

E.MA 2016/2017 Call for Applications

PRESENTATION

The European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) - organised by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) - is an intensive high level one-year academic programme in the field of human rights and democratisation.

E.MA is a multidisciplinary programme that reflects the indivisible links between human rights, democracy, peace and development. The programme offers an action and policy-oriented approach to learning about international relations, law, political sciences, philosophy, history and anthropology of human rights. Students have the opportunity to be taught by leading academics representing the 41 E.MA participating universities, experts and representatives of international organisations (including the European Union, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe-OSCE) and NGOs while studying in a multicultural environment.

E.MA students, upon completion of all course components, are expected to have **gained both academic and practical skills**: on the one hand, the ability to conduct independent and interdisciplinary academic research in relation to human rights and democratisation issues; on the other hand, skills which are relevant to human rights practitioners such as reporting, fact-finding and project management.

CONTENTS OF THE E.MA PROGRAMME

FIRST AND SECOND SEMESTER

The academic year of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation is divided into **two semesters**: the first semester (September to January) in Venice - Lido and the second (February to July) at an E.MA participating university situated in the European Union. The second part of the programme is conceived as a **university exchange** which implies that students will be hosted for the second semester activities in a university located in a country other than their own.

The E.MA Programme, being multidisciplinary and comprehensive, includes lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, skill-building sessions and individual research.

The E.MA **first semester** curriculum consists of a core programme, made up of thematic sections (the *first stream*) aimed at the plenary group of students, and a series of *second stream* activities consisting of units devised for smaller groups.

First stream courses are organised in thematic sections as indicated below (they are subject to modification):

- TS1: Human Rights Institutions, Mechanisms and Standards (United Nations; Council of Europe; EU; OSCE; Organisation of American States; African System; perspectives on Asia)
- TS2: Human Rights in Context: Historical, Philosophical, Religious and Anthropological Perspectives;
- TS3: Democratisation (Transition and Transformation Processes; Political Participation; Electoral Processes)
- TS4: Human Rights and Globalisation (Stakeholders in Economic Globalisation: States, International Economic Organisations, Companies, NGOs; Human Rights and Development; Business and Human Rights;
- TS5: Human Rights and Security + Field Trip (Humanitarian Law; International Criminal Law; Security and Vulnerabilities; Field Missions; Terrorism and Human Rights). In the a.y. 2015/2016 students participated in a field trip to Kosovo.

Second stream courses consist of different components such as a series of Cluster classes

that foster advanced knowledge of human rights issues; rolling seminars based on law, philosophy and international relations; weekly sessions on academic skills; and some semester-long special projects involving students in the production of collective events.

During the **E.MA second semester** students relocate to one of the 41 participating universities to follow courses in an area of specialisation of their own choice and to undertake personal supervised research for their Master's thesis.

ASSESSMENT AND DEGREE

First semester assessment is made on the basis of written and oral assignments and exams. Only successful students are allowed to proceed to second semester courses. During the second semester, students will attend further specialised courses the assessment of which will be based on the practices of the hosting universities.

After successfully passing exams and completing a Master's thesis, students will be awarded "European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation" jointly conferred by those Universities of the EIUC/E.MA network that have ratified the Joint Degree Agreement.

These universities include:

- University of Graz, University of Padua, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Deusto Bilbao for students accessing E.MA with 180 ECTS;
- University of Graz, Ruhr-University Bochum, University of Hamburg, University of Padua, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Ljubljana, University of Deusto Bilbao for students accessing E.MA with 240 ECTS.

For more information and details on the joint degree, please visit

<http://www.eiuc.org/education/ema/becoming-an-ema-student/degree.html>

WHY CHOOSE THE E.MA PROGRAMME

- Multidisciplinarity as opposed to single focus in traditional university departments;
- Range of high level academics, experts, officials from a variety of institutions and organisations, most of whom engage on a daily basis in human rights practice and thus are always abreast of the latest developments and debates;
- Combination of theory and practice to be operational as soon as the course is completed;
- Opportunity to see how the theory studied in the classroom 'comes alive' during a field trip to a post-conflict country;
- European mobility: first Venice, historically at the centre of a multicultural approach to international relations, and then one of the many prestigious universities and human rights centres participating in the programme;
- Possibility to undertake internships and fellowships in leading human rights organisations;
- Ties with EU institutions and links with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations for a regional and global experience;
- Extensive worldwide E.MA Alumni Association for contacts, job opportunities, career development, projects, research;
- Excellent value for money;
- A unique social and professional experience during which all those involved (students, faculty and resident staff) develop long-term bonds and networks with each other.

WHO CAN APPLY

E.MA is open to EU and non-EU citizens. The **criteria** adopted during the selection process are: academic ability and background, experience, motivation and language competence.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to hold a university degree of a high standard in a field relevant to human rights, including disciplines in law, social sciences and the humanities, and must have a minimum of **180 ECTS credits** (Bachelor/General Degree).

Applicants completing the degree entry requirements subsequent to the application deadline are requested to provide a current transcript of exams. Eventual admission into the Programme will be conditional upon documentation of completed degree prior to the beginning of the academic year (the deadline is 31 August 2016).

All selected candidates who hold a non-EU degree are required to produce upon admission a “**declaration of value**” of their degree. **Non-EU candidates** are moreover required to obtain one or more **study visas** which must cover the entire duration of the academic year (September 2016-September 2017). Both the study visa/visas and the “**declaration of value**” are preconditions for enrolment and should be requested from the competent Italian Embassy or representation offices.

LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

English and **French** are the official working languages of the E.MA programme. Fluency in English is an admission requirement to the programme. While not a prerequisite, the ability to understand lectures and read academic texts in French is a definite advantage for participation in the programme.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES AND EXPERIENCE

Additional studies and practical experience in the area of human rights in inter-governmental, governmental, or non-governmental organisations are helpful.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants can fill in their application directly online under the link:

<http://www.eiuc.org/education/ema/becoming-an-ema-student/how-to-apply.html>

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Detailed **application instructions, information and the application form** are available online at **<http://www.eiuc.org/education/ema.html>**. For further information and application materials please contact the E.MA Secretariat or any of the participating universities.

DEADLINES

Applications are accepted and processed on an on-going basis in two rounds:

First round deadline: 15 January 2016

Second round deadline: 15 March 2016

The final list of admitted students will be decided by E.MA the Executive Committee (for a maximum of 100 students). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by May 2016 at the latest.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The amount of the tuition fee for the a.y. 2016/2017 is €4900 (plus enrolment fee of €150).

Details on the 2016/2017 tuition fee, enrolment fee as well as application instructions and

further information will be available online at: <http://www.eiuc.org/education/ema.html>.

EIUC does not provide full scholarships. Only a very limited number of students may be granted modest financial support in the form of a partial contribution towards living expenses and/or a full or partial tuition waiver. Depending on the available finances, lunch may be provided to E.MA students during the first semester from Monday to Friday.

Students bear the responsibility for securing their full living and housing expenses prior to their arrival in Venice (estimated at a minimum of 850 €/month).

Students are responsible for their own accommodation during both the first semester in Venice and the second semester at the hosting university. With regard to the first semester in Venice, they can receive assistance in finding accommodation or may choose to arrange this by themselves.

PROFESSIONAL OUTCOME: WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE

Having obtained the E.MA Diploma, the majority of graduates are likely to find job opportunities with human rights organisations (both governmental and non-governmental, international and national) which could involve them in field missions (electoral observation, human rights monitoring, international cooperation projects) or as officials taking care of the activities carried out at headquarters. In a number of cases graduates are involved in human rights-related activities by their home Ministries of Foreign Affairs or are seconded by them to work for international institutions. In many cases access to these institutions starts with an internship period. Some graduates pursue further academic studies and research.

In previous years EIUC itself has been facilitating the entry of its graduates in the human rights job market through two successful placement programmes: the **E.MA Internship Programme** and the **EIUC EU-UN Fellowship Programme**. Every year since 1998/1999 EIUC, with the support of the European Union, has awarded a **paid internship** in the field of human rights to the 15 students who have achieved the highest results during each academic year. Moreover, The EU-UN Fellowship Programme complements the training activities of E.MA by providing another **paid high level operational working experience** to 4 E.MA graduates each year. E.MA Internships last 5 months and EIUC EU-UN Fellowships last either 4 or 6 months, depending on the period (February-July or August-December).

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

E.MA is primarily financed through EIUC by the European Union*. The EIUC premises are made available by the Municipality of Venice. E.MA also collaborates with UNESCO, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Fundación Tres Culturas in Seville, the Region of Veneto, La Biennale di Venezia, and benefits from close cooperation with the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other international organisations.

The E.MA Programme is further enriched by the input of representatives of non-governmental organisations such as, among others, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Human Rights Watch, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims. All these organisations are members of the EIUC/E.MA Advisory Board, thus providing their expertise to the E.MA management on a continuous basis.

* subject to approval by the budgetary authorities.