Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights

2015-2016 (7th edition)

"The MCR professors, staff and classmates have added a new dimension to my thinking about how we can positively impact the lives of children throughout the world. The synergy of the brainpower in our classroom is electrifying."

Sherry Sacino, CEO, Youth Empowerment Alliance Inc., USA
INTRODUCTION
The Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR) is an interdisciplinary and international postgraduate programme in children’s rights which attracts a diverse range of advanced students from all over the world. The 2015-2016 cycle of this two-year programme starts on 2 February 2015. The deadline for applications is 30 September 2014.

The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has had an enormous impact on States, institutions, national legislation and practice. Increasingly, administrative, judicial and political decisions are taken as a direct or indirect consequence of the implementation of the Convention. The MCR provides students with the in-depth knowledge of the Convention that is required by practitioners currently working in the area of children’s rights.

OBJECTIVES
The Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights is a part-time two-year postgraduate programme that combines residential teaching and distance learning. The overall objectives of the MCR are:

- To provide participants with opportunities to acquire extended and specialised knowledge in children’s rights in their theoretical as well as in their practical dimensions through the introduction of different concepts and approaches;
- To deepen understandings of the role of international instruments on children’s rights in the implementation and monitoring of children’s rights, with a particular focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- To privilege both an international and an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children’s rights;
- To promote critical thinking concerning the effective practical application of the concepts and principles underlying the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

PARTICIPANTS
The programme is designed for professionals who work with children’s rights issues including: lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, law enforcement officers, social workers, teachers, government officials, staff from non-governmental organisations, academics and journalists. The participation of students with different backgrounds and levels of professional experience in an interactive learning environment helps to foster exchanges on theoretical and practical problems. Programme alumni hold positions in national and international governmental and non-governmental organisations such as OHCHR, ILO, HCR, UNICEF, ICRC, Human Rights Watch, Save the Children, BICE, national and regional administrations and academic institutions

ORGANIZATION
The Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights will be organised from the 2015-2016 cycle onwards by the University of Geneva, in continuation of the MCR Programme which has been organized between 2003 and 2014 by the University Institute Kurt Bösch (IUKB) and the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. The MCR will be integrated in the Continuous Education Programmes of the University of Geneva.

Programme Directors
Prof. Karl Hanson IUKB
Prof. Philip Jaffé IUKB - University of Geneva

Programme Coordinator
Dr. Roberta Ruggiero

Partnership
International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE), Sion

An expert committee made up of professors and academic staff from the University of Geneva ensures the overall guidance and quality of the programme.
Overview

The programme takes place over a two-year period and requires participants to attend seven week-long residential Modules. In addition to the residential Modules and the completion of exercises and examinations based on the required course reading materials, students are expected to devise an Individual Training Programme (ITP) which consists of the completion of a research paper (Master’s thesis), the preparation of a report on conferences or meetings attended and a report (optional) on an internship.

Residential Modules

The programme comprises seven compulsory week-long residential Modules over a two-year period. Each Module of the MCR addresses a specific theme and is held either at the IUKB Campus in Sion or at the University of Geneva. Students are invited to play an active role during the Modules, which make use of different working methods including lectures, group discussions, field visits, poster sessions and round table discussions. During the Modules, students also have time to prepare and work on their Individual Training Programme (ITP) and meet with their tutors.

A Residential Module typically runs as follows:

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>Examination</td>
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<td>Methodological workshop</td>
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<td>Introduction to the module</td>
<td>Group discussion</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Round Table discussion</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>Lecture</td>
<td>ITP-Meeting with tutors</td>
<td>Project work</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Evaluation of the current Module and preparation for the next Module</td>
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Module schedule 2015–2016

- **Module 1**  Children’s rights in context
  2 – 6 February 2015, IUKB Campus Sion

- **Module 2**  Childhood studies and Childhood research methodology
  18 – 22 May 2015, IUKB Campus Sion

- **Module 3**  Children’s rights and international law
  21 – 25 September 2015, University of Geneva

- **Module 4**  Child labour and education
  30 Nov – 4 Dec 2015, IUKB Campus Sion

- **Module 5**  Children in contact with the law
  7 – 11 March 2016, IUKB Campus Sion

- **Module 6**  Children’s rights in the context of health and in relation to migration
  6 – 10 June 2016, University of Geneva

- **Module 7**  Implementation and monitoring strategies
  28 Nov – 4 Dec 2016, IUKB Campus Sion

Work related to the modules

In order to encourage critical reading and analysis of the scientific and professional literature on children’s rights, students receive a comprehensive set of MCR Readers containing articles published by the lecturers as well as other relevant material. At the end of each module, particular tasks are assigned; these are related to one or more of the topics to be discussed during the following module. Students are also required to work in small groups composed of participants from different disciplinary and geographical backgrounds in order to carry out an assignment that is developed over several modules. Group work can take a variety of forms, e.g. responding to a request for research from external partners including different international organisations and NGOs, or contributing to a conference on children’s rights.

Note that this schedule may be subject to changes which will be announced in due time on our website.
**Individual Training Programme (ITP)**

The individual Training Programme (ITP) consists of two compulsory and one optional tasks: 1. Participation at an external seminar and/or conference and the presentation of an analytical report (compulsory); 2. The MCR Thesis, a piece of original research work on a particular topic in children’s rights (compulsory) which is supervised by a tutor; 3. The completion of a two week internship and the submission of a report detailing the insights gained from the internship (optional).

**ECTS Credits**

The programme is held over a period of two years and consists of 1,500 training hours, the equivalent of 60 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System), whereby 25 hours of student work-load count for 1 ECTS Credit.

**LANGUAGE**

The language of instruction and discussion during the modules is English. Languages accepted for writing exercises include English, French and German.

**TEACHING STAFF**

Lectures are given by international experts in the field of children’s rights from the academic world, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental institutions. The participation of these prominent academics and highly skilled field experts with various types of expertise and from different countries ensures that a diversity of disciplinary and cultural viewpoints on children’s rights issues is presented.

**ADMISSION AND SELECTION**

**Admission requirements**

Applicants are required to hold a university degree (or equivalent), and are expected to have at least two years of professional experience relevant to the programme. Applicants must have a very good working knowledge of English in order to participate actively in the modules.

**Selection and admission procedure**

Applications using the MCR application form must be submitted before 30 September 2014 and should include:

- a letter of motivation;
- copies of degrees and diplomas;
- a curriculum vitae that includes career details and work experience in children’s rights;
- two reference letters from people in a position to judge the applicant’s professional and/or academic abilities.

The MCR Scientific Committee will examine applications. If necessary, they may seek additional information from the referees or invite the candidate for an interview. All candidates shall be notified of the decision regarding their acceptance to the MCR before 1 November 2014.

**Auditors**

A limited number of auditors will be allowed to attend one or several individual module(s) of the Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights. Auditors pay a fee of CHF 2,000 (approximately 1,650 EUR / 2,250 USD) per module and receive a certificate of attendance for the (specified) module(s).
ASSESSMENT
Students are assessed at various points throughout the programme based on several criteria:
- Presence and active participation in the modules;
- Examinations and other periodic written assessment tasks;
- Satisfactory completion of homework between the modules;
- Assessment of the individual training programme (Master’s thesis, conference reports, internship report);
- Presentation of the thesis.

CERTIFICATION
At the end of the programme, participants who have met all of the requirements for completion of the academic programme receive a degree conferred by the University of Geneva. The degree awarded is the Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights.

FEES
Registration fee
CHF 150 (approximately 125 EUR / 160 USD)

Tuition fee
The tuition fee for the two-year programme is CHF 15,000 (approximately 12,300 EUR / 16,900 USD). This sum does not include travel or living expenses.

Cancellation
Cancellations prior to the sixth module will be charged (cancellation costs between 15% and 25% of the tuition fee + auditor’s fee per module attended).

Insurance
Prior to final enrolment, students accepted for the programme are required to provide proof that they are covered for accident and health insurance in Switzerland.

Fellowships
Applicants are responsible for securing their own funding to participate in the MCR. No programme-related fellowships are available.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS
"As the director of an NGO that focuses on the rights of children, I have found the course extremely relevant and helpful for my work. It has challenged my own perceptions of children and childhood and has grounded me with a good working knowledge of the CRC. The interdisciplinary approach of the program has broadened my perspective immensely."
James Jolley, Director of Child Rights Advocacy, Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI), Geneva, Switzerland

"The MCR was an excellent opportunity to broaden my own understanding of children’s rights, especially within an international context, while simultaneously creating friendships with other like-minded professionals from all over the world. The privilege of being in an academic setting amongst professionals with expertise in their individual fields created a stimulating environment to reflect upon and learn about pertinent issues in children’s rights. I looked forward to each module and consider myself privileged to study at this stage of my career. I would recommend the MCR programme to anyone who is wanting to solidify their knowledge base, challenge themselves and meet an interesting group of people."
Kelley Bunkers, Children’s rights consultant, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

"It is an extremely useful programme for professionals interested in children’s and human rights. The theoretical knowledge gained is sure to enhance the practical work of the participants."
Deepak Paj Sapkota, Country Director, Karuna Foundation, Nepal
INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE KURT BÖSCH (IUKB)

Located in the heart of the Swiss Alps, in Sion, the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB) develops an inter- and transdisciplinary approach in academic teaching and research. The Institute concentrates its academic teaching programmes and research activities on two main fields of study, Children's rights and Tourism (www.iukb.ch). The mandate of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE), that has a comprehensive partnership agreement with IUKB, includes offering information and training programmes on child rights implementation in specific countries and on particular issues (www.childsrights.org).

CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION:
For further information on the Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR), please see the information provided on the web site www.iukb.ch/mcr, and http://www.unige.ch/formcont/MASchildrenrights.html or contact:

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