EXECUTIVE MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT
FOR PROFESSIONALS WITH DEMANDING JOBS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict is one of the few part-time, innovative and intellectually challenging programmes in the law of armed conflict offered today.

Designed for professionals with demanding jobs and responsibilities, it provides strong theoretical and practical knowledge and responds to the growing need for specialists to address complex humanitarian and human rights challenges and challenging processes such as criminal proceedings, international negotiations and humanitarian interventions.

Courses cover international law, international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL), international criminal law (ICL) and the interplay between them. They also address current issues and challenges, including the repression of terrorism, peacekeeping and international refugee law.

Taught by Geneva-based law professors and world-renowned law experts and professors, the programme enables participants to gain specialized knowledge directly applicable to professional work.

Diplomats, lawyers, legal advisers, NGO staff, human rights advocates, professionals working in emergency situations, UN staff and staff from other international organizations share expertise, discuss pressing concerns and reflect on the application of international law to their work.

The Executive Master equipped me with feasible and meaningful legal arguments to facilitate principled humanitarian action in and outside the ongoing battlefields.

Fumiko Nakashima, Protection Delegate, International Committee of the Red Cross
The programme (60 ECTS credits) is structured around four modules that provide solid theoretical and practical knowledge of the law that applies to armed conflicts. Modules are complemented by the writing of a master’s thesis.

**MODULE 1: PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW**
This module comprises courses on public international law, sanctions and the rules that govern the use of force in international law and the ‘Responsibility to Protect’.

**MODULE 2: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**
This module comprises courses on the basic principles of IHL, the protection of persons and property in international armed conflict, the classification of armed conflicts and the law of non-international armed conflicts.

**MODULE 3: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**
This module comprises courses on IHRL, the interplay between IHL and human rights, international refugee law and preventing and combating terrorism.

**MODULE 4: INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW**
This module comprises courses on ICL and the system of international criminal justice.

**MASTER’S THESIS**
One of the core outputs of the Executive Master is a master’s thesis written under the guidance of a faculty member that allows participants to investigate a subject of special interest and deepen their knowledge and expertise through research as well as exchanges with experts, scholars and practitioners.

The Executive Master is much more than a series of courses. It is a place where knowledge is shared among professors and participants. The diversity of participants’ professional backgrounds and experiences enrich the discussions and make of the Executive Master a unique experience.

Jérôme de Hemptinne, Lecturer at the Universities of Louvain, Strasbourg and Lille
DURATION AND KEY MILESTONES

Based in Geneva, this executive programme runs for 9 months (October–June) and admits 15 to 20 practitioners annually.

Courses take place on Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons at our headquarters, Villa Moynier. When participants cannot attend a course for professional reasons (e.g. missions, travel, conferences), they can either follow the course remotely or listen to a podcast afterwards.

Exams take place at the end of Fall Semester (mid-January–beginning of February) and at the end of Spring Semester (mid-June–end of June).

After the completion of courses, six to nine additional months are needed to complete a master’s thesis and defend it before a jury. Participants are not required to remain on campus or in Geneva to write their thesis.

AN EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our Executive Master is organized around small and intimate learning communities, creating an exceptional learning environment where participants gain access to a world-renowned faculty at the cutting edge of IHL, IHRL, ICL and international refugee law.

A personal teaching style encourages interaction between participants and lecturers, as well as ongoing exchanges between participants from all over the world and with a broad range of experiences.

The Executive Master perfectly complemented my experience in human rights law and laid the ground for future opportunities in the international humanitarian field.

Patricia Otvos, Policy Advisor, Council of Europe, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
MOVING ONE’S CAREER FORWARD

Our Executive Master responds to the growing need for specialists to address current humanitarian and human rights challenges.

By providing the necessary tools to apply the international legal framework – IHL, IHRL, ICL and international refugee law – in complex contemporary conflicts, it forms high-level professionals who want to acquire additional responsibilities or move their career forward.

ADMISSION

The tuition fee is 18,000 Swiss Francs. Candidates who pay their tuition fee in full before mid-October receive a 10 percent discount (paying 16,200 Swiss Francs).

Candidates who apply to the Executive Master must have:

- Work experience in a relevant field
- A bachelor’s degree
- Proficiency in English
- A valid visa or residence permit

Each application is considered in its entirety, including transcripts, extracurricular and voluntary activities, work experience, personal background, letters of recommendation, personal statement and language skills.

Carlos Morazzani Morgado, Operations Coordinator for the Americas, International Committee of the Red Cross

You have a combination of the best academic expertise in the field with the different backgrounds of participants, allowing you to build a network and a rich experience.
10 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE EXECUTIVE MASTER

1. Designed for professionals who want to pursue an advanced master’s degree while working at the same time

2. A flexibility that allows participants who cannot attend courses for professional reasons (e.g. missions, travel, conferences) to follow them from abroad or afterwards

3. A Leading institution in the field of IHL and IHRL

4. A response to the growing need for specialists to address current challenges and situations

5. The opportunity to acquire a thorough understanding of the laws of war and how to apply them in complex contemporary contexts

6. A programme that forms high-level professionals who want to acquire additional responsibilities or move their career forward

7. A personal teaching style that encourages interaction between participants and lecturers

8. Ongoing exchanges with other participants: diplomats, lawyers, legal advisers, judges, NGO staff, human rights advocates, media specialists, professionals working in emergency situations, UN staff and staff from other international organizations

9. A master’s thesis that allows participants to investigate a subject of special interest and deepen their knowledge and expertise through research as well as exchanges with experts, scholars and practitioners

10. A unique human experience during which all those involved (participants, faculty and resident staff) develop long-term bonds

I strongly recommend the Executive Master to anyone with a serious interest in understanding the applicable international legal frameworks regulating armed conflict. I particularly enjoyed the high-quality teaching as well as working, studying and interacting every week with a group of highly motivated, diverse and experienced fellow students from all sectors and different parts of the world.

Till Papenfuss, Associate Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Political Affairs