



# Master Programme In International Human Rights Law

Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia

**RAOUL  
WALLENBERG  
INSTITUTE**



# About the Program

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The Master Programme in International Human Rights Law is offered by the Faculty of Law and Public Affairs at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia. It was the first such master level programme in Cambodia and offers an international level postgraduate qualification in international human rights. The programme, which will be offered in English, draws on the academic and practitioner strengths of the Faculty as well as the extensive number of human rights experts associated with Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC). Since 2013, the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law will be offered with support from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), an independent academic institution affiliated with Lund University in Sweden. PUC and RWI entered into a MoU on 12 September 2013 establishing the foundation of the cooperation, which is financially supported by Swedish Development Cooperation.

The programme is scheduled to be offered on weekends throughout the year. Accordingly, students have the opportunity to study full time at the same time as working, should they so wish. Reflecting normal PUC practice, the programme begins with core master skills and knowledge courses, before students advance to more specialized international human rights courses.

A variety of teaching and assessment methods are used, ensuring students achieve a high level understanding of theory and practice. International human rights are studied in the national, regional and international contexts. Graduating students will have a comprehensive understanding of human rights and will be able to utilize their knowledge and competency to promote and protect human rights and development locally, regionally and internationally. Uniquely, students elect one of two graduation paths offered on this programme: master thesis, a conventional academic paper or master report, a more applied, practice orientated piece of work.

This programme is ideally suited to those working with human rights or interested in doing so. Human rights permeate almost all aspects of society and life thus the programme is also an excellent general qualification, offering the development of a number of core transferable skills. Staff at justice sector institutions, government institutions, non-governmental organization, academic institutions and freshly graduated students are likely to find the programme useful. The programme, which is offered in English, welcomes applicants with different academic backgrounds holding no less than a bachelor degree.





# Faculty of Law and Public Affairs of Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia

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The Faculty of Law and Public Affairs (LPA) of PUC strives to deliver high quality legal education that is attainable by, and responsive to, the needs of the young generation of Cambodia. The Faculty places special emphasis on research and studies in law, social justice and policy.

As a school of law, LPA's mission is to produce a wide range of human resources for the 21st century through curricula grounded in the principles of multidisciplinary, creativity, internationalism, and pioneerism. LPA has an established and internationally recognized reputation for excellence in teaching law in English. LPA's faculty members care about their teaching and see students as a priority. LPA welcomes students of all backgrounds.

The Faculty provides a unique opportunity for high quality legal education. Rather than just telling people how we are doing things differently and better, this institution is committed to making it obvious that we are student-centred and devoted to preparing students to enter into professions.



# Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

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The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) is an independent academic institution, founded in 1984 at the Law Faculty at Lund University in Sweden.

The mission of the Institute is to promote universal respect for human rights and humanitarian law, by means of research, academic education and institutional development programmes and our vision is to be a centre of excellence promoting the development of societies based on a human rights culture.

Hosting one of the largest human rights libraries in northern Europe and engaged in various education, research and publication activities, the Institute provides a conducive environment for studies and research. The Institute combines academic programmes with an extensive international human rights capacity development programme, mainly for academic institutions, justice sector institutions, and national human rights institutions. This combination provides a unique platform where theory and practice can meet and interact in order to further the development and application of international human rights law.

The Institute has extensive experience of supporting human rights education and research in Asia. The Institute was for example involved in establishing the first Human Rights Master Programme in China in cooperation with Beijing University and provided support for approximately ten years to the first social science graduate programme in human rights in Southeast Asia at Mahidol University in Thailand.

The institute has been involved in the area of human rights education in Cambodia since 2008. In 2011 the Institute initiated small scale cooperation with PUC and since 2013 the Institute implements a large five-year human rights capacity development programme in Cambodia financed by Swedish Development Cooperation. The programme focuses in particular on strengthening human rights education and research at Academic Institutions in Cambodia.



# Master Program in International Human Rights Law

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## Programme Objectives

*The Programme aims to:*

1. Deliver education for, about and through Human Rights in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.
  2. Develop capacity and ability to work in a variety of fields of human rights;
  3. Build-up and enrich in-depth knowledge in international, regional and national human rights law and policy;
  4. Develop theoretical and practical understanding and application of human rights; and
  5. Cultivate an understanding and appreciation of principles and values of human rights.
2. Demonstrate growing consciousness and awareness of the importance of the principles and values of human rights;
  3. Exhibit high-level competency in the following skills:
    - Research and writing;
    - Critical thinking and analysis;
    - English language communication;
    - Advocacy and legal reasoning; and
    - Problem-solving
  4. Utilize their knowledge and competency to help promote and protect human rights and development locally, regionally and internationally; and
  5. Produce high quality research and reports which may contribute to the academic and practitioner oriented dissemination of knowledge.

## Students Learning Outcomes

Students who have successfully completed this programme should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of international, regional and national human rights, with a focus on the emerging integrated framework of ASEAN;

## Academic Curriculum

### *Programme Structure*

In order to complete this programme, students must obtain in total 54 credits (18 courses) from courses listed in the table below and spend at least 30 months on their studies. The final six months will be devoted to independent thesis or report writing. The programme is structured as illustrated on the next page:

## Foundation Courses (all masters programs)

Cambodian Laws  
in Context

Introduction to  
International Law and  
Human Rights

Negotiations and  
Conflict Resolution

Global  
Environmental  
Awareness

Fundamentals of  
Economics

Advanced Legal  
Research and  
Writing



## Basic Major courses

International Human Rights Law  
and Practice

Business Law  
and Practice

Intellectual Property Law and Practice



## Major Courses for International Human Rights

Methods of Human  
Rights Research

International and  
Regional Human Rights  
Law

Human Rights and  
Criminal Justice

Contemporary Human  
Rights Issues

Human Rights and  
Women

PLUS Two elective  
Human Rights course



## Graduation paths

Project Path

Thesis Path

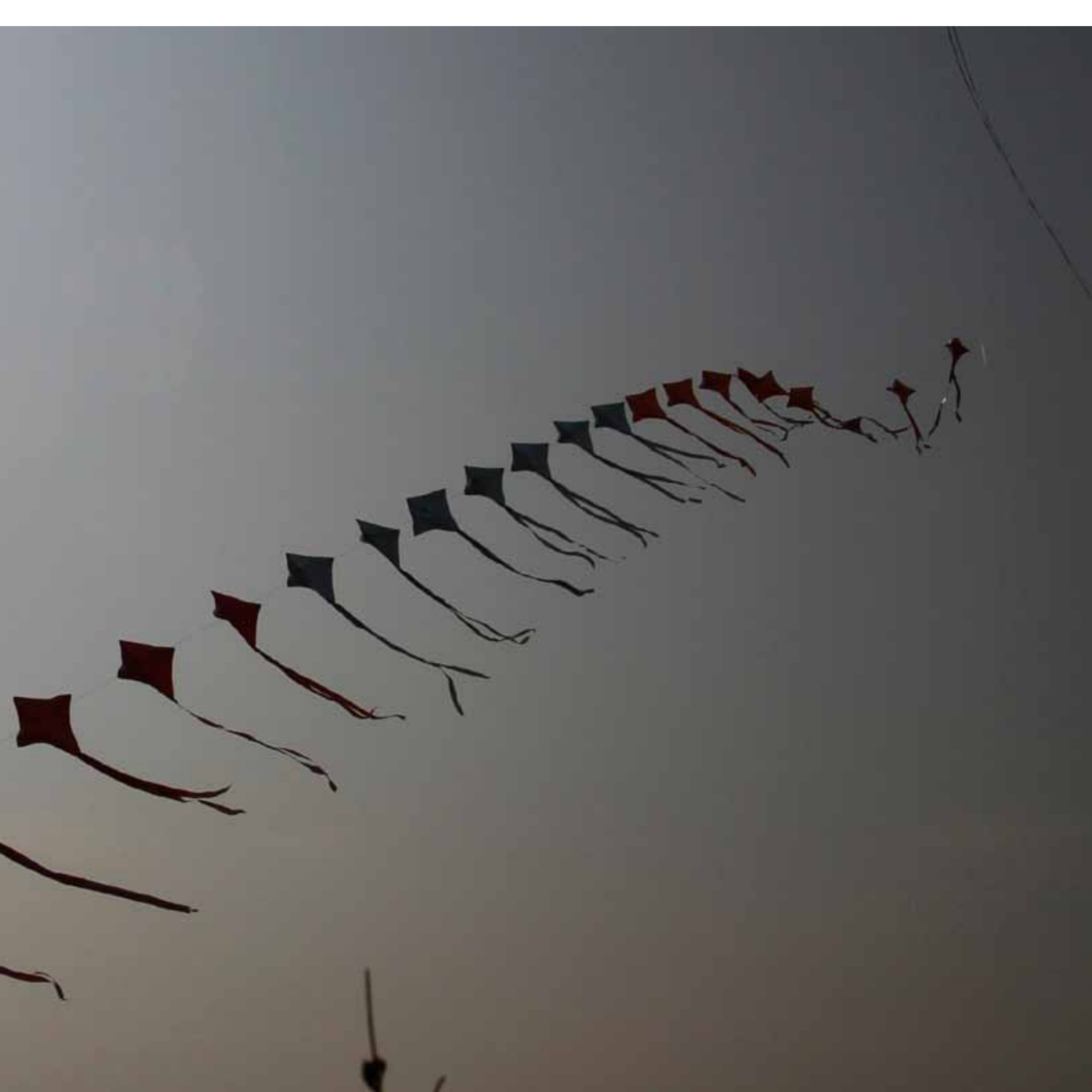


Article 1 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.  
They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act  
towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.**







The details of the programme are as follows:

- **Six Foundation Courses (18 credits)**

4 of these courses (common courses) are required for all PUC Master students.

2 of these courses (directed courses) are compulsory for all students taking a master degree in Law.

- **Three Basic Major Courses (9 credits)**

These courses reflect the three master directions in law offered by PUC and are compulsory for all students taking a master degree in law.

- **Five Major Courses in international Human Rights law (15 credits)**

These courses are compulsory for all students taking the master degree in international human rights law.

- **Two Elective Courses (6 credits)**

Students taking the degree in international human rights law are required to select two of the elective courses. The courses offered depend on staff availability and students' interest.

- **One Graduation path (6 credits)**

The students taking the degree in international human rights law can choose between two graduation paths: 1) master thesis or 2) master report. Each path consists of a preparation course and the final master thesis or report.

Note: The comprehensive examination path is not an option in this programme.

### *Class Schedule*

The classes will be conducted during the weekends in order to enable students with full-time employment to attend. Classes will be provided in three sessions scheduled between 08.00 on Saturday morning and 17.00 on Sunday afternoon. The specific schedule of each course will be provided in the PUC academic calendar available on the PUC webpage. PUC has three academic terms:

Term 1	April-August
Term 2	August-November (intensive courses)
Term 3	November-April

## **Admission Process**

To be admitted to a Master's program, students must submit the following documents:

### *Required documents*

- A copy of bachelor's degree certified by City Hall
- A copy of bachelor's degree transcript
- A copy of resume/CV
- A personal statement letter
- Two letters of recommendation
- A TOEFL score of at least 550 or IELTS score of at least 6.0 (If the TOEFL score or IELTS score cannot be obtained, applicants are required to take PUC GAT Test)
- Two photos (4 X 6)
- PUC's application form (available at PUC Legal Clinic)



Please note that PUC GAT Test can be waived if applicants hold a bachelor's degree from PUC.

#### *Interview*

Applicants might be required to have an interview with the Dean of the Faculty if an undergraduate major is different from a major that applicants intend to pursue in a master's programme.

#### *How to Apply for Admission*

Applicants must submit all the required documents above to PUC Legal Clinic (see address below), and pay a non-refundable application fee of USD \$5 for local applicants and USD \$20 for foreign applicants (non-scholarship applicants).

## Scholarships

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute, with financial support from Swedish International Development, will provide up to **15 scholarships** for individuals to study the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law. Scholarships will cover the full tuition fee for the 54 credits Master Programme.

In order to apply for the Scholarships the applicants must submit a separate application. A Scholarship Selection Committee (SSC) consisting of representatives from both RWI and PUC as well as external individuals with a solid human rights background will be formed. SSC will meet regularly to identify the most suitable candidates for the scholarships. Their recommendation ►

will be based on both submitted documents and interviews of shortlisted candidates.

In order to be eligible for a scholarship, the applicants must fulfil the following general requirements:

- Be Cambodian citizens residing in Cambodia;
- Be accepted to the Master programme, i.e. fulfil all the general requirements for the Master Programme, including academic merits, English language skills etc.
- Be committed to Human Rights

In selecting the scholarship recipients, SSC will take into consideration the applicants':

- Academic merits
- Interest in pursuing a career in the human rights field (Academic, NGO, Government, Justice Sector, etc)
- Justification of how and why the Master Programme will enhance their career goals
- Degree of maturity, self-reliance, self-discipline, and resourcefulness
- Initiative, drive, willingness and opportunity to complete the Master programme in a timely manner
- Potential to become leaders, opinion formers, and decision makers
- Critical thinking skills

In relation to the composition of the group of scholarship recipients, SSC will aim at obtaining:

- Gender balance
- Geographical balance
- Balance between applicants' professional background (government, NGO, justice sector, academic etc)
- A wide diversity of students in general.

Finally, SSC might prioritise applicants from disadvantage backgrounds.

#### *How to Apply for Scholarships*

Individuals who wish to apply for a scholarship should submit the following supporting documents (in English):

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- Cover sheet of the application to the Master Programme;
- Scholarship motivation letter (400-600 words) explaining why the applicant should be awarded a scholarship keeping in mind the selection criteria above;
- Proof of English language skills;
- Copy of the applicant's ID card or passport with her/his personal data and photograph; and
- Any other documents the applicant wish to submit, for example recommendation letters, diplomas, certificates etc.



*Librarians from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute visit the PUC library*

*Note: Application forms for both admission and scholarship are available at PUC Legal Clinic.*

*No documents will be returned to the applicant so please submit certified copies if you wish to keep the originals. Shortlisted candidates might be asked to provide originals.*

## **Important Dates**

Application for Admission	7 February – 15 April, 2014
Application for Scholarship	7 February – 28 February 28, 2014
Announcement of the Result of Scholarship Application	26 March, 2014
Launch of the Programme	4 April, 2014
Semester Starts	26 April, 2014



## Address and contact

For further information, please contact:

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