MASTER OF LAWS IN
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AND HUMANITARIAN LAW
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW’S ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW IS PLEASED TO OFFER AN LL.M. IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW.

BECOME PART OF A GROUNDBREAKING AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH SUPERB TRAINING IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW.

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to American University Washington College of Law. You will discover that this is more than a superb law school; it’s an environment of opportunity, and a uniquely collaborative place where students, faculty, staff and alumni champion what matters in all areas of the law. Since its founding by women in 1896, our school has passionately pursued the values of dignity, diversity, and equal rights. Here you will find a challenging atmosphere, one that encourages the exchange of ideas and invites you to share your unique experiences with others. Our goal each year is to keep building on our achievements while remaining focused on our commitment to engage the community, the nation, and the world through outstanding legal education.

The LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law takes full advantage of the Washington College of Law’s outstanding position in the field of international human rights law and its leading human rights faculty and renowned human rights programs. The LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is a unique hybrid program, with online and residential components that will provide you with exceptional formal training. This hybrid program is designed for practitioners and other human rights advocates who wish to pursue advanced studies in international human rights law and humanitarian law alongside their existing work responsibilities. The LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is currently the only hybrid program of its kind and in this field in a U.S. law school.

This groundbreaking and innovative program provides an exceptional opportunity for you to advance and broaden your professional development. I look forward to welcoming you into the LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University Washington College of Law.

Sincerely,

Claudio Grossman
Dean, American University Washington College of Law
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce the LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. During the last 15 years of coordinating the Program of Advanced Studies of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, we have been able to identify a clear need for further formal training of a significant number of legal professionals, especially abroad, with specific interest in human rights. The LL.M in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law unmistakably addresses the need for specialized training in international human rights law in the United States and around the world today.

The creation of the LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law as a hybrid master's program, with both on-site (residential) and online components allows for a high quality curricular offering with a flexible and convenient format. Additionally, students will interact with more than 40 world renowned experts, including human rights and humanitarian law experts coming from academia, international tribunals, civil society organizations, and international organizations.

We look forward to having you become a part of a program that will provide you with superb training and outstanding opportunities in international human rights and humanitarian law.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Goldman
Academic Director

Claudia Martin
Co-Director

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
Co-Director
WHY THIS PROGRAM?

The LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is designed as a hybrid program with online and residential courses. Students who participate in the program will be required to take two online courses, participate in two summer sessions in residence at AUWCL, and complete writing and/or externship requirements for a total of 24 credits.

The two substantive online courses offered will include: 1) Human Rights Law and 2) Advanced Human Rights Law, three credits each. These classes are core classes of the current human rights program and have been offered for many years to JD and LL.M. students at AUWCL. The online versions of the classes will be based on the syllabi and materials used to teach these classes in person at AUWCL.

The residential component of the LL.M. is designed to take advantage of the courses offered by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law during its Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law that runs for three weeks during the summer semester. Through this program, the Academy offers specialized courses taught by world-renowned experts in human rights and humanitarian law. Most of the courses are designed as two credit classes and are approved to award credit toward the existing JD and LL.M. programs. Students in the LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Program are required to participate in two three-week summer sessions, with an obligation to take at least three two-credit courses each session.

LL.M. IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW PROGRAM CURRICULUM

YEAR 1

Spring Semester (exceptionally, Fall Semester)

- Online course on Human Rights Law (3 credits)

First Three-Week Summer Session in Residence at AUWCL

- Three 2 credit seminars to be selected from the courses offered as part of the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- One 2 credit legal research and writing seminar

Fall Semester

- Online course on Advanced Human Rights Law (3 credits)

YEAR 2

Spring Semester

- 2 credit research and writing project (independent study)
- 2 credit supervised externship
  Students may be allowed to opt instead for a 4 credit writing requirement or a 4 credit supervised externship.

Second Three-Week Summer Session in Residence at AUWCL

- Three 2 credit seminars to be selected from the courses offered as part of the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

OUR COURSES INCLUDE:

ONLINE COURSES

- Human Rights (3 credits)
- Advanced Human Rights (3 credits)

RESIDENTIAL COURSES

Our specialized courses offered in the Summer Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law cover a variety of topics such as: regional human rights protection, women and human rights law, and European human rights law.

For a complete list of courses, please visit: www.wcl.american.edu/humright/llm/courses.cfm
PARTICIPANTS
Several countries have incorporated significant human rights obligations in their constitutional and legal frameworks. Lawyers in those countries now need specialized training in international human rights law as part of their basic training. Furthermore, many of these lawyers are currently full-time employees in prestigious public and private institutions in their countries, with requirements to further qualify themselves through formal degrees. Our program is designed in a way that gives practitioners the opportunity to acquire specialized training without disturbing their current work responsibilities.

We understand that professionals interested in human rights often have limited resources, therefore to be able to join a program that helps you avoid some of the living and relocation expenses associated with a traditional LL.M., without sacrificing the quality of your education, is an exceptional opportunity that cannot be ignored. The goal of this program and of AUWCL is to adapt to your needs and offer you the highest quality of education.

OUR UNIQUE LOCATION
Washington, D.C. can be regarded as the hub for international policy. Major world organizations have established their headquarters here. The nation’s capital is an ideal environment for practitioners and international human rights advocates to broaden their knowledge and boost their professional careers. It fosters an atmosphere for the development of human rights and allows for meaningful dialogue among advocates and practitioners.

American University Washington College of Law’s unique location will allow you to connect with people from all over the world. AUWCL’s commitment to diversity offers you the opportunity to intermingle and network with an international community and global audience.

WORLD-RENOVATED FACULTY
The LL.M. Program was designed and coordinated by Claudia Martin and Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, co-directors of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Professors Martin and Rodríguez-Pinzón have co-taught both the introductory Human Rights class and the Advanced Human Rights class for many years. The Program is implemented under the academic advising of Robert K. Goldman, Professor of Law and expert in human rights and international humanitarian law.

The residential component of this program will allow you to connect with an exceptional array of established individuals in the field of human rights and humanitarian law. Our faculty includes world-renowned experts who teach every year in the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. This is a great opportunity to interact with notable faculty members composed of international NGO members, international tribunal judges, members of regional international organizations, UN special rapporteurs, distinguished AUWCL faculty and international faculty and members of UN treaty bodies.

In addition to the substantive knowledge that they transmit to our students, they are essential professional contacts for future work-related opportunities for the graduates of our program. The time spent in close contact with such experts during the residential part of the program will most certainly guarantee success for future networking.

For a complete list of faculty please visit us at: [www.wcl.american.edu/humright/llm/faculty.cfm](http://www.wcl.american.edu/humright/llm/faculty.cfm)

International Faculty
International Tribunal Judges
UN Special Rapporteurs

Juan E. Méndez

Distinguished AUWCL Faculty
Members of Regional International Organizations
International NGO members
Members of UN Treaty Bodies
ADMISSION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Applications are accepted in the fall semester with participants to begin the following spring term. Under certain circumstances, the admissions committee may authorize students to start in the fall semester. Candidates will be expected to have two years of prior experience in the legal profession.

In order to begin the application process, candidates must submit the following:

- Online application and application fee
- Official copies of academic records from an ABA-accredited U.S. law school or foreign law school with equivalent standards
- Statement of purpose
- Resume
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official proof of competency in English (TOEFL, PTE, IELTS or ILEC).

* please see information below

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Applicants whose first language is not English must take one of four tests for English competency:

- Pearson Test of English (PTE). A minimum PTE score of 63.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A minimum IELTS score of 6.5.

It is not necessary to take all four. Applications will not be considered complete until we receive exam scores. This requirement is waived only for applicants who have completed a higher degree program from an accredited U.S. institution. Photocopies of test reports will not be accepted.

For more information on enrollment and eligibility requirements please visit:
www.wcl.american.edu/humright/llm/eligibility.cfm

CONTACT US

For more information on program requirements, please visit our website or contact us via phone or email, and we will provide you with the information you need to get started.

American University Washington College of Law
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