



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2021

MPhil Disability Rights (Coursework) (04251026)

Department Centre for Human Rights

Minimum duration of study 2 years

Total credits 200

NQF level 09

Programme information

This programme is available for international students.

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

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

Admission requirements

1. LLB degree **or** BProc degree **or** relevant honours degree **or** relevant degree on SAQA level 8 **and** relevant work experience in legal aspects in South Africa or Africa
2. A cumulative weighted average of at least 65%

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
NQF Level	09
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
NQF Level	09
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

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

Module credits	25.00
-----------------------	-------



NQF Level	09
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

African regional disability rights protection 804 (DRL 804)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	09
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 focus of this module is to examine the protection of disability rights under African regional and national law. The topics covered include:

- Historical background on the protection of disability rights in Africa
- Regional and sub- regional protection of disability rights in the African human rights system
- Historical background and the efficacy of an African Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the rights of persons with disabilities
- South African legislation, policies and jurisprudence relevant to persons with disabilities, in comparison to other selected African states
- Legal reform to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in an African context
- Media studies perspective to disability rights in Africa - evaluating the role of media in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities

Research methodology for human rights 801 (NRM 801)

Module credits	5.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Centre for Human Rights
Period of presentation	Semester 1

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
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Law Deans Office
Period of presentation	Year

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

Contemporary challenges in disability law, policy and practice in Africa 805 (DRL 805)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	09
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 2

Module content

In this module a multidisciplinary approach is adopted to disability law, policy and practice. The focus is on contemporary challenges in disability law, policy and practice in an African context and selected topics may include:

- Contemporary challenges in disability law, policy and practice in Africa
- Anthropology of disability in an African context
- Disability and intersectionality in an African context, exploring multiple identities and cumulative discrimination
- Disability and social change in an African context
- Disability rights in practice: legal capacity, supported decision-making and independent living in an African context
- Disability and development in Africa: Inclusive development and the sustainable development goals
- Disability and social policy
- Inclusive education law, policy and practice
- Mental health law, policy and practice
- Advocacy and access to justice in Africa

Mini-dissertation 800 (MND 800)

Module credits	100.00
NQF Level	09
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

Research proposal 803 (RHP 803)

Module credits	5.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Law Deans Office
Period of presentation	Year

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.)

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.