



University College  
Stockholm

# Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democracy

120 higher education credits (Two Years)

Master i mänskliga rättigheter och demokrati  
120 högskolepoäng

Enskilda Högskolan Stockholm  
Avdelningen för mänskliga rättigheter och demokrati

University College Stockholm  
Stockholm School of Human Rights

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## Programme Syllabus

## Decision statement and change log

The programme syllabus is determined by the Commission for Human Rights and Democracy on 18-05-2020 with responsibility for education on advanced level at the School of Human Rights and Democracy. The change log shows when the programme syllabus was last revised and what type of revision was carried out.

<b>Decision maker</b>	<b>Decision date</b>	<b>Period of validity</b>	<b>Document type</b>
Commission for Human Rights and Democracy	2020-05-18 *2020-06-09 (update) *2020-08-19 (update) *2022-10-26 (update)	2021-08-0 - onwards	Programme Syllabus

## **Name of the program**

Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democracy

## **Level**

Advanced level education

## **Duration**

Two-year 120 ECTS credits

## **1. Goals**

### **1.1. Description of the Education on Advanced Level**

The M. A. Programme in Human Rights and Democracy provides students with advanced knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary human rights studies, with a specialization in the relation between human rights and democracy. The programme examines the history, theoretical development and practical realization of norms pertaining to human rights and democracy. It provides students with a solid grounding in how these norms – and the practical issues they stimulate – are addressed especially within the fields of law, philosophy and politics as well as other social sciences. The programme also offers students excellent possibilities to improve their transferable skills in areas like project planning and evaluation, problem-solving, professional writing and oral presentation.

The programme is an international programme, organized on a two-year basis (120 higher education credits). The programme, which is on a full time schedule, is accessible for both foreign and Swedish students and is taught on site in Bromma, Stockholm. The language of instruction is English.

The programme provides knowledge that is valuable in a number of different professional sectors where expertise in human rights and democracy is necessary, including national and international institutions, private companies and non-governmental organizations. The education is carried out in an international environment and provides students with opportunities to cultivate skills in intercultural communication. The education can also serve as preparation for doctoral studies in human rights and a number of related fields within the humanities and social sciences.

## **1.2. Objectives according to national degree description**

### **Knowledge and understanding**

For the master's degree, the student should:

- demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary human rights studies, with a specialization in the relation between human rights and democracy, as well as deep insight into current research and practice.
- demonstrate advanced knowledge of methodology in interdisciplinary human rights studies

### **Skills and Abilities**

For the master's degree, the student should:

- demonstrate the ability to critically integrate knowledge and to analyze, assess and manage complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information;
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues for research, to plan and execute qualified tasks within given time frames, thereby contributing to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability, in both national and international contexts, to clearly and verbally and in writing give an account of and discuss conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that underlie them in dialogue with different groups;
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in human rights research and practice, or to work independently in other qualified activities.

### **Evaluation ability and approach**

For the master's degree, the student should:

- demonstrate the ability to make judgments with regard to relevant scholarly, social and ethical aspects within Human Rights and Democracy and show an awareness of ethical aspects of human rights research and practice;
- show insight into the possibilities and limitations of the current topic, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used;
- demonstrate the ability to identify needs for additional knowledge and to take responsibility for further knowledge development.

## 2. Programme

The programme provides a qualified and substantially in-depth education in Human Rights and Democracy and includes four semester studies for the Master's degree.

The courses consist of extensive reading and written-assignments, in combination with lectures, seminars and practical exercises. Lectures at the master's level provide significantly broadened and in-depth perspectives and insights, while seminar exercises aim to train the student to make independent, creative and critical assessments, as well as to independently and flexibly distinguish, formulate and solve qualified problems. The studies conclude with a degree project of 30 higher education credits.

### **Overall structure and progression**

The first semester consists of three courses introducing different academic perspectives on human rights and democracy, including philosophy, history, law, politics and other social sciences. The first semester also includes one course that gives students an opportunity to develop applied skills for working with human rights and democracy, including project development, management and evaluation.

The second semester consists of an advanced clinic course and a course on current issues in human rights and democracy. The clinic course allows students to improve the practical skills necessary for working professionally with human rights and democracy, including project management and report writing. The course on current issues allows to students to integrate different concepts and perspectives from earlier courses in the study of one or two thematic issues.

The third semester includes an advanced course on research methodology and theories of science, a course which also aims to introduce current academic debates related to the study of human rights and democracy. It also includes a graduate seminar course where students read intensively on a topic related to research currently taking place at the University College Stockholm.

The final semester consists of a graduate project (M.A. thesis), where students bring their previous studies to bear on a subject of their choosing that is of relevance to the academic study of human rights and democracy.

For a schematic layout of the courses in the academic year, see appendix 1.

### **3. Exam**

The programme leads to a Master's Degree (M. A.) in Human Rights with a focus on Human Rights and Democracy. The master's degree is obtained after the student has completed the course requirements for 120 higher education credits.

The master's degree must include a degree project on 30 higher education credits in the same subject and chosen profile.

30 higher education credits from another relevant area can be included in the degree. 30 higher education credits from undergraduate level can be included in the degree.

### **4. Eligibility**

For admission to the programme:

- The applicant must have a Bachelor's degree in human rights studies or another related field in social or political science, law or the humanities. Students with undergraduate degrees in the natural sciences, engineering or medicine may be also be admitted subject to their ability to demonstrate a proficiency in human rights, for instance through professional or voluntary work or activity.
- If English is not the applicant's native language, his or her language proficiency is to be demonstrated by e.g. IELTS test, TOEFL test, Cambridge/Oxford test, a Bachelor's degree from a study programme taught entirely in English, or a passing grade in English 6 from Swedish upper secondary school.
- The applicant must submit a CV, as well as a letter of intent (ca 700 words) describing his or her academic and professional qualifications, academic and professional aspirations and reasons for applying to the programme. The letter of intent should also include a description of the applicant's experience in academic writing, such as previous student theses.

The selection is based on an assessment of the applicants' suitability and expected ability to benefit from the programme.

### **5. Examination**

Written exams, PMs (written assignments), various forms of seminars, practical and degree projects are used as examinations. Examination of degree project (30 credits) consists of a written thesis, defense of the thesis, critical examination of another student's thesis and active participation in thesis seminars.

## **6. Grades**

Unless otherwise stated in the syllabus for a particular course, one of the terms A = Excellent, B = Very good, C = Good, D = Satisfactory, E = Sufficient, FX = Insufficient, F = Insufficient must be used as grades. Those who pass the tests cannot resit for a higher grade.

# Appendix 1: Schematic layout of the courses in the academic year

## Semester 1

- Human Rights and Democracy as Ideas in History (7,5 credits)
- The Law of Human Rights and Democracy (7,5 credits)
- The Politics and Practice of Human Rights and Democracy (7,5 credits)
- Human Rights and Democracy Clinic, part I (7,5 hp credits)

## Semester 2

- Human Rights and Democracy Clinic, Part II (15 credits)
- Current issues in Human Rights and Democracy (15 credits)

## Semester 3

- Researching Human Rights and Democracy (15 credits)
- Graduate Seminar in Current Research on Human Rights and Democracy (15 credits)

## Semester 4

- Degree Project (30 credits)