



## Master Programme in International Human Rights Law 2016 - 2018

Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia



## About the Program

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 is 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 2014, the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law is 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.

In 2016, the programme is scheduled to be offered on weekday evenings 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 transferrable skills. Staff at justice sector institutions, government institutions, non-governmental organization, academic institutions, media outlets and freshly graduated students are likely to find the programme useful.



First batch of students at the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law at PUC. The students will graduate in September/October 2016.



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

The Faculty of Law and Public Affairs (FLPA) 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 FLPA places special emphasis on research and studies in law, social justice and policy.

As a school of law, FLPA'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. FLPA has an established and internationally recognized reputation for excellence in teaching law in English. FLPA's faculty members care about their teaching and see students as a priority. FLPA welcomes students of all backgrounds.

FLPA 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.

PUC-FLPA has a Law and Human Rights Resource Center, which is one of the most advanced, and best resourced, centres for law and human rights material in Cambodia. Under supervision of a professional librarian, the library offers unique opportunities to study and research human rights in Cambodia.



**LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
RESOURCE CENTER**  
PAÑÑĀSĀSTRA UNIVERSITY OF CAMBODIA



# Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

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 gra-

duate 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

## Programme Objectives

The Master Programme in International Human Rights Law 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.

## Students Learning Outcomes

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

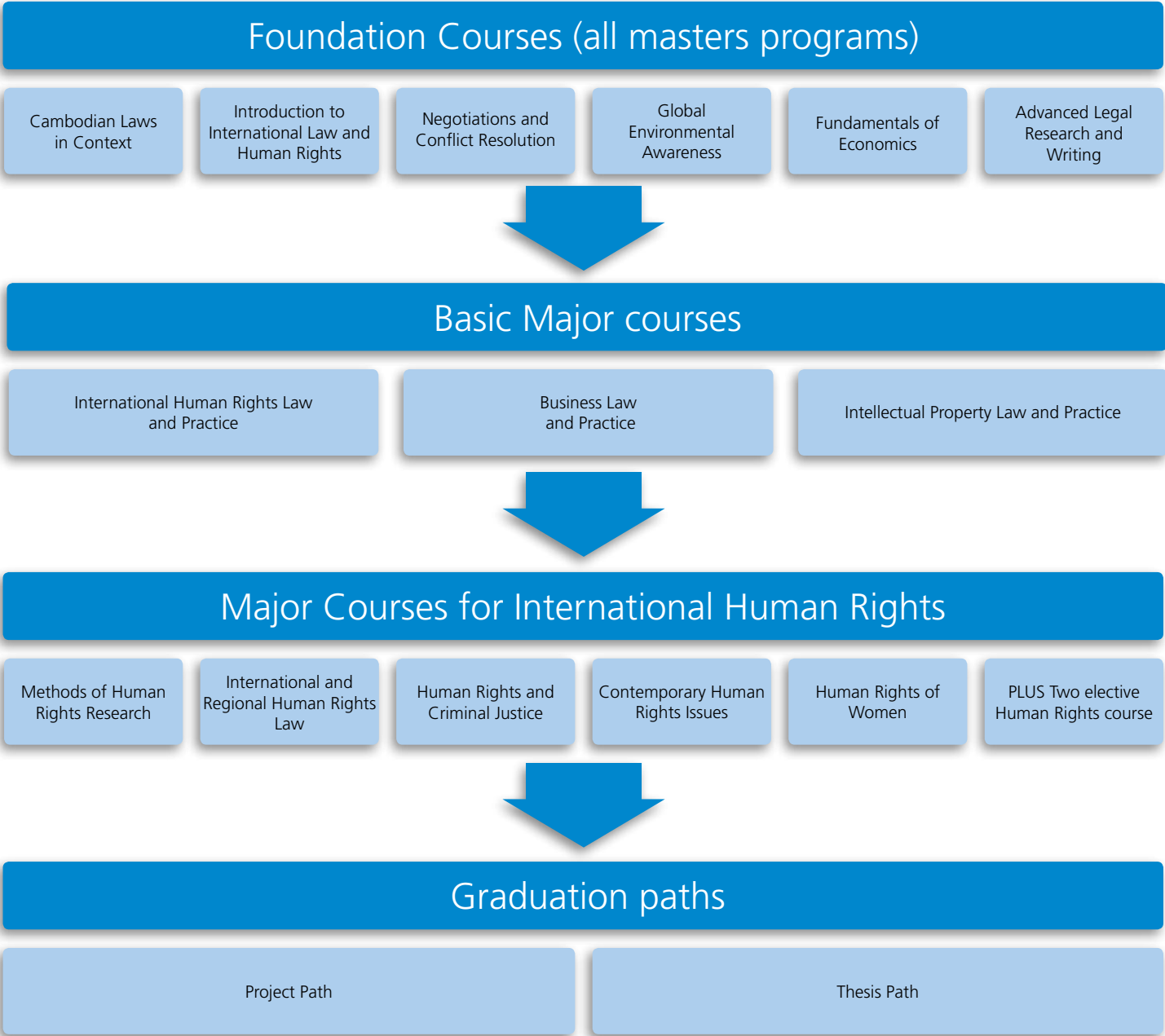
1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of international, regional and national human rights, with a focus on the emerging integrated framework of ASEAN;
2. Demonstrate growing consciousness and awareness of the importance of the principles and values of human rights;
3. Exhibit high-level competency 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.

## 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 follows:





A dramatic sunset scene over a body of water. In the foreground, two fishermen are silhouetted against the bright, low sun. One fisherman stands on a small, dark rock or log in the water, while the other is partially submerged. A large, intricate fishing net is suspended in the air, its mesh catching the light and creating a complex, web-like pattern against the sky. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the water reflects the golden light of the setting sun. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

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 on weekday evenings in order to enable students with full-time employment to attend. Normally, classes will be provided in three sessions per week (except in Summer term in which there may be more sessions), from Monday to Friday scheduled between 17:30 and 20:30. The specific schedule of each course is provided in the PUC academic calendar available on the PUC webpage. PUC has three academic terms per year:

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

**Admission Process**

To be admitted to a Master’s programme, students must submit the following documents:

*Required documents*

- Completed PUC’s graduate programme application form (available at PUC Legal Clinic);
- Two photos (4 X 6);
- A copy of resume/CV;
- A copy of bachelor’s degree certified by City Hall;
- A copy of bachelor’s degree transcript;
- A personal statement letter;
- Two letters of recommendation; and



- 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).

Please note that PUC GAT Test can be waived if applicants hold a bachelor’s degree from PUC or any native English speaking country.

*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 will provide up to **13 full scholarships** for individuals to study the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law. In addition, PUC will provide **2 full scholarships** and **3 partial scholarships** (50%) for individuals to study the 2016-2018 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; and
- 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; and
- 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);and
- A wide diversity of students in general.

Finally, SSC might prioritise applicants from a disadvantage background.

How to Apply for Scholarships

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

- Cover sheet of the scholarship application to the Master Programme (available at PUC Legal Clinic);
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae;

- Scholarship motivation letter (400-600 words) explaining why the applicant should be awarded a scholarship referring to 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.

**Note:**  
Applicants who wish to apply for admission to the Master Programme must complete the PUC Graduate Programme Form and submit all required documents to PUC Legal Clinic. Interested applicants are recom-

mended to submit their application as early as possible. If applicants also wish to apply for a scholarship, they must submit a separate Scholarship Application Form. Both application forms are available at PUC Legal Clinic.

No documents will be returned to the applicants 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 and Deadline	Open until April 08, 2016
Scholarship Application period	February 22 - March 16, 2016
Announcement of Scholarship Result	Early April, 2016
Semester Starts	April 19, 2016

# Student testimonials



## Kong Meta

*(Batch 2), Journalist at the Phnom Penh Post*

As a journalist and as a student of the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law, I believe this program is not only useful and helpful for me personally and professionally, but also for the Cambodian society. One of the keys to improve the human rights situation is the media. The program has given me ideas and practical knowledge of how to develop and write human right stories. I am confident that I now can produce more in-depth, accurate and balanced human rights articles and reports.



## Mang Sohan

*(Batch 2), Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

The Master Programme in International Human Rights Law not only gives a comprehensive understanding about human rights law from a national and an international context; but it produces a unique study environment. Throughout the well-designed course activities, which include debates and, discussions which challenge our diversified thoughts, the programme essentially helps me to develop my skills and confidence and enables me to play a part in improving human rights.



## Long Kimkhorn

*(Batch 1) President of Khmer Youth Congress (KYC)*

LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law programme developed by RWI-PUC is the best international programme ever to develop skills, knowledge, professionalism, academic researches, debate, dialogue, sharing, learning and practices in the field of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law for academicians and practitioners as well as researcher and Human Rights activist in Cambodia.



## Hay Theavy

*(Batch 1) Officer at the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft*

The structure of this master programme provides me a valuable knowledge through many interesting specialized courses necessary to understand human rights. This master programme help broaden my insight and perspective in term of understanding human rights as a part of law. I commit to work for human rights organization to promote the respect for human rights and to help people to live in justice and peace.



## Houn Phorn

*(Batch 1) Officer at LICADHO (Cambodia League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights)*

Two years of studies at the Master Programme in International Human Rights Law at PUC with support from Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, have brought me more in depth knowledge about regional and international instruments of human rights as well as legal analysis and critical thinking, and it will sharpen and strengthen my future career in the human rights sectors.



## Lay Sotheany

*(Batch 2) Administrative Assistant at Better Factories Cambodia (BFC)*

Graduated from a local university, and with experience from international firms and international organization in my home country, seeing the world was huge. Through the experiences from the master programme I have gained knowledge, skills, leadership and personal development which makes me more confident in all aspects of life, business, politics and society. It has provided me with knowledge that I can effectively use to communicate and interact in society.



## Address and contact

For further information, please contact:

PUC Legal Clinic, Faculty of Law and Public Affairs (FLPA),  
Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia,  
Annex Building, 2nd Floor, No. 184, Norodom Blvd, 12301, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Office: 855-23-676-7293

Mr. Thol Theany  
Coordinator for Law Programmes  
Email: [theany@puc.edu.kh](mailto:theany@puc.edu.kh)

