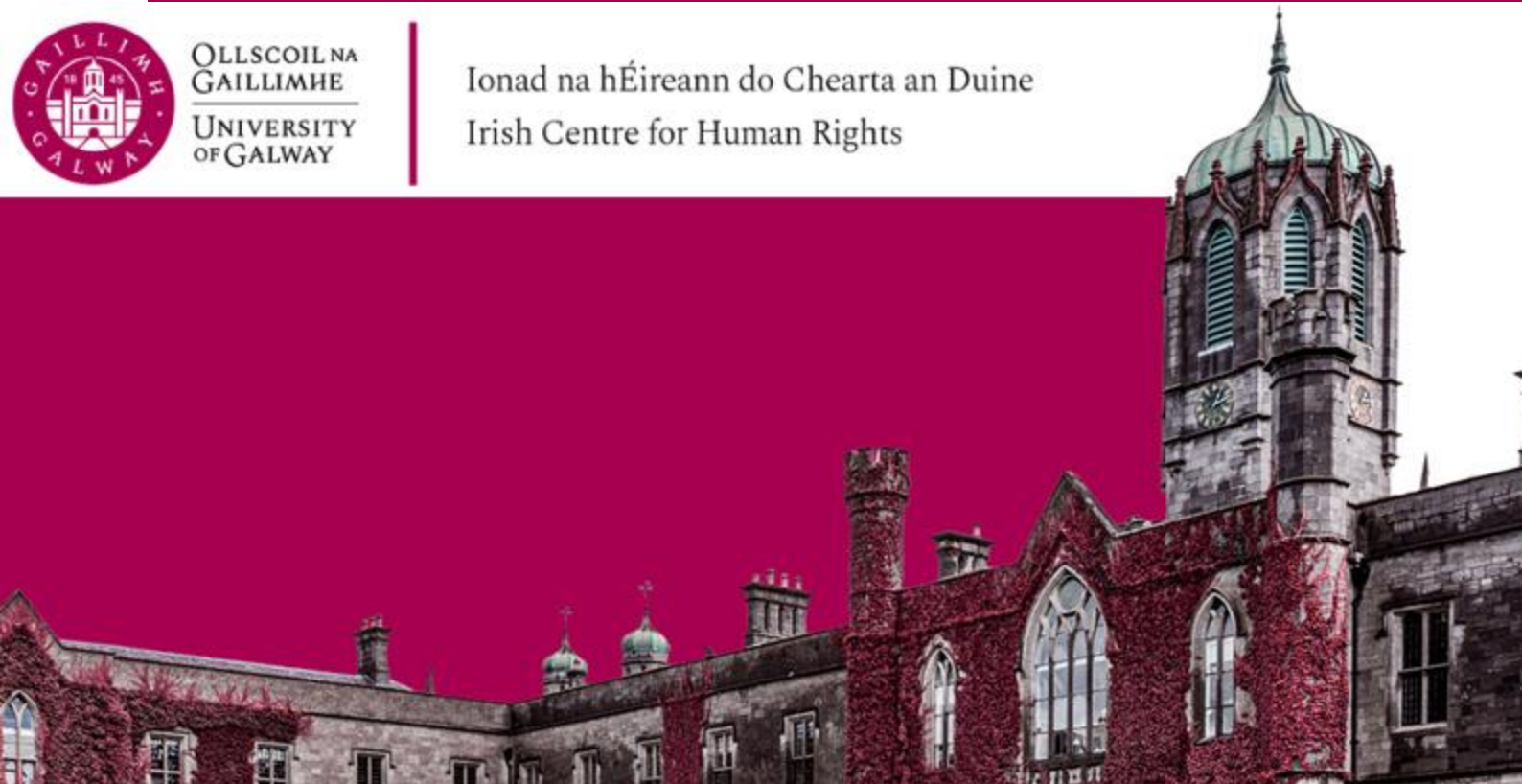




OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Ionad na hÉireann do Chearta an Duine
Irish Centre for Human Rights



BA with Human Rights Guidelines

Everything you need to know for the year ahead

Ionad *na* hÉireann do Chearta an Duine
Irish Centre *for* Human Rights

2025-2026

Please note that the information contained in this document is subject to change.

Table of Contents

WELCOME NOTE	2
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR	3
STUDENT ADVISOR	3
USEFUL CONTACTS	4
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES	4
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE	5
FIRST YEAR	5
SECOND YEAR	6
THIRD YEAR	7
PLACEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL OR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION	8
STUDY ABROAD	8
APPLIED HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT	9
COURSEWORK AND ASSESSMENT	9
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	9
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	10
STYLE	10
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	11
ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT	11
IRISH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVENTS	11
UNIVERSITY SERVICES	11
LIBRARY – JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY TERM & SUMMER OPENING HOURS	11
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES	11
ACADEMIC WRITING CENTRE	12
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY STUDENT’S UNION	12
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE	12
BA WITH HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACT INFORMATION	12

WELCOME NOTE



Welcome to the BA with Human Rights degree programme. The BA with Human Rights is an interdisciplinary four-year degree programme combining Arts subjects with human rights. It is the only undergraduate course of its kind in the Republic of Ireland, allowing undergraduates to specialise in a field that was previously reserved for postgraduate study.

The Irish Centre for Human Rights is one of the world's premier academic human rights institutions, dedicated to the study and promotion of human rights, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law. Since its establishment, the Centre has developed a global reputation for excellence in human rights teaching, research, and advocacy. Our conference and other events programs attract high-level human rights policymakers, practitioners, and academic experts from across the world.

A few years ago, we decided to expand the Centre's teaching programmes to include a course specifically designed for undergraduate students. With great pleasure, we welcome you into this vibrant community of acclaimed human rights scholars and advocates.

The Centre regularly runs seminars and activities on human rights issues, and we hope that you will become regular participants in its life throughout your time at University of Galway.

This booklet describes the human rights programme, its structure and content, and some general information about the University.

Professor Siobhán Mullally,

Director and Established Professor of Human Rights Law

Irish Centre for Human Rights

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



Dr Anita Ferrara,
Lecturer at the Irish Centre for Human Rights,
Room 201
Earl's Island,
University Road
Galway

Tel: 091 492819

Email: anita.ferrara@universityofgalway.ie

STUDENT ADVISOR



Dr. Rosemary Crosse is the Student Support Officer in the College of Arts, Social Sciences, & Celtic Studies, and provides support for students during their time at university. The role of the Student Support Officer is to provide confidential, non-judgmental support and an empathetic space for students to share their concerns.

In addition, a Student Support Officer can offer personal support and advice on topics such as study planning, time management and any personal challenges that may compromise their ability to study.

Overall, the goal of a Student Support Officer is to empower students to reach their full potential and succeed in their academic journey. If at any time a student is feeling overwhelmed or needs help getting back on track, your Student Support Officer is there to help, do not hesitate to get in contact.

Contact details for Rosemary is available here

[Arts Student Support Officer - University of Galway](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS

All information will be sent to you via email, so it is vital that we have your most up-to-date email address. Please activate and check your University of Galway email address. Once registered, it will be used for email correspondence, and staff will also use it for correspondence via Canvas.

- **Enquiries office** for admin queries humanrights@universityofgalway.ie.
- **Academic enquiries** must be directed to your programme director.
- **Module enquiries** related to a particular module should be directed to the Lecturer teaching the module.

School of Law T: +353 (0) 91 492389 law@universityofgalway.ie	Career Development Centre T: +353 (0) 91 493589 careers@universityofgalway.ie
Registration Office T: +353 (0) 91 494329 registration@universityofgalway.ie	Disability Support Service T: +353 (0) 91 492813 disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie
Chaplaincy Centre T: +353 (0) 091 495055 chaplains@universityofgalway.ie	Student Counselling Service T: +353 (0) 91 492484 counselling@universityofgalway.ie
Fees Office T: +353 (0) 91 492386 fees@universityofgalway.ie	Student Registry Helpdesk T: +353 (0) 91 495999 registration@universityofgalway.ie
Student Health Unit T: +353 (0) 91 492604 healthunit@universityofgalway.ie	

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Student Representatives' function is to liaise with staff members here at the Centre on your behalf for any issues which may arise. Two students will be chosen to represent the BA students for each year. The representatives must attend the monthly staff meetings to voice issues on your behalf. The BA students will choose the Student Representatives in the first two weeks of the year.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

FIRST YEAR

First-year modules introduce human rights law and analyse human rights' philosophical basis and historical development. Students will familiarise themselves with the major universal human rights treaties and their modes of implementation.

Format

The courses will be taught in a two-hour class per week over twelve weeks and a one-hour tutorial. Students are expected to prepare for class and participate in class discussions and activities. A period of the class may be devoted to discussing and analysing the leading human rights issues and developments raised by events that have taken place in the world over the previous seven days.

Material for these classes and reading lists will be available on Canvas. Students are expected to check Canvas weekly and complete the prescribed readings in the syllabus. It is important to be well-prepared for class discussions and debates.

Timetable: 1st Year

Semester 1	Time	Room
Monday	4-5pm	<i>HR103 ICHR Seminar Room</i>
Wednesday	3-5 pm	<i>HR101 AC202 Lecture Room</i>
Semester 2	Time	Room
Monday	4-5pm	<i>HR103 ICHR Seminar Room</i>
Wednesday	3-5pm	<i>HR102 CSB-1007</i>

SECOND YEAR

Second-year modules focus on the Regional Protection of Human Rights and Contemporary Issues in Human Rights.

Students will become familiar with the main regional structures and instruments, including the Inter-American, European, African, and Asian Systems of Human Rights.

In the second semester, the module aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of some contemporary human rights issues such as migrants and refugees' rights, LGBTQ+ rights and women's rights.

Format

The courses will be taught in a two-hour weekly class for over twelve weeks. Students are expected to prepare for class and to participate in class discussions and activities.

Material for these classes and reading lists will be available on Canvas.

Students are expected to check Canvas weekly and complete the prescribed readings in the syllabus. It is important to be well-prepared for class discussion and debate.

Timetable: 2nd Year

Semester 1	Time	Room
Thursday	1pm-3pm	<i>HR2102</i> Venues for HR2101 (TBC)
Semester 2	Time	Room
Thursday	1pm-3pm	<i>HR2103</i> Charles McMunn

THIRD YEAR

The third year of the BA with Human Rights is fully dedicated to human rights.

In the first semester, students can choose from several optional modules, including EU Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law, Health Law and Policy, Irish Legal Systems, Constitutional Law, and Legal Methods and Research.

Please check the information related to the modules at:

[Bachelor of Arts with Human Rights - University of Galway](#)

Timetable: 3rd Year, Semester 1 2025-26

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9.00-10.00				LW3127 International Protection of Human Rights I <i>CSB 1005</i>	
10.00-11.00				LW3127 International Protection of Human Rights I <i>CSB 1005</i>	
11.00-12.00		LW3158 Animal Law <i>AUC G002</i>			
12.00-1.00		LW3158 Animal Law <i>AUC G002</i>			
1.00-2.00				LW227 Constitutional Law I <i>AC003</i>	
2.00-3.00				LW383 Information Technology Law <i>SC005</i>	LW357 Environmental Law I <i>ENG-G047</i>
3.00-4.00	LW503 European Union Law <i>AUC G002</i>		LW3160 Introduction to Law <i>CSB 1006</i>	LW383 Information Technology Law <i>SC005</i>	LW357 Environmental Law I <i>ENG-G047</i>
4.00-5.00	LW3160 Introduction to Law <i>CSB 1006</i>	LW227 Constitutional Law I <i>AMB-1021</i>		LW3151 Equality and Law <i>AC215</i>	
5.00-6.00			LW503 European Union Law <i>AC003</i>	LW3151 Equality and Law <i>SC004</i>	

In the second semester, students can either undertake a work placement with a human rights organisation, study abroad or undertake an Applied Human Rights Project.

Students shall register for **30 ECTS** credits each semester, thus completing 60 ECTS in the academic year.

SEMESTER 2 OPTIONS

Code	Module	Semester	ECTS
HR304	Study Abroad / Erasmus: Semester 2	2	30
HR302	Internship Semester 2	2	30
HR3101	Applied Human Rights Project S2	2	30

PLACEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL OR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

The internship can take place over one semester. Students must complete at least 200 hours of work placement (approx. twenty hours per week) with an approved human rights organisation in Ireland or abroad. The objective of the work placement experience is for students to be involved in and learn from the organisation's work. For the experience to be successful for both the student and the organization, the organization must assign a supervisor to the student. Clear objectives and learning goals should be set with the student at the start of the placement. These objectives will be developed, signed by the student and the supervisor, and sent to the course director.

STUDY ABROAD

Language students may take the study abroad module. The language coordinators in the College of Arts will discuss and arrange this option.

Method of assessment: Students must obtain 20/25 ECTS during their semester abroad. They must also complete the examinations and assignments set by the host university to fulfil the module requirements and pass the requisite number of modules to complete the year satisfactorily.

VERY IMPORTANT

Students choosing **two** languages together with Human Rights specialism have two options:

OPTION 1: Students can opt to do a work placement in a country where one of the languages of study is spoken, such as Spain, France, Belgium, or Germany.

OPTION 2: Alternatively, they can choose the study abroad option for the second semester and spend the summer in another country to fulfil the residency requirement for the second language of their choice.

APPLIED HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

Course Description: This module requires students to research and prepare a project on a human rights issue of their choice. Students can choose to conduct a human rights project over semester two.

Students are required to present a research project on a human rights issue of their choice. They should:

- Provide a comprehensive assessment of the relevant legal framework.
- Critically analyze the context of the human rights issue in question.
- Assess the effectiveness of the human rights framework concerning the research topic and
- Demonstrate thorough knowledge of the chosen research topic and secondary literature relating to this topic.

COURSEWORK AND ASSESSMENT

All modules will be assessed through class participation and end-of-semester exams.

Marks will be given for participation and engagement in class activities organised by the lecturer and the tutor throughout the academic year. This is an important part of these modules' learning and assessment process.

In addition to the BA modules, students are encouraged to participate regularly in the online events at the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity has been defined as “a commitment to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage” ([International Centre for Academic Integrity, 2021, p. 4](#)). Academic integrity is essential to achieving an equitable and accountable learning and research environment. It calls for the courage and strength to adhere to upright moral values, even in the face of adversity.

Maintaining academic integrity allows both you and your professors to see the extent of the knowledge you have gained through your studies and hard work. It also advocates that no student is placed at an unfair disadvantage because of another's dishonest behaviour. In this way academic integrity safeguards the reputation of the University, perceptions of graduates' learning, and thus the value of your academic qualification.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Breaches in academic integrity are called academic misconduct. This often involves a student submitting work that is not their own, in whole or part, and can include: plagiarism, unauthorised use of generative artificial intelligence, contract cheating, collusion, reuse of previously assessed work, cheating in examinations, and aiding other students' cheating. The [University of Galway Academic Integrity Policy](#) highlights various types of unethical activities all of which constitute academic misconduct (pp.1-2). Other examples of academic misconduct, some of which are facilitated by recent technological developments, are outlined in [The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0](#) (Turnitin 2023).

A full description of the University's approach towards Academic Integrity is available online:

[Academic Integrity for Students - University of Galway](#)

STYLE

In addition, make sure you structure your essays clearly and use correct styling when referencing. If your lecturer has asked you to use a particular style, you must use what they requested. If the lecturer is not requesting a specific style, then make sure you use a recognised style and that you use it correctly and consistently.

The most used style for legal research is OSCOLA (Oxford University standard). The OSCOLA guide to citation is available at:

[OSCOLA 4th Edn Hart 2012.pdf](#)

Of particular importance for international law is the OSCOLA Guide to International Law citation available at:

[OSCOLA 2006](#)

OSCOLA Ireland is available at: [OSCOLA Ireland – A comprehensive system of legal citation for Ireland](#)

See also the guide available from the University of Galway Hardiman Library:

- [Legal Citation Handout](#)
- [OSCOLA Ireland Quick Reference Guide - Law - LibGuides at University of Galway](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attendance and Engagement

Regular attendance is mandatory for all modules, and lecturers will keep a record of attendance. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend a session, please e-mail the lecturer of the relevant module as soon as possible (preferably in advance) to explain your absence.

According to university guidelines, modules worth 10 ECTS should equate to approximately 13 hours of student engagement per week. Thus, while the number of weekly contact hours per module is relatively few, students shall undertake a significant amount of independent study in the form of weekly assignments, recommended reading, and project work. This work is mandatory and forms part of the overall workload for each module.

Irish Centre for Human Rights Events

Students are encouraged to attend lunchtime seminars and similar events at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. A full calendar of events taking place at the Centre is available via this link: [News & Events - University of Galway](#)

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

The University offers various services and opportunities that will support your studies and enhance your college experience.

LIBRARY – JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY TERM & SUMMER OPENING HOURS

[Opening Hours - University of Galway](#)

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

University of Galway offers a range of disability support services, including the use of technology to support your learning and engagement with university services and resources, as well as a range of social support services

A full overview of the services provided is at the link below:

[Disability Support - University of Galway](#)

Information on how to register with the DSS is available at:

[Applying for Disability Support - University of Galway](#)

We strongly encourage students to engage with the DSS as soon as possible if they think they may require support throughout their programme.

ACADEMIC WRITING CENTRE

The academic writing centre is in the library and provides workshops and support services to students at all levels. We strongly encourage you to engage with their services. Many UG students have significantly benefited from the guidance and training provided.

Please check all the services for students at:

- [Academic Skills Service for Students - University of Galway](#)
- [Academic Writing Centre - University of Galway](#)

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY STUDENT'S UNION

[Students' Union | University of Galway](#)

The University of Galway Students' Union is an autonomous body representing its members' interests in the University and elsewhere. Every student who registers at the University of Galway automatically becomes a member on payment of the Student Levy—a total of over 12,000 members. Members are entitled to numerous benefits, including representation and advice from the Students' Union officers, Students' Union Club membership, and access to a wide range of Students' Union commercial services.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

[Global Galway - University of Galway](#)

The International Affairs Office was created especially to serve people from areas outside of Ireland. It offers a wide variety of services, including maps, immigration information, fees and more.

BA WITH HUMAN RIGHTS CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any queries in relation to the BA with Human Rights programme, contact the Programme Director: Anita.ferrara@universityofgalway.ie

Website: http://www.universityofgalway.ie/human_rights

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IrishHumanRights>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IrishCentreHR>