

**Kingston
University**
London

Human Rights BA(Hons)

joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/humanrights



Human Rights BA(Hons)

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The idea of human rights has assumed an important position in domestic and international politics since the end of World War II. At the same time, it remains a very controversial subject that has provoked intense debates on military intervention to protect human rights, the diverse understandings of human rights, and the ways in which they should be enforced.

Our programme

Our course offers a distinctive approach to the study of human rights, and has, as its founding aim, the development of a critical approach to:

- the history of human rights;
- the theory of human rights in politics and international relations; and
- the practice of human rights in politics and international relations.

The course aims to develop your capacity to think critically about the status and protection of individuals and groups, and will enable you to associate the theoretical and practical possibilities of human rights with the dangers of the past, present and future. It is designed to help you explore the global issues of human rights and examine how they can be enforced and defended.

Important recent debates have centred on questions such as:

- Who decides that something is a human right?
- Do women have the right to control their own fertility?
- Was it right for NATO to intervene in Libya in 2011?
- Is it acceptable to violate some people's human rights to protect us from terrorism?
- Can military force be used to protect human rights?
- Do human beings have a right to sufficient food and adequate shelter?
- How do we prevent human rights abuse?

These are just a few of the complex questions students on the Human Rights BA(Hons) course are likely to examine. If these sound interesting and you would enjoy studying in a young and vibrant department, then this is the course for you! Studying human rights at Kingston will help you to develop the knowledge and critical thinking skills to help you formulate your opinions and find your own answers to these questions.

Teaching, assessment and student support

The course is taught through a mixture of lectures, seminars and workshops, and there is a strong emphasis on debate and discussion throughout. Students are assessed in a number of different ways, including portfolios of reflections on their work, presentations, essays and examinations.

Many of the issues covered are contentious, and the debates on these questions can change very quickly as new challenges to human rights appear. There is therefore an expectation that students bring an awareness of current events to the classroom and are prepared to engage with unfolding events.

A degree is a major commitment, and we work very hard to provide students with the help they need to succeed. Compared with other universities, we provide high levels of contact with academic staff in terms of class contact time and in our office hours – we will be introducing a personal tutor system in 2012–2013 to provide a consistent source and advice throughout your University career.

From our induction programme in your first year, to support with dissertations and choosing your future direction in your final period at University, you will have access to learning support and guidance to ensure that, whatever your educational background, you will achieve your full potential.

Careers

The need for human rights workers with a mixed set of skills and well-developed analytical and critical abilities has never been greater, and the competition for these kinds of jobs is intense. Human rights graduates have career opportunities that are directly related to their degree and, more generally, reflect their knowledge and skills across policy, law and communication.

- The legal aspects of human rights form a good foundation for law conversion courses and work as human rights lawyers, particularly (but not exclusively) if the course is combined with a half field in criminology.
- Much human rights work now extends far beyond law into advocacy and campaigning, and combinations with journalism and politics will provide a very good basis for going into this line of work.
- The strong research and applied elements of the course also open career opportunities in governmental and NGOs, such as the Home Office, think tanks, political organisations and campaigning groups. If you would like to go on to do postgraduate study, you can choose to complete a one-year MA in Human Rights at Kingston University.



What makes us different?

We are one of the only UK universities that runs a specialist undergraduate human rights course.

Theory meets practice

- The curriculum's unique combination of theory and practice looks at the historical evolution of human rights and how it relates to political theory and international relations, and also at the practical side of human rights NGOs and global campaigns.
- You will be taught by academics and practitioners from a variety of disciplines, eg criminology, economics, politics and international relations.
- Our academics are active researchers and experts in their field, and many work with the Helen Bamber Centre for the Study of Rights, Conflict and Mass Violence. This ensures that insights gained from our research are integrated into our teaching.

- Our team includes a number of practitioners who have worked in the legal field and in human rights NGOs. Their input will help you to meet those on the front line in the struggle for human rights, providing an excellent opportunity for networking.

Innovative teaching and learning

- We are an internationally diverse and relatively young department with a variety of views, perspectives and research interests, and a focus on innovative approaches to teaching.
- There are options for study abroad and work-based learning. In the third year your dissertation will enable you to focus on a specific issue within human rights that interests you.
- The course will also develop transferable skills for life beyond University, eg communication, campaigning and critical thinking.
- Human Rights students are encouraged to participate in the annual Human Rights Festival

hosted by the University's Helen Bamber Centre. The Festival is a week-long series of talks, discussions and debates involving academics, policy makers, journalists and human rights campaigners.

Interdisciplinary approach

- Human rights draws on a variety of research and scholarship from throughout the social sciences, including material written by political scientists, international relations scholars, sociologists, anthropologists, economists and real-world human rights practitioners. This enables graduates to make sense of the differing and rapidly disseminated opinions and viewpoints encountered in the news, in employment and through new social media.
- This joint honours subject enables you to combine human rights with a complementary subject (see overleaf), expanding your intellectual horizons and boosting your employability.

What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study Human Rights as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

The Human Rights Movement: Players and Processes

This module will introduce you to the range of organisations working within the human rights field, what they do and how they do it. Their role in the contemporary world is understood in reference to historical development and current political, social, economic and cultural contexts. Consideration is given to the effectiveness of human rights organisations in providing redress to victims and holding violators to account.

Heroes and Villains

This module examines key figures in the discussion on human rights, both for their positive and negative impact. How have Adolf Hitler, Albert Speer, Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko, Martin Luther King, Anne Frank and Primo Levi influenced the way we think about human rights and the way we understand human wrongs?

Studying Politics

This module introduces different perspectives in the study of politics. It will focus on a significant, contemporary theme, such as globalisation or political power and authority. You will develop critical and analytical skills in reading and reflecting on the diverse arguments of a variety of writers. This module also helps to manage your transition to higher education and to develop some of the core academic skills that you will need.

Year 2

The choice of courses offered in Year 2 allows you to specialise in areas that particularly interest you. You will continue to look at the broader theory and practice of human rights in the second year; in particular, questions of how we hold people to account for violations of human rights and whether it is possible for societies who have fallen victim to human rights abuse to heal and forgive.

Many students also take up the opportunity to study abroad or take advantage of the work placement module in their second year.

Modules include:

- Human Rights in the Contemporary World
- Theories of Justice
- Power, Impunity, Memory and Reconciliation
- Nationalism
- Terrorism in the Modern World
- Latin American Politics,
- Contemporary African Politics
- The Holocaust as History and Controversy
- Apocalypse Now: International Politics goes to the Movies
- Slavery and Race
- Work Placement module

Year 3

Year 3 allows for greater levels of specialisation and builds on the themes encountered in Years 1 and 2. You will carry out a dissertation on a topic of your choice, supervised by a member of the course team with associated research interests. To help prepare for this, you will receive research skills training to introduce you to the key research methods and help support the design of your personal project.

Modules include:

- Research Skills
- Economic and Social Rights
- The Politics of Mass Murder
- Human Rights and Armed Conflict
- Forced Migration and Refugees in International Politics
- Themes in Latin American Politics
- Issues in Political Philosophy
- Politics of Nationalism in the Contemporary Middle East
- Crimes of the Powerful
- Gender and Politics
- Contemporary European Protest Movements

Languages, Work Placement and Study Abroad

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS), providing a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree. If your first language is not English, we offer an English Language module in Year 1, which is designed to assist you with language difficulties.

Work Placement

Kingston Politics students have the opportunity to take a work placement module for credit in Year 2. This allows students to gain valuable work experience and improve their graduate employment prospects while still completing their degree in three years. Students are supported by a member of staff to help ensure that they optimise their experience and skills development.

Studying Abroad

You can also strengthen your language expertise by studying abroad during Year 2. We have links with universities in France, Spain, Hungary and Germany; and Politics and International Relations students regularly spend either one semester or their full second year in one of these partner institutions. Should you wish to study in America or Australia, we also have exchange arrangements with universities in these countries.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the Centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.



Want to know more?
www.kingston.ac.uk/humanrights

Human Rights staff

Teaching is undertaken by both academic staff and human rights lecturer-practitioners.

Dr Paul Auerbach is reader in economics and is now researching the question of whether 'economic growth', as conventionally measured, is a valid indication of economic and social progress. Stephen Bowen is senior lecturer in human rights and was formerly national campaigns director at Amnesty International UK. He is currently director of external affairs at Scope.

Dr Radu Cinpoes specialises in the politics of nationalism and identity. His teaching and research interests include ethnicity and conflict, European politics, transition from communism, human rights and migration.

Dr Jonathan Gilmore specialises in international relations and security studies. His recent research investigated the links between human rights and violent conflict, with specific reference to the question of whether military force can or should be used to protect human rights.

Dr Andy Higginbottom is a senior lecturer in politics and human rights. He teaches the evolution of human rights, themes in Latin American politics and international political economy. His research interests are crimes of the powerful, multinational corporations and human rights, the conflict in Colombia and extractive industries in the Andean region.

Dr Hannah Miller lectures in human rights, international relations and politics. Her research examines the meaning and protection of human rights, with a focus on forms of human rights activism.

Dr Edward Mogire is a research fellow and part-time lecturer in Human Rights. His recent research concerns refugees and security, and he teaches in the area of human rights and armed conflict.

Mike Roberts specialises in social movements, and popular music and political films. His research interests include black music/black nationalism and the politics of Bob Dylan.

Dr Robin Redhead researches human rights in world politics. She is interested in how indigenous people contest their rights against colonial powers, and how human rights activists campaign on behalf of the oppressed.

Professor Philip Spencer has published widely on nationalism, and teaches in the area of Holocaust and genocide studies, and rights and migration.

Dr Julian Wells is a senior lecturer in economics. His previous career includes experience as a journalist and trade union activist. Broad research interests in the history and philosophy of economic thought currently take the form of statistical and computational tests of Marx's theory of value.



"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Supportive community

Our working relationship with our students has always been strong. Kingston's politics students are part of a close knit and supportive community. They are a diverse group, bringing different perspectives, experiences and ideas to the study of politics and international relations.

Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 240–360 points, depending on combination
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: A-level: General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels or equivalent
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English Language and Literature (grade A–C preferred)

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on the course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Joint honours combinations

You can study Human Rights as a major, half or minor field in combination with the following subjects:

- Business
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics (Applied)
- English Language & Communication
- English Literature
- French
- History
- Journalism
- Media & Cultural Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Television & New Broadcasting Media

UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

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Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560
www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding

Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411
www.kingston.ac.uk/international