



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2019

MPhil Disability Rights (Coursework) (04251026)

Minimum duration of study	2 years
Total credits	200
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Programme information

This programme is available for international students.

Closing date for applications: SA applicants – 30 November; non-SA applicants – 31 August.

The duration of the programme will be four semesters (2 years).

Admission requirements

- At least an honours degree in an academic discipline relevant to legal aspects in South Africa or Africa as well as to the contents of the specific MPhil coursework programme OR any other qualification in an academic discipline relevant to legal aspects in South Africa or Africa as well as to the contents of the specific MPhil coursework programme that allows admission to a master's programme at the institution where the undergraduate qualification was obtained. If the duration of that qualification is less than four years, substantial proven practical or professional experience in legal aspects in South Africa or Africa will furthermore be required, subject to the discretion of the Dean.
- Foreign qualifications are subject to SAQA evaluation.
- A minimum average mark of 65% with respect to the prescribed modules of the honours programme is required for admission to the MPhil coursework programmes.
- An acceptable level of proficiency in English is required.
- In addition to the general admission requirements, the following specific selection criteria are used in combination to select the eligible students:
- In addition to the general admission requirements, the following specific selection criteria are used in combination to select the eligible students: geographic representation; gender representation; and equitable representation of persons from vulnerable communities (such as persons with disabilities, persons belonging to indigenous communities and LGBTI persons).
- Applicants may be required to write an essay within a restricted time period of being given the topic, which is assessed and taken into account in the admission process.
- The maximum number of students admitted for this course is 15 per annum.

Other programme-specific information

This is a selection programme and only selected applicants will be admitted to the programme.

Mini-dissertation (MND 800)

An approved research proposal must be submitted before registration for the mini-dissertation.



The mini-dissertation must comprise 13 000 to 15 000 words – including footnotes but excluding the list of contents and the bibliography. It must deal with the subject content of one of the modules registered for and should reflect a multidisciplinary perspective on disability rights.

Any request for an extension of the period for the submission of the mini-dissertation may only be granted by the Dean on recommendation of the Postgraduate Committee.

Research information

The relevant head of department must recommend a supervisor and title for a mini-dissertation and these must be approved by the Postgraduate Committee. The mini-dissertation must be assessed and finalised as set out in the Faculty Board-approved LLM Policy Document of the Faculty. Mini-dissertations, where required, must be submitted in the format determined by the supervisor and approved by the Postgraduate Committee. The supervisor may likewise and subject to the approval of the Postgraduate Committee also determine the research topic and the scope of the proposed research.

Pass with distinction

For the degree to be awarded with distinction a student must obtain an average of at least 75% for all the coursework modules together, as well as a minimum of 75% for the mini-dissertation. The modules must have been written for the first time.



Curriculum: Year 1

Core modules

Principles of international human rights law 801 (DRL 801)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites
Contact time	15 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Centre for Human Rights
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The module focuses on core concepts and approaches informing international human rights law. The topics covered include:

- Rationale for international human rights law
- Sources of international human rights law
- Human rights norms and institutions at global (UN), regional (AU), and sub-regional levels
- Relationship between international human rights law, general international law and international criminal law
- Relationship between international and national human rights law; domestic implementation and subsidiarity

Principles of social science 802 (DRL 802)

Module credits	5.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites
Contact time	15 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Centre for Human Rights
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The module focuses on core concepts in selected social science disciplines and in social science research. The topics covered include:

- Basic constructs of selected social science disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, pedagogy, and political economy
- Qualitative and quantitative research methods

Research methodology for human rights 801 (NRM 801)

Module credits	5.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 lectures per week



Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
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Department	Centre for Human Rights
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Period of presentation	Semester 1
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Module content

In this module, the focus is on aspects of human rights research, fact finding, advocacy and education.

Research proposal 803 (RHP 803)

Module credits	5.00
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Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
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Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
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Department	Law Deans Office
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Period of presentation	Year
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Module content

Development and presentation of a research proposal. (A research proposal must be submitted to the supervisor and accepted in the first semester of the second year of study before the student will be allowed to register for the mini-dissertation.)



Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Protection of persons with disabilities in a global context 803 (DRL 803)

Module credits	25.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites
Contact time	30 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Centre for Human Rights
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The module focuses on principles and processes of international human rights law at the global level relevant to persons with disabilities. The topics covered include:

- Relevant international human rights law principles, concepts and current issues relevant to persons with disabilities
- Disability as a social construct and basic concepts of disability rights
- Historical trajectory of the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities at the global level
- Relevance of sources of international law to disability rights
- Development of soft law and treaty law for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities prior to the CRPD
- Substantive and procedural protection of the rights of persons with disabilities under the CRPD and its Optional Protocol
- Monitoring requirements under the CRPD
- Selected United Nation jurisprudence on disability rights

Mini-dissertation 800 (MND 800)

Module credits	100.00
Prerequisites	RHP 801 and RHP 803
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Law Deans Office
Period of presentation	Year



Module content

- (a) The student must submit a research proposal during his/her first year of registration for the LLM degree to the supervisor prior to commencing with the writing of the mini-dissertation.
- (b) A mini-dissertation (MND 800) of 13 000 to 15 000 words inclusive of footnotes but excluding the list of contents and the bibliography, is required. The mini-dissertation must be submitted to the supervisor not later than August of the second year of registration for the LLM programme. The mini-dissertation must deal with the subject content of one of the modules or a combination of the modules registered for by the student for his/her LLM degree. Any request for an extension of the period for submission of the mini-dissertation may only be granted by the Dean on recommendation of the LLM Committee
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The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.