

COMMONWEALTH COMMISSION / VICE-CHANCELLOR OXFORD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES

February 2013



The University of Oxford is pleased to announce five scholarships for candidates from African Commonwealth countries to study for the part-time Masters in International Human Rights Law, starting September 2013.

The course

The Master's degree in International Human Rights Law is offered jointly by the Department for Continuing Education and the Faculty of Law. It is taught over 22 months and consists of two periods of distance learning and two residential sessions in Oxford. The degree programme is designed in particular for lawyers and other human rights advocates who wish to pursue advanced studies in international human rights law but may need to do so alongside work or family responsibilities.

The aim of the degree programme is to train and support future leaders in the field of international human rights law. A central objective of the course is to ensure that participants not only know but can also use human rights law. The curriculum places roughly equal emphasis on the substance of human rights law, its implementation, and the development of human rights advocacy skills.

Further information about the course is available on our website at <http://humanrightslaw.conted.ox.ac.uk/MStIHL/index.php>.

The scholarships

The scholarships are jointly funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. They are intended for human rights advocates from African Commonwealth countries (see list of eligible countries below) who would be unable, without assistance, to take up their place on this course.

Each scholarship provides course and college fees at the University of Oxford over two years, return air travel from the scholar's home country for each residential session and a stipend to cover living costs during the residential sessions.

Eligibility criteria

We welcome applications from persons in all fields of human rights practice (e.g. from international, governmental and non-governmental agencies, private practice, academics, the armed forces, medicine, the media). Most human rights work is done within a national and local context and you need not have international experience to be eligible.

In order to meet the eligibility criteria for the course itself, applicants must:

- already hold a degree to a 'high standard'. This usually means in British terms a high 2.1 (67% or higher) and in North American terms a grade point average of 3.5 (you can compare your own degree with these scores at <http://www.ecctis.co.uk/NARIC/Default.aspx>). The degree is designed primarily for early and mid-career lawyers but non-lawyers with extensive human-rights related experience may also apply.
- demonstrate a commitment to human rights based on work experience, volunteer activities or concentration on human rights and international law at university
- have access to computing facilities sufficient to take an online course

- meet the minimum requirements for English proficiency as set out by the University for graduate study at http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/internat_students.html (please note that the level of English competence required for this course is the **higher** level).

Further information about admissions criteria for the course is available on the admissions pages of our website at <http://humanrightslaw.conted.ox.ac.uk/MStIHRL/admissions/index.php>.

In addition, in order to meet the requirements of the scholarship, applicants must:

- be Commonwealth citizens of a developing African Commonwealth country, refugees or British protected persons AND be permanently resident in a developing Commonwealth country. Applicants should also be intending to remain in a developing African Commonwealth country on completion of the course.
- not already have received or be currently receiving financial benefit from a previous Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarship.

Application process

Admissions for the course through this scholarship scheme are now open for the course starting in September 2013. Detailed guidance notes about the application procedure and selection process are available in the Fees and Funding section of our website at <http://humanrightslaw.conted.ox.ac.uk/MStIHRL/fees/index.php>.

List of African Commonwealth countries

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe