Background

This course provides an in-depth understanding of international human rights standards, looking at the human rights systems of organizations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OAS and the African Union. It provides a valuable insight for those working for NGOs or in government, as well as graduates, lecturers and legal or other professionals. The course features organised visits to NGOs, criminal courts and prisons.

The course is conducted by the Human Rights Law Centre staff and School of Law faculty, plus invited practitioners. It is led by Professor David Harris, former member of the European Committee of Social Rights, and Michael O’Flaherty, member of the UN Human Rights Committee and formerly of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The course is for three months and is run twice annually, in September–December and January–March. There is also a six month version, in which students spend the second three months taking an internship with an NGO or continue their studies at the Centre.

The Centre has a strong human rights reputation world-wide, with many alumni working in human rights in the UN system, in NGOs, etc. It conducts human rights projects around the world, including recently China, Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Iraq. Its International Criminal Court Unit regularly organises courses on the work of the Court.

For details of the Centre’s separate three month course on The Law and Practice of Human Rights Field Operations, see the Centre’s website below.

Course content

Lectures and seminars attended on the 3-month course will vary according to whether students attend during the first or second semester.

Each period of study will cover:

- The UN human rights system, focusing on the UN Commission on Human Rights and the implementation of UN human rights treaties, including the two Covenants on Civil and Political and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Torture Convention, the Conventions on Racial Discrimination and Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Emphasis is placed on giving an up-to-date account of the cases and other practice of the UN bodies that implement these treaties and insights into current developments.

- Regional human rights systems, focusing on the African, Inter-American and European systems.

- Human rights issues and themes of current concern. These include cultural relativity, Islam and human rights, women’s rights, the rights of the child, minorities’ and indigenous peoples’ rights, refugee rights, the right to development, trade and human rights, human rights and the environment, the police and human rights, prisoners’ rights, the death penalty, international criminal justice, human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations and human rights and terrorism.

Further information

For more detailed course information, visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/law/hrlc/

Applicants should send a detailed cv, plus a 500-word statement indicating why they should be offered a place on the course, to kobie.neita@nottingham.ac.uk.
Background
This new 3-month course aims to further students’ understanding of the law and practice of human rights field work. The programme balances wide-ranging study with skills training for such activities as human rights monitoring, reporting, advocacy and capacity building. Close attention is paid to the modern realities of field work and participants take part in a number of visits to relevant NGO and government offices in London, with an option to visit a UN field operation.

This course is designed to benefit potential and current staff of human rights field operations and headquarter staff of NGO and intergovernmental organisations. It will also be of direct use to humanitarian and development practitioners and for civilian, police and military peacekeepers.

The course is led by Michael O’Flaherty, co-director of the Human Rights Law Centre at Nottingham and member of the UN Human Rights Committee. Michael managed United Nations human rights field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone and participated in the design of operations in such locations as East Timor and Afghanistan.

The course runs annually from January - March.

Course content
The course consists of the following study modules:

- International Human Rights Law: general introduction and methods of study
- International Human Rights Field Operations: examining the operation of the human-rights field programmes;
- the application of international human rights law for human rights monitoring, reporting, intervention and capacity building; the impact of armed conflict on civilians; and current and past field operations
- International Human Rights Law: the UN human rights system; the work of the UN Human Rights Commission and the implementation of UN human rights treaties; the American Convention on Human Rights; and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- Current Issues in International Human Rights Law: human rights and terrorism; human rights in post-conflicts situations; prosecution of war criminals; Islam and human rights; human rights and the environment; human rights and WTO; and the role of NGOs and national human rights commissions
- Protection of Human Rights in National Law
- One of the following LLM courses: International Human Rights Law II; Principles of International Criminal Justice; International Humanitarian Law; and Criminal Justice Process II: Fair Trials

Further information
For more detailed course information, visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/law/hrlc/

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