



2025 – 2026

Master of Arts in International Human Rights

The MA in International Human Rights provides students with the opportunity to engage with some of today's most pressing and compelling human rights issues and consider emerging issues and approaches in an academically rigorous and critical way. Students will examine diverse perspectives on the contributions, effectiveness, and relevance of international human rights frameworks, instruments, movements, and institutions. Graduates of the program go on to work on human rights research and documentation, advocacy, and programming including with nonprofits, the UN, government, and the for profit sector.

Degree Requirements (60 credit hours total):

1. Korbel Core – (4 credits):

- INTS 4091 - Great Issues in International Relations
(offered each Fall quarter; take as early in the program as possible)

2. Degree Core - three courses (12 credits):

a. INTS 4940 – Introduction to Human Rights

b. One of the following:

- INTS 4929 -- Foundations of Human Rights
- INTS 4935 – International Humanitarian Law
- INTS 4936 – International Law & Human Rights

c. One of the following:

- INTS 4011 – Comparative Genocide
- INTS 4569 – Migration
- INTS 4649 – Human Rights and the Middle East
- INTS 4670 – Gender, Security and Human Rights
- INTS 4808 – Foundations of Global Justice
- INTS 4909 – Climate Migration and Human Rights
- INTS 4928 – Torture
- INTS 4947 – Human Rights and Security
- INTS 4987 – Forced Labor & Human Trafficking

3. Specialization - three courses (12 credits):

Specializations are sets of three courses full credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbel specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three, but for completion of degree requirement purposes, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbel Certificate will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours associated with their degree requirements. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site.

4. Skills Courses - three courses (**12 credits**):

- INTS 4057 - Statistics
- INTS 4644 – Human Rights Research Methods OR INTS 4632 Qualitative Research Methods
- A total of 4 more credits (in the form of one 4 credit or 2 credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbel School Skills List. This list is updated annually and can be found on the [Student Affairs Digication site](#). Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.

5. Internship: Required (registered as INTS 4981, for 0 or 4 credits).

See the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details

6. Thesis (4 or 8 credits) or Substantial Research Paper (4 credits): Optional

7. Supporting Courses: Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of **60 credits** with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to international studies (public policy) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from beyond Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree beyond Korbel cannot be more than 12.

Degree Director:

Prof. Chen Reis

chen.reis@du.edu

[303-871-7901](tel:303-871-7901)

<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/international-human-rights>