, and caste/descent in topical case studies. Module Three, 'Human Rights and Global Politics', further develops connections between global and local responses to contemporary human rights issues, focusing on strategies to advance human rights in the context of political violence and terror, whilst critically engaging with contemporary issues and phenomena such as 'humanitarian interventionism' and the debate around development and security in the global south. All three core modules are assessed via student presentation and a 3,000-word essay.

3. What is the Structure of the Programme?

The MA requires 180 credits, made up of taught modules (120 credits) and a 60-credit dissertation.

The 120 modules credit consists of the following:

- 3 core modules, 15 credits each (45 credits altogether)
- 5 elective modules, 15 credits each (75 credits altogether), chosen from SPIRE and the School of Law (students should enrol on at least 2 elective modules from each school).

The Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice 15-credit core modules are:

- Module One: Foundations of Human Rights
- Module Two: Equality, Discrimination and Minorities
- Module three: Human Rights in Global Politics

All students must take the core modules in order to graduate.

Successfully completing the 3 core modules and 4-5 electives (overall 120 credits) results in a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)

Successfully completing the 3 core modules and 1 elective (overall 60 credits) results in Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

Students may take elective modules from the School of Law and SPIRE after consultation with the programme directors. Potential modules include (subject to availability):

School of Law Modules:

- Introduction to International Economic Law (15 credits)
- Foundations of International Law (15 credits)
- Community Outreach and Socio-Legal Advocacy (30 credits)
- International Law and Human Rights (15 credits)
- International Environmental Law (15 credits)
- International Humanitarian Law (15 credits)

SPIRE Modules:

- Perspectives in International Relations (15 credits)
- The Changing International Agenda (15 credits)
- War, Memory and Popular Culture (15 credits)
- The Theory of Global Security (15 credits)
- Diplomatic Law (15 credits)
- Right-Wing Radical Parties (15 credits)
- Rethinking Fault-Lines beyond the East-West Divide in Global Politics (15 credits)

Students must not take more than 75 credits in one semester. Full-time students should take all taught modules in the first year.

Students taking the MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice write 7-8 module essays and a dissertation of 15,000-20,000 words. The dissertation is a self-study project, although ample assistance and support are provided throughout the process. The Dissertation Coordinator encourages students to develop an initial research proposal by December, which outlines the main themes of the project and the core literature to be addressed. Students are then assigned a supervisor, who reads the work and provides oral and written feedback. A dissertation workshop is normally held in the early summer, providing a lively opportunity for students to present their work-in-progress and receive feedback from the teaching team.

Credits cannot be awarded for the dissertation module unless all the required taught modules (120 credits comprised of the 3 core plus elective modules, as specified above) are successfully completed and passed.

The distinct structure of the programme:

When compared with similar programmes in other UK Universities, it is evident that the structure of the Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice programme is distinct in two related aspects. First, it the largest credit weighting and number of core modules (3 modules, overall 45 credits). Second, the core modules are genuinely interdisciplinary. They are specially designed for the Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice programme; they bring together various schools of thought, and they are taught by different lecturers from the School of Law and SPIRE. Thus, the interdisciplinary nature of the programme is not only expressed in offering the students different elective modules which are taught in different departments, but also in offering the students tailored modules which offer an interdisciplinary approach to the subject of human rights, globalisation and justice.

Learning Outcome	Module where delivered	Principal forms of assessment
Appraise and evaluate a range of human rights issues, and particularly a range of legal and non-legal theories, principles and methodologies.	All taught modules.	Assessed essays and presentations.
Analyse critically legal principles and institutions from the diverse interdisciplinary perspectives of Law, Politics, International Relations and Philosophy.	All taught modules.	Assessed essays and presentations.
Critical awareness of the social contexts in which human rights philosophy and practices operate.	All taught modules, electives and dissertation module.	Assessed essays and dissertation.
Subject-specific and non-subject-specific research skills, particularly those demanded by extended self-study in the dissertation.	All taught modules, electives and dissertation module.	Assessed essays and dissertation.
An informed and reasoned evaluation of debates relating to human rights law, politics and practices.	All taught modules.	Assessed essays and formative (non-mark-bearing) assessments such as essay plans.
A capacity to evaluate evidence and respond constructively to criticism and alternative arguments.	All taught modules; dissertation planning and workshop.	Formative (non-mark-bearing) assessments such as essay plans; Presentations for dissertation workshop.
A life-long commitment to learning, through on-going critical inquiry of themselves and their environment	All aspects of the programme.	All assessments.

Exit Routes:

Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate: Students who prefer not to undertake a dissertation may conclude their studies with a Postgraduate Diploma, if they achieve 120 credits by taking taught modules as indicated above. Alternatively, it is possible to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate, by attaining 60 credits in four modules, which must include the three core modules as indicated above.

4. How is the Programme assessed?

The MA programme is assessed on the basis of 7-8 module essays and presentations. In the 3 core modules, the assessment entails a 3,000 word essay (80% of the final mark) and a presentation relating to the essay (20% of the final mark). The assessment regime in the 5 electives from the School of Law and SPIRE varies and depends on the specific assessment of each module. The objective of having both written essays and presentations as summative assignments is to further equip the student with practical skills (e.g., communications skills, ability to articulate oneself in a clear and constructive way), which will be extremely useful for both students wishing to continue onto doctoral studies and practitioners.

The programme is also assessed by a dissertation of 15,000-20,000 words. The assessment format may vary in elective modules, but coursework is generally marked out of 100. Through essay writing, students demonstrate their interdisciplinary perception of particular themes in human rights law and theory, justice and globalisation. The dissertation invites students to utilise their research skills in a sustained and autonomous manner, and is assessed according to the quality of its critical reflection and research and investigative skills. Significantly, ideas central to the dissertation are developed through workshop presentations. Whilst they are not assessed, the presentations assist students to form their key arguments in conversation with students and staff.

5. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

The MA is open to all students with a first or second class honours degree in Law, Politics, Philosophy or a cognate discipline, such as Economics, Criminology, Sociology, or Anthropology. Applicants with substantial work experience instead of traditional qualifications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Normally, students whose first language is not English, and who have not previously studied in English, require a pre-sessional English Language qualification of a suitable standard. The normal requirement is an IELTS result at a minimum grade of 6.5, or an equivalent score in other testing systems. Students are also required to provide 2 satisfactory academic references.

6. How are students supported on the programme?

The Course Directors oversee the progress of all students, and may be approached on any issue, including for personal issues and for feedback on assignments. In addition, each student is assigned a Personal Tutor, who tends in practice to be the student's 'first contact' regarding personal or academic matters. Module convenors provide academic support by commenting on essay plans in person or via email, and by supplying written feedback on assignments. Members of the course team also provide consistent contact by email and telephone, which is particularly valuable for students based at a distance from Keele. Additionally, the first module's session on Study Skills provides academic support in the form of guidance on essay writing, good academic practice, referencing and the avoidance of plagiarism. Members of the course team liaise frequently to discuss further support for students experiencing difficulties with assignments. All students have the chance to meet the Course Team, and in particular their Personal Tutor, at the start of the programme. Throughout the programme all have access to a Postgraduate Study Room in Law School, which provides a key forum for informal discussion and debate.

Students whose first language is not English are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. Following diagnostic English language assessment, students may be required or recommended to take English language classes offered by the Language Centre. In addition to modules on English for academic study, students have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice. Any student, international or otherwise, can request a 30 min 1-1 session if they need it. Students requiring English language support (on testing) will be allocated to one or two of the following modules:

- ENL-40001: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1 - semester 1
- ENL-40004: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1-B - semester 2
- ENL-40002: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 2 - semester 1 or 2

For students required to undertake these English Language modules, determination of progression to the dissertation module (as outlined above) will include an evaluation of the student's engagement and performance on the respective English Language modules

7. Learning Resources

Each module on the MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice is supported by a virtual learning environment (the 'KLE'). The KLE contains digitalised texts and links to readings located in the University library's extensive electronic catalogue. Outlines of teaching sessions and further reading lists are also available via the KLE, with references to books, journal articles and legal cases available either in traditional text-based format or in digital form. Each module's KLE is made available prior to the teaching dates to enable pre-course reading, allowing students to become familiar with module themes in advance. In addition, the KLE provides possibilities for student group discussion boards and on-line blogs.

Postgraduate Taught students within the School of Law have access to a dedicated, recently re-refurbished room on the second floor of the School. This is equipped with networked pcs, an adjustable workstation and a meeting table. It's an ideal space for postgraduate students to work in the School between classes, either as an individual or within groups. All teaching for the programme takes place in the recently opened Moot Room, which provides a high-quality learning environment, including access to laptops within the study session.

University Library

Students have full access to the University library databases and print materials, and are issued with a Library Card. More information about library facilities may be found at the University Library's website: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/library/support/>. Students may apply for readings that are not available at Keele on the University's inter-library loan service.

Computer Facilities

For information about IT Services please consult the IT Services website: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>. IT Services is located in the library building and is responsible for the computing infrastructure in the university and for the support of all staff and students undertaking academic computing tasks. There are a large number of 'open access' PCs available for students. All student PCs use a standard platform, which includes software such as Microsoft Office, web browsers, and other standard applications students may need. Printing facilities are available in the library building. Students must ensure that they have read form CC.03, which is the Conditions of use of the Computer Facilities. Opening Hours: in order to check if the computer facilities and the Help Desk are open, students should telephone: 01782 733636 or 733838. Further information can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>

8. Other learning opportunities

Keele is a vibrant academic community which regularly hosts guest speakers, public lectures and research seminars. The majority of these seminars are available to students on this programme, and provide an important means to develop ideas through informal interaction with staff and students. Email notification is provided to all students regarding seminar programmes held during the year. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to apply for an Internship at the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Internships will be offered to 1-3 students, following an interview.

9. Quality management and enhancement

The Course Directors are responsible for the overall management of the programme, and, in collaboration with the teaching team, ensure numerous methods to review teaching and learning practices, assessment, the curriculum and marking standards. These mechanisms include liaising with the External Examiner, who is appointed by Keele's Senate Committee in compliance with the University's guidance and procedures. The External Examiner is a senior member of a different university, and participates at the programme's Board of Examiners. The External Examiner's role includes approving all assignment questions, seeing all fail and first class assignments and all assignments falling on a borderline between two classes (i.e. 2.1 and 2.2), and all dissertations. The External Examiner also reviews the programme's structure and management and makes recommendations on assessment procedures. All written assignments for modules are marked by the module coordinator, and a representative sample is second marked, including all essays falling below the pass mark. All dissertations are second marked. Staff appraisals are regularly carried out; and all members of teaching staff undertake teaching qualifications such as Keele's 'Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Programme' (TLHEP), or other comparable qualifications. A Student-Staff Consultative Committee for all Post-Graduate Taught students within the Law School is chaired by a student representative twice a year, and is attended by students and the teaching team. Students also have the opportunity to express their views in an evaluation form after each module, in which they are invited to comment on all aspects of the teaching curriculum. This feedback is reviewed at a Course Tutors' meetings, at which ideas for future improvements to the programme are considered. Issues raised by students are also taken by the Course Directors to the Taught Postgraduate Committee, which includes the Director of Postgraduate Studies and Directors of all postgraduate programmes in the Law School.

10. The principles of programme design

The MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice builds on significant research and teaching strengths in the Law School and SPIRE. It is designed to complement the University's Learning and Teaching assessment strategies, extending the University's emphasis on interdisciplinarity and internationalisation in the undergraduate curriculum to postgraduate studies. The programme's structure reflects the University's commitment to providing flexible learning environments for both recent graduates and students with substantial professional experience. It aims to develop varied skills and capacities in a dynamic learning environment, using multi-media resources and drawing on significant research and teaching expertise, in a manner that complies with the Quality Assurance Agency's standards for Higher Education programmes, such as its Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

11. Programme Version History

Version History	Date	CHANGES / NOTES
Date first created	5 March 2014	
Revision history	15 Nov 2016	For 17/18: Minor updates and revisions to text (e.g. electives, SPIRE's new name), plus inclusion of Language Centre provision, but no fundamental changes.
	15 June 2017	Altered Learning Outcomes to comply with approved terminology.
Date approved	15 June 2017	
	31 Jan 2017	FLTC
	27 June 2017	FLTC