

Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic (B001682)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 8.0 **Study time 240 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

A (Year) Dutch, English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Brems, Eva	RE22	lecturer-in-charge
Desmet, Ellen	RE22	co-lecturer
Ouald Chaib, Saïla	RE22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Master of Laws in Laws	8	A
Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject European Union Law)	8	A
Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and Human Rights Law)	8	A
Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and National Legal Orders)	8	A
Exchange Programme in Law	8	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Human rights law, migration law, Legal clinic

Position of the course

The course Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic consists of legal clinical education, as has been well established in Anglo-Saxon countries. Within the framework of this course, students work in small teams on real cases concerning a human rights or migration law issue. They do this under intensive supervision of a teaching assistant and/or scientific researcher.

The Clinic has a dual objective: In the first place it aims at providing students the opportunity to work, under professional supervision, in an intensive and practical way on particular human rights or migration law themes. It gives them the unique opportunity to discover law in practice. Moreover, through the work in real cases, the Legal Clinic aims to, fulfil a central social justice role by contributing to the effective protection of human rights, in particular those of disadvantaged persons and groups.

To achieve this dual objective, the Clinic cooperates with a number of partners from civil society that work on human rights and migration law issues. In addition, the team coaches are most of the time teaching assistants who are also professionals active in these fields of law and who share their practical experiences with the students.

Contents

For this course, students will intensively study certain human rights or migration law issues through the lens of specific cases and will translate their findings to useful qualitative end products. This could be specific documents in a legal proceeding, such as a summon, a conclusion, a memorandum of oral pleading or advisory notes for lawyers or external partners. There is also a possibility to work on international projects in English. This could be a third-party intervention before the European Court of Human Rights, a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report for the UN or a research paper for an NGO in the asylum and migration law field for advocacy work. The cases vary from year to year, since they depend on the needs in the field.

Students are also responsible for the communication with external partners. If possible and

applicable, students get the opportunity to meet the lawyers or clients involved in a project.

Initial competences

Good basic knowledge of human rights and/or migration law.

Good knowledge of English. (in particular for the projects in English)

Final competences

- 1 Thorough theoretical and practical knowledge in a subarea of human rights and/or migration law.
- 2 Understand the possibilities and the limitations of the law in fulfilling human rights.
- 3 Select, analyse legal and non-legal sources and use them to solve legal issues.
- 4 Gain insights in legal norms and apply them in specific cases.
- 5 Formulate legal argumentation.
- 6 Report orally and in written form about the research results and the analysis of legal questions.
- 7 Use legal language in written form.
- 8 Master communication skills towards both lawyers and non-lawyers.
- 9 Ability to work individually and in team.
- 10 Having insights in societal issues in the fields of human rights and migration law.
- 11 Integrate societal commitment in a creative way in scientific work and in the work of a starting lawyer.
- 12 Act in a discrete, responsible and deontological way.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Excursion, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

After a short theoretical training, students will intensively work in small teams on specific cases, under the supervision of their team coach. They are expected to combine different responsibilities at the same time and to manage time pressure. Therefore, a certain commitment is expected from the students, as well as an important investment of time, which will however be variable along the academic year. Students participate in the development of the project/task, the strategy and its coordination. In case the project involves collaboration with external partners, the students will also be in charge of the communication.

Students are intensively supervised by their team coach who will guide them through brainstorm sessions on strategy and content and who will give them feedback on their written drafts in a short term.

At the end of the academic year, students will present their work to the teaching staff, the fellow students and the external partners.

Study material

None

References

Not applicable

Course content-related study coaching

Students are intensively supervised by their team coach who will guide them through brainstorm sessions on strategy and content and who will give them feedback on their written drafts in a short term.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Students will be evaluated on the written end product, their presentation and on their efforts during the year.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non Periodic evaluation (100%) - Retake: a substitute assignment

Facilities for Working Students

no facilities