

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

PG Dip International Human

2018-19 (PDHRP)

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## School of Social Sciences

### Award and programme title: PG Dip International Human Rights Practice

### Level of qualification: Level 7

### Contained awards available:

Award	Title	Level
PGCrt	International Human Rights Practice	7

### Length and status of programme and mode of study

Mode	Tick	Planned duration	Mode	Tick	Planned duration
PG Dip Full-time	x	Sept start: 9 months Jan start: 12 months	PG Dip Part-time	x	Sept start: 20 months Jan start: 24 months

## Course Specification

### Overview and Aims

This award will be located within the Politics & International Relations (PIR) group. PIR takes a holistic approach to global issues of importance for the future of humankind. Our vision and values are: political, applied, global and ethical.

- By Political we mean focussed on common problems, collective and negotiated solutions, grounded in historical and theoretical insights.
- By Applied we mean focussed on real world problems and solutions. This extends from our research output and curriculum to the skills of our graduates, who will not only engage in critical academic thinking, but will be able to work within their environment to make a difference, whether this be through employment, entrepreneurship, activism or public life.
- By Global we mean focussed on global issues such as peace and conflict, climate change, poverty and fairer, more equitable societies; and also in the sense of the universality of our approach – from individual to society, in our personal and professional lives, and from local to global communities
- By Ethical we mean questioning the underlying assumptions and values behind our decisions and actions, and exploring notions of justice, responsibility and accountability in our practice.

The PG Diploma International Human Rights Practice provides students with a rigorous and integrated academic study of human rights law, principles and practice, recognising the strong interrelationship and dependencies of the elements. The award is designed for those who do not wish to undertake a full MA including dissertation, but who wish to benefit from the taught modules to further their career aspirations or fit with work or other constraints. The aims of the programme are to:

- provide an advanced qualification for students wanting to better understand the nature of international human rights in the face of global political, economic, social, legal, ethical and environmental challenges;
- provide knowledge of and an ability to challenge concepts of human rights, and the key global actors and institutions;
- provide opportunities for the development of practical skills necessary to work in organisations confronted by these challenges;
- provide a grounding in research methods relevant to the advanced study of global issues.

The award aims to offer both an extension opportunity for students with an existing undergraduate degree in the broad areas of politics or law, as well as a conversion opportunity for students with degrees in cognate disciplines. It is designed to have core modules which introduce students to essential subject knowledge (International Human Rights Law; Theorising Human Rights) and develop general employability (Developing & Managing Projects). It then provides a range of electives to enable students from different employment backgrounds or aspirations to tailor their award. These include criminal investigations (Human Rights Investigations & Torture), non-violent methods during conflict (Civilian Protection), new security threats to human rights (Security Paradigms), themes of punishment, control, governance and justice (War, Crime & Violence) and the operations of human rights organisations and movements (Human Rights Governance).

### Course Learning Outcomes

1	Demonstrate a systematic and critical awareness of knowledge, current problems and new insights of the study of international human rights, and evaluate with due regard to ethical considerations, relevant research methodologies
2	Evaluate, synthesise and apply advanced and contemporary theories and techniques to a range of complex and open-ended issues, problems and situations within the study of international human rights
3	Apply intellectual, transferable and subject/professional skills to a range of complex and open-ended organisational, political or social problems and situations, and communicate results in appropriate style
4	Learn interdependently and independently and accept responsibility for subsequent career and continuing professional development, appropriate to international human rights practice
5	Demonstrate a critical understanding of contemporary cross-cultural issues, ethical issues and global perspectives appropriate to the study of international human rights practice and apply this to complex cross-cultural interactions

## Course Structure

### Course Structure

Modules at Level 7 will build upon the knowledge and skills acquired during previous undergraduate levels with an emphasis on developing critical awareness of problems, issues and concepts at the forefront of current law, theory, research, policy and practice in international human rights. Students will develop the ability to evaluate and critique methodologies and practice, especially those emergent within the discipline. Students will be expected to demonstrate autonomy and self-direction in tackling and solving problems as well as to develop the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development. Students will study four core modules in Semester 1 and two core modules plus a choice of two from 3 20-credit electives in Semester 2.

Semester 1	Core Y/N	Semester 2	Core Y/N
International Human Rights Law	Y	Theorising Human Rights	Y
Human Rights Investigations & Torture	Y	Developing & Managing Projects	Y
Civilian Protection	Y	War, Crime and Violence	N
		Security Paradigms	N

NB - All option modules are indicative.

## Learning and Teaching

### Learning and Teaching Approaches

The philosophy of the course is that participants are encouraged to develop critical understanding of the issues involved and to translate this awareness into a wide variety of individually defined practice oriented tasks. The course therefore emphasises the importance of reading, research and discussion in the formulation of a principled and reflective position on human rights and related issues such as international politics and institutions, poverty and inequality, peace and war, development and climate change.

The programme will utilise a variety of pedagogical techniques including both teacher-led and student-led activity with the balance progressively moving from the former to the latter. Face-to-face and podcast lectures will be augmented by small group teaching and discussion forums. Some of these draw on problem-based and enquiry-based learning methods. Small groups are used to explore ideas and material introduced in lectures in an interactive way and are used to enable students to develop and demonstrate their understanding and awareness. Students will be expected to engage in face-to-face and online discussions, give presentations, write reports and academic essays.

The curriculum emphasis in this award is on the development and application of theory and critical thinking to contemporary issues and practice the area of international human rights. This gives an applied feel to the curriculum with students asked to take a problem solving approach throughout. Knowledge, understanding and skills are developed through appropriate assessment, learning and teaching strategies, delivered by staff who have teaching, practice and research expertise in the cognate areas. Assessment is developed through formative and summative approaches to include assignments, presentations, group work and practical activities.

Students are encouraged to develop digital literacy skills to support their assessment and learning, and all staff use MyBeckett to deposit power point presentations, as well as journal articles and embedded multi-media clips.

The suite of Politics and International Relations postgraduate courses to which this belongs attracts a diverse student group in terms of nationality, ethnicity and personal and professional background. This is a strength as learning is predicated on student contribution and interdependent learning. Appropriate strategies are put in place to support students with specific needs.

### **Learning and Teaching Activities**

Teaching methods will focus on small group discussion and debate, supported by mini lectures. These are supplemented where relevant by sessions in IT labs to develop skills using appropriate software. Students are encouraged to set their own tasks, within clearly identified structures, to meet the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. Similarly, reading lists are less prescriptive and encourage students to locate their own resources. Students will benefit from having access to outside speakers through the Politics & International Relations seminar series which will broaden their learning experience. The VLE is used to provide materials but also a forum for discussion and the sharing of resources and thoughts.

### **Use of the Virtual Learning Environment**

The course makes extensive use of the VLE in all modules. In all modules use of the VLE meets the University's e-learning strategy. In addition, the VLE is frequently used in different modules for the following additional elements:

- Links to external learning modules designed by Module Leaders and video lectures
- Hosting of additional learning resources such as video resources placed on the University's streaming facility.
- Discussion forums – for each module a student café discussion forum provides opportunities for students to raise questions related to the module.

Turnitin and grade mark are used systematically across all modules.

## Use of Blended Learning

No element of the campus based course is provided wholly online but all modules supplement face to face contact time with tutor contact on the VLE through live discussions, participation in sequential discussions and through the posting of video and other additional learning resources. There is a lively Facebook group that provides support to students across all levels and a Politics and International Relations twitter feed and blog spot which has a large number of followers and provides access to the latest news and research in international relations, politics, human rights, peace and development studies. The course will make use of innovative e-learning resources, including e-journals, e-books, synchronous conversations between students and tutors, online blogging on matters related to course themes, online discussion fora for feedback on module progress, as well as pre-recorded lecture and seminar materials.

## Student Support Network

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators works closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Hub on either campus to speak to our Student Experience Team. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. The telephone number is 0113 812 3000, and the e-mail address is [StudentHub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:StudentHub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The **Support** tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The **Opportunities** tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.

## Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy for this course has been developed with the following key principles in mind:

- The course ensures assessment variety within the confines of a single year and appropriate to postgraduate study.
- In this course the assessment types include academic essays, applied report style written assignments, group tasks and individual presentations.
- The inclusion of a range of assessment types avoids the over-reliance on a narrow range of assessment methods, and allows the development of a greater range of personal, academic and employability skills.
- Assessments are spaced throughout the semester to avoid ‘bunching’ of submission dates and to allow for formative feedback in one assessment to be incorporated into the summative assessment.
- Assessment tasks develop ‘real world’ practical skills, such as planning and conducting an interview, dataset analysis, project funding bids and budgeting
- Assessments where possible offer students the flexibility to tailor assessments to their experience, interests or needs, e.g. design of project or choice of case study.

Assessments are designed for learning, and to prepare students for a variety of career destinations.

## Feedback on Assessed Coursework

Feedback is provided on all assessments within 4 weeks in line with University policy. Feedback on work submitted via Turnitin is given on-line through the VLE using Grademark and rubrics as appropriate. In some modules and some assessments there may be additional oral feedback, either collectively in class or individually during tutorial meetings. All module leaders will provide details of the feedback that students should expect in their module handbooks and this will form part of the introductory session for each module. This may include group feedback on common themes and this information will also be routinely available for reference for each module and each assessment on the relevant section of the VLE.

## Module Assessment Methods

Module Titles	<i>Core (Y)</i>	<i>Essay</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Presentation / Oral assessment</i>	<i>Group wiki</i>	<i>Project proposal</i>	<i>Data analysis exercise</i>	<i>Case study</i>
International Human Rights Law	Y	50		50				
Theorising Human Rights	Y	75			25			
Developing & Managing Projects	Y		20			80		
Human Rights Investigations & Torture	Y	100						
Civilian Protection	Y		50					50

Security Paradigms	N	50/ 50						
War, Crime & Violence	N	100						

NB - All option modules are indicative.

## Employability and Professional Context

The PG Dip is explicitly designed to meet the employability and/or professional needs of people who wish to work or are working in the broad area of human rights and who wish to benefit from the taught components but do not wish to pursue a full MA. It combines the legal and theoretical components needed for deep understanding and academic rigour with the practical skills required by employers. An example of some of the skills needed and addressed in the award is provided by Human Rights Watch, a key INGO

<https://www.hrw.org/frequently-asked-questions-faq>

As detailed in Section 30, staff have extensive experience in the sector, and this knowledge has informed the design and content of the award. Previous graduates of the PIR Diploma courses have gone on to complete their full Masters, which leads to PhD study or to work in government, civil service, diplomatic service, international and national NGOs, armed forces, businesses, teaching, social work and the media.

## Work Related Activities:

**Placement or Work Related Activity Level:** Not applicable

**Placement or Work Related Activity Length in Weeks:** Not applicable

**Type of Placement or work related activity:** Not applicable

## Reference Points used in course design and delivery

All our courses leading to Leeds Beckett University awards have been designed and approved in accordance with UK and European quality standards. Our courses utilise the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FEHQ) and where relevant subject benchmarks (where these are available) and professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements (for professionally accredited courses).

We review our courses annually and periodically, responding to student feedback and a range of information to enhance our courses. Our University is also subject to external review by the Quality Assurance Agency. Our latest report can be found on the QAA web site at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports>

We appoint External Examiners to verify that our University sets and maintains standards for awards which adhere to relevant national subject benchmark statements and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (UK), ensure standards and student achievements are comparable with other Higher Education Institutions in the UK, with which they are familiar, and ensure that assessments measure achievement of course and module learning outcomes and reach the required standard. External Examiners may also provide feedback on areas of good practice or potential enhancement.

### Academic Principles and Regulations

The award adheres to Leeds Beckett University's Academic Principles and Regulations: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/academic-regulations.htm>

A pass, merit and distinction is available to students who complete the PG Dip as follows:

#### For students who enrol directly onto the award:

The award of a merit may be made to those students who have demonstrated excellent performance against:

- the attainment of an average of 60% or more in assessments contributing to the final award

The award of a distinction may be made to those students who have demonstrated excellent performance against:

the attainment of an average of 70% or higher in assessments contributing to the final award

### Record of Enhancement

No.	Detail of modification (Provide a brief description of the modification and where the Course Specification has been updated)	Date Effective (Indicate the academic year of entry and course level(s) to which the modification will apply)
1	Remove Human Rights Governance module as elective for International Human Rights Practice courses.	2016-17
2	Add Security Paradigms as an elective, constrained, option on PCHRP	2017-18