

## *Master of Arts*

# *HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE*



The Human Rights and Social Justice (HRSJ) program offered by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) aims to support emerging leaders and future human rights advocates who can draw upon a deep knowledge and experience in a field that demands innovative and creative responses to complex challenges in contemporary societies.

The 1.5-year graduate program provides students with an advanced conceptual understanding of social justice and the promotion and protection of human rights at the international, regional, and national levels, informed by the latest practices.

The program equips students with the skills required for effective work in peace and justice across a variety of organizational settings, offering a combination of applied real-world skills and training in research.

Students get actively involved in both theory and skills development from leading human rights professionals, activists, and scholars, while gaining field experience through various research opportunities, such as the Human Rights Clinic, internship, and capstone projects to implement strategic approaches to existing complex global and domestic issues.

### Career Path

- Social Services
- Human Rights law, International law
- Domestic and International Human Rights Advocacy
- Humanitarian Services
- Human Rights & Social Justice Program Officer
- Communications
- International Development
- International Relations

## International Collaboration

The Program collaborates with leading institutions, such as the **Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)** and **Lund University** in Sweden, as well as the **University of Connecticut** in the US. These partnerships provide HRSJ graduate students an exceptional opportunity to gain professional first-hand experience in human rights and enhance their skills through a curriculum enriched by academic-led training. Future study visits, and immersive field trips are planned.

## Curriculum

MA HRSJ offers a flexible structure with a mixture of compulsory and optional modules. The degree requires a completion of a minimum of **36 credits** over **three regular semesters and a summer term**, including a master's thesis. All students must take at least **one credit** of environmental studies in satisfaction of the university-wide environmental studies requirement.

### Core Courses

- Seminar on Human Rights and Social Justice
- Justice, Knowledge, and Change
- Foundations of Social Science Research
- European Convention on Human Rights
- Human Rights in the Security Sector
- Project Development, Monitoring, and Evaluation
- Social Justice and Identity
- International Criminal Law
- Public Advocacy

## Human Rights Clinic

Students will acquire hands-on experience under supervision in order to apply the knowledge gained in human rights to real-world scenarios, thereby engaging directly with current human rights issues in their legal jurisdictions, local communities, and/or on a global scale.

Students have a choice of two tracks: the Legal Clinic or the Social Justice Clinic, where they will collaborate on small-group projects. These projects employ a wide range of methods, support social science research, litigation, advocacy, policy, and program development and/or extend technical guidance on human rights to civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, governments, the UN, and other international organizations' human rights bodies.

## Internship

Our students will be offered a unique chance to gain experience in the field of human rights and justice, explore newfound interests, develop skills, and create a network of contacts. As interns, students will be actively engaged in an intensive learning experience alongside local and international human rights experts and policymakers, thus promoting their personal and professional growth. The internship is optional. It will run part-time over a period of two months, during which interns will receive close supervision and feedback from the supervisors of the host institution. Every intern will be entrusted with a list of tasks to be performed at the host institution.

### HRSJ Admission Requirements:

- An Undergraduate Degree
- Target Scores – TOEFL 79 / IELTS 6.5
- Submission of a Completed Online Application
- Interview

**APPLY  
ONLINE**

[admissions.aua.am/apply](https://admissions.aua.am/apply)

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#### HRSJ Program

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