

# 2023 Handbook

## Master of Arts in Human Rights [MAHR] (International Program)

The Longest Running Graduate Program in Human Rights in Asia

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## ***Background of Master of Arts in Human Rights: MAHR***



Launched in 1999, Mahidol's Master of Arts in Human Rights is the first program in human rights studies in Southeast Asia. The program fosters an interdisciplinary social scientific approach to human rights problems. We take pride in our twenty-year record of graduating highly qualified human rights professionals, who are now found in non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and government agencies throughout and beyond the region.

The Master of Arts in Human Rights offers a well-rounded and varied set of courses that gives students a solid grounding in human rights studies as an interdisciplinary field. Its

distinction is *research-intensive character*.

### ***Program Expected Learning Outcomes***

The program aims to foster in its graduates

- 1) professional ethos and leadership,
- 2) a thorough theoretical and methodological knowledge and understanding of human rights studies,
- 3) expertise in an area of specialization,
- 4) transferrable research skills,
- 5) autonomous learning,
- 6) advanced information literacy,
- 7) professional communication skills.

## ***Degree Structure and Courses***

The degree requires successful completion of 36 graduate credits divided into 24 credits for coursework and 12 credits for the mandatory master's thesis. Each course contributes three credits.

### **Course Descriptions**

#### *Required Courses*

- ❖ HPHR 519: Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms
- ❖ HPHR 520: Seminar in Human Rights
- ❖ HPHR 504: Human Rights in Asia
- ❖ HPHR 505: Research Methods in Human Rights
- ❖ HPHR 506: Human Rights Theory

#### *Elective Courses*

- ❖ HPHR 510: Practical Skills for Human Rights Protection
- ❖ HPHR 521: Peace, Conflict Management and Human Rights
- ❖ HPHR 512: Human Rights in International Relations
- ❖ HPHR 518: Applied Research in Human Rights
- ❖ HPHR 522: Independent Study
- ❖ HPHR 523: Internship

#### *Thesis*

- ❖ HPHR 698: Thesis
  - Credits are awarded following a successful oral defense of the completed thesis and a conference presentation or publication reporting the research results as approved by Mahidol's Faculty of Graduate Studies.
  - The thesis project requires a minimum of 90 days of research following the approval of the proposal. Students are required to consult their advisors regularly and to file monthly report on their work.
  - **Students must defend their theses at the IHRP.** The Faculty of Graduate Studies authorizes defenses via video link in exceptional cases only, imposing strict conditions.

### **HPHR 519: Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms**

Development of international and regional human rights treaties and other legal and political documents on human rights. Contents of human rights standards including: civil and political rights; social, economic and cultural rights; and rights to development and self-determination. Interpretation and applicability of rights stated in different human rights standards. International systems for the promotion and protection of human rights. Legal, political, and social mechanisms necessary for the realization of human rights at the international level. Roles of the United Nations, other inter-state bodies and institutions, non-governmental agencies, the media, and civil society with respect to human rights. Critical assessment of the mechanisms studied.

**HPHR 520: Seminar in Human Rights**

Most relevant and recent issues in the field of human rights and in students' common areas of interests. Current issues may focus on globalization, democratization and good governance, promotion of global free trade, development, poverty eradication, environmental conservation, forced migration, peace and conflict management, different forms of armed conflicts, business and human rights, etc. Impacts of these issues on violations or protection of human rights.

**HPHR 504: Human Rights in Asia**

Overview of human rights in Asia in their political, economic, social and cultural contexts. Major developments since World War II impacting on and influenced by human rights; in particular, colonial legacies and new forms of domination in Asian societies from the perspectives of human rights theory and practice. Human rights legislation and institutionalization of human rights in Asian countries. Establishment of a regional human rights mechanism.

**HPHR 505: Research Methods in Human Rights**

Overview of research methods in the field of human rights. Preparation of students for master's theses. In particular, development of the ability to define research objectives, to ask research questions and to design research projects; training in sampling, data collection, and data analysis with a focus on qualitative research; evaluation of research proposals and research reports using common quality standards.

**HPHR 506: Human Rights Theory**

Introduction to major disciplinary approaches to human rights, in particular philosophical, social scientific and legal approaches. Discussion of the development of theories and concepts of human rights from western and non-western perspectives. Critical analysis of contemporary debates on human rights.

**HPHR 510: Practical Skills for Human Rights Protection**

Introduction to and training in practical skills for the protection of human rights, including human rights monitoring, fact-finding, report writing, campaigning, and advocacy. Engagement with human rights bodies and platforms. Other skills relevant to human rights activities, negotiating, and lobbying. Introduction to peace and conflict management skills. Pragmatic skills in human rights project development, management and evaluation.

**HPHR 521: Peace, Conflict Management and Human Rights**

Concepts of peace and conflict studies with emphases on conflicts in regional, national, and sub-national context, between state and non-state actors, between conservative and emancipatory political movements, over social development, over resources for public use at community and national level. International and domestic dimensions of conflicts. Understanding and applicability of conflict prevention, transformation, and resolution. Implications of conflict management for human rights protection.

**HPHR 512: Human Rights in International Relations**

Emergence and significance of human rights in international relations. Importance of international human rights norms in relation to state sovereignty. Ethical traditions in international relation based on morality, law and politics. Exploration of the interrelationship between human rights, international principles, and foreign policy. The use of human rights for economic and political purposes.

**HPHR 518: Applied Research in Human Rights**

Research of relevance to current understanding of human rights promotion and protection. Research through cooperation with human rights organizations. Practical and immediate concerns in human rights promotion and protection. Applying researching to address immediate human rights concerns. Human rights analysis of national policy and/or practice, and evaluation of programs and activities in human rights.

**HPHR 522: Independent Study**

Individual study of specific topics in human rights according to student's interests under the supervision of a faculty member. Research conduct of human rights from international, regional and national sources.

**HPHR 523: Internship**

Negotiation. Recommendation; development of attitude on human rights; finding the best solution to resolve human rights issues.

**HPHR 698: Thesis**

Requires prior development and successful defense of a research proposal. Conduct of a research project including literature review, data collection, data analysis, and the interpretation of results in the context of the extant scholarship. Submission and oral defense of a thesis reporting research results. Publication of research results in a scholarly journal article or in another academic format; alternatively, presentation at an academic conference. Implementation of the principles of research ethics, including monitoring for and response to ethical problems, throughout the course of the project, from the preparation of the research proposal through the conduct of the research and the dissemination of the research results.

***Requirements of Soft Skills***

In addition to regular courses, students are required to demonstrate professional and personal skills development in the following areas:

- ❖ language and communication skills,
- ❖ leaderships and management skills,
- ❖ information technology skills,
- ❖ creative and innovative skills.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies offers courses and workshops in these areas, which the IHRP supplements from time to time by special offers. Further information on soft skills development is available on the website of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Offers include Thai language courses. Fees may apply.

### ***Study Plan***

The curriculum allows students two years for the completion of their degrees. The following study plan illustrates a realistic schedule that takes students in 21 months from the start of the coursework to the completion of all thesis requirements. Highly efficient students with excellent study, research, and language skills may be able to earn their master's in a somewhat shorter period, but it is safer to base planning on the regular program duration.

#### **Note:**

- ❖ Regular consultations with the thesis advisor, participation in work-in-progress colloquia, and access to library resources play an essential role for keeping thesis projects on track.
- ❖ The program therefore strongly advises all students to maintain residence within commuting distance to the IHRP for the entire duration of the program, from the start of the coursework through the completion of the thesis.
- ❖ Scholarships students are required to remain in residence.

**Overview of Study Plan**

Year 1	<b>Semester 1</b> <b>Mid-August</b> — <b>mid-December</b>	<b>Course work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required – HPHR 506: Human Rights Theory</li> <li>• Required – HPHR 519: Human Rights Norms and Mechanisms</li> <li>• Required – HPHR 504: Human Rights in Asia</li> <li>• 1 Elective course</li> </ul>
	<b>Semester 2</b> <b>Early January</b> — <b>early May</b>	<b>Course work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required – HPHR 505: Research Methods in Human Rights</li> <li>• Required – HPHR 520: Seminar in Human Rights</li> <li>• 2 Elective courses</li> </ul> <b>Research ethics training</b> <b>Development of thesis topic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting of a proposal</li> <li>• Discussion of a proposal with potential thesis advisors</li> <li>• Establishment of an understanding with the prospective advisor</li> </ul>
	<b>May—July</b>	<b>Approval of thesis project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal defense</li> <li>• Submission of project to one of MU’s Institutional Review Boards for ethics approval</li> </ul>
Year 2	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Research phase</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start of thesis research and writing in consultation with thesis advisor</li> </ul>
	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Research phase</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion of thesis research</li> </ul> <b>Concluding work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis defense</li> <li>• Academic conference presentation</li> </ul> or academic publication of report on thesis research



***Fees***

Item	1st Year Tuition & Fee (baht)			2nd Year Tuition & Fee (baht)		
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer	Semester 1	Semester 2	
New Student Check-in Fee	3,000	-	-	-	-	
Education Service Fee	5,700	4,300	-	5,700	4,300	
Student Activities Fee	250	250	-	250	250	
Graduate Studies Fee	750	750	-	750	750	
Internet Fee	500	500	-	500	500	
Health Insurance Fee	3,500	-	-	3,500	-	
Tuition Fee 4,500 baht/credit	54,000	54,000	-	-	-	
Thesis Registration Fee	-	-	50,400	-	-	
Research Supplies Fee	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67,700</b>	<b>59,800</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>194,400</b>

***Estimated Living Expenses***

Item	Estimated Expense		
Accommodation	THB	5,000	per month
Utilities (Phone, Internet, Water, electricity)	THB	1,500	per month
Food/Meals	THB	6,000	per month
Books, Copies, Materials	THB	1,000	per month
Local Transportation	THB	1,000	per month
Other Expenses	THB	1,000	per month
<b>Total Estimated Living Expenses</b>	<b>THB</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>per month</b>

## ***Admission Requirements***

Applicants must demonstrate above all commitment to human rights, tolerance for diverse views, open-mindedness, and curiosity. Experience in human rights work or a related field is an advantage, but not required. The program will consider applications both by recent college graduates and by professionals with work experience.

Here are the documents you need to attach when you apply online:

1. the complete application form
2. a personal statement
  - 2.1. detailing their motivation for pursuing a master's in human rights
  - 2.2. discussing their area(s) of interest within the broader field of human rights,
  - 2.3. explaining how the completion of the program will contribute to their career goals
  - 2.4. and—optionally—outlining ideas for their thesis research;
3. the degree certificate(s) and academic transcript(s), including an official explanation(s) of the grading system(s);
4. an English language test certificate (IELTS, TOEFL-IBT, or MU GRAD TEST);  
\*Note: You need to submit your English Proficiency Test Result to MU too. Please check its more details from this link: <https://graduate.mahidol.ac.th/inter/prospective-students/?topic=english-proficiency>
5. two references (to be sent by the referees in institutional envelopes or using an institutional email accounts).

### ***Note:***

The following applicants are exempt from the submission of English test scores:

- ❖ native speakers of English;
- ❖ applicants who earned an English-medium undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

## ***How to Apply***

You may search for more information of our program' direct link at [Master of Arts in Human Rights \(International Program\) - Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies \(mahidol.ac.th\)](https://graduate.mahidol.ac.th/inter/prospective-students/?topic=howToBeStudent)

If you are interested in applying for our program, please submit these following documents through the FGS website at <https://graduate.mahidol.ac.th/inter/prospective-students/?topic=howToBeStudent>

## ***Admission Steps***

