

Admission requirements

Admission to the program is based on:

- a university law degree or equivalent qualification
- adequate ability in the English language
- a high level of motivation to participate in the program
- previous practical experience (exemptions are possible)
- the support of two independent referees

Applications

Written applications should be made on the official form (see our website) and be accompanied by all required documents.

Fee

The Master's Program is subject to a tuition fee. The Viadrina assists applicants in financial need wherever possible, especially in efforts to obtain financial support from external sources.

Further information and contact

For all enquiries please check our website:
www.rewi.europa-uni.de/master-ihl

or contact:

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The Viadrina European University

The Viadrina was founded in 1991, continuing the fine tradition of the first State University of Brandenburg (Alma Mater Viadrina, 1506-1811). It is made up of 3 Faculties (Law, Economics and Cultural Studies). It also co-conducts the Collegium Polonicum in Ślubice, located in Poland directly across the River Oder from the Viadrina. The Viadrina especially endeavours to face the challenge of a newly open and expanding Europe, building a bridge between Eastern and Western Europe. As well the University has numerous partner institutions around the world.

Frankfurt (Oder) and environs

Frankfurt (Oder) is a city with a history stretching over more than 750 years. The beautiful and well preserved mediaeval town hall and the gothic church of St Mary, the largest religious brick building in northern Germany, together with other historical buildings reveal the former power, wealth and culture of this centre of Hanseatic trade.

Located in a green setting on a picturesque river, Frankfurt (Oder) is surrounded by the typical meadow, forest and lake countryside of Brandenburg on the eastern border of Germany. Not far away lie the superb regions of the Spreewald with its beautiful forests and the Märkische Schweiz dotted with charming lakes set in undulating verdant country.

The city is situated on the western bank of the River Oder which forms a major part of the German-Polish border. With its Polish neighbour, Ślubice, the city provides the rare and immediate experience of a genuinely cross-border city. Berlin, the German capital and vibrant metropolis, lying virtually in the centre of Europe, is only an hour away. Immediately to the east of Frankfurt (Oder) are the many fine, historical towns and varied landscapes of Poland.



Protection of the individual under international law in times of peace and war



Master of
International Human Rights
and Humanitarian Law

This postgraduate program offers advanced study of the international protection of fundamental human rights. General human rights protection in times of both peace and war is integrated with the special protection of rights provided in situations of armed conflict (under international humanitarian law). This is important as the boundary between peace and war becomes increasingly blurred (for example through guerrilla activity, terrorism, military activity during civil unrest or natural disasters, activities of mercenary forces, or humanitarian intervention and peace-keeping missions). Rigid and dogmatic attempts to identify situations where international humanitarian law does or does not apply and how it interacts with the generally applicable regime of human rights protection can therefore be problematic and may even be counter-productive. As well, the place of human rights as a foundation of democracy and of stable and just governance is emphasised in the program. Threats such as terrorism or climate change are therefore also considered. The program thus embraces the full range of international law responses to challenges to human rights and of the systems of individual protection in diverse political, social, economic, geographical and military situations. Emphasis is placed on promoting and developing:

- comprehensive knowledge of international systems for the protection of the individual;
- in-depth knowledge of legally binding international guarantees of rights and their enforcement through remedial regimes;
- practical skills in applying international standards of protection (especially through international court proceedings, factual investigation and conflict resolution);
- skills and procedures in undertaking academic investigation and research, including report preparation; and
- intercultural communication and knowledge transfer.

The LLM program prepares graduates for career opportunities in policy making, international, public and governmental service, public and private legal practice, work in NGOs, academic teaching and research, and in the military, defence and policing sectors.

Degree awarded, commencement, duration

Program graduates are awarded the degree of Master of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LLM).

Studies commence in the winter semester and summer semester. Normal enrolment is for three semesters (variations are considered in special cases). Shorter periods of study can lead to the award of either a Certificate or a Diploma of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Curriculum

The language of instruction is English. The program content is organised into three categories:

Category 1: Compulsory core modules

- General foundations
- Civil and political rights
- Economic, social and cultural rights
- Prohibition of discrimination
- Women's and children's rights
- Rights of minorities and indigenous peoples
- Refugees, internally displaced persons and migration
- Individual (criminal) responsibility and state responsibility

Category 2: Elective modules (theory and skills)

- Justice and (criminal) penalties and enforcement
- Democracy, rule of law and administration
- Global economic and employment conditions
- Media and science
- Conflict prevention/management
- Administration and enforcement
- Interest representation and advocacy
- Research and training

The compulsory and elective modules consist of both presence and distance-learning elements. The presence elements are based on small-group teaching. Distance-learning is conducted via an internet platform providing for interactive study.

Category 3: Practical experience and thesis

Students are required to undertake a relevant internship. This practical component provides a bridge between academic study of human rights and later professional activity, thus assisting flexible career choices. Students

also prepare and defend a Master's thesis on an approved topic, supervised by one or more members of the Master's Faculty or by another approved expert.

Students

The Master's program is open to graduates with sufficient background in law, especially public international law. It is designed to meet the needs of people establishing or developing careers in human rights whether internationally, regionally or nationally. Students are selected on a competitive basis.

Faculty

The teaching faculty for the degree program consists of highly qualified human rights teachers and experts from many different countries and varied academic traditions.

The teachers are members of the Viadrina Faculty of Law and its partner universities as well as lawyers in professional practice, including:

Dr. Therese Comodini Cachia, University of Malta
Prof. Dr. Daniel García San José, Universidad de Sevilla
Prof. Pablo Pareja Alcaraz, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Dr. Jonas Grimheden, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Heintze, Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict, Bochum
Bernard Dougherty, German Red Cross
Dr. Ulrike Brandl, Institute for International Law and International Organisations, University of Salzburg
Prof. Michael Geistlinger, Paris Lodron University Salzburg
Prof. Christopher Harding University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Prof. Ryszard Piotrowicz, University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Prof. Gerard C. Rowe, Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder)
Prof. Dr. Carmen Thiele, Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder)
Prof. Dr. Kocher, Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder)
Prof. Dr. Wolff Heintschel von Heinegg, Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder)
Prof. Dr. Lars Kirchhoff, Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder)