JUST RIGHTS EUROPE
FROM THE SUPREME COURT TO STRASBOURG



FROM THE FIRST CASE TO THE GRAND CHAMBER

Human Rights Litigation

Three programmes for universities

Litigation before the European Court of Human Rights is the main programme: Programme 1, on real cases, and Programme 2, the Grand Chamber Masterclass, both for universities in Europe. Beside it stand programmes on other mechanisms, such as the United Nations. The first is Programme 3, an advanced master in human rights, climate change and sustainable energy, written first of all for universities in countries that climate change has hit hard. Others will follow. A university can offer a place to its best and most motivated students, or make a programme its own. Online, individually supervised and built around real cases.

2	3	6	20
ROUTES FOR A UNIVERSITY	PROGRAMMES	MONTHS, FOR PROGRAMMES 1 AND 2	PLACES AT MOST, PER PROGRAMME

FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Two routes

A university can take part in two ways. It can offer a place in a programme to its best and most motivated students. Or it can make a programme its own. The two routes can be combined, and each is open for each of the three programmes.

1

ROUTE 1

A place for the University's best students

Those who excel, and the most motivated

WHAT IT IS
The University offers its best students a place in a programme. Once they hold their master's degree, they join the group and work on real cases, under supervision.

WHO CHOOSES
The University: those who excel in their year and are the most motivated, on the conditions of admission of the programme.

WHO FUNDS
The University funds the place, as an award to its best students.

WHAT THE STUDENT TAKES HOME
Practice on real cases, an assessed portfolio and a Litigation Practice Record.

2

ROUTE 2

The programme as the University's own

A group of its own, under its own name

WHAT IT IS
The University takes a programme into its own offer, for a group of its own students or graduates.

UNDER WHOSE RULES
The University's: its admission, its credits, its certificate or degree. A programme can be certified in full.

WHICH PROGRAMMES
Each of the three. Programme 3 can become an advanced master of the University.

WHAT IS AGREED
The size of the group, the start, the workload and the fee.

PLACES
Limited: at most twenty participants per programme. The first places go to Route 1. Once they are taken, the intake is closed.

FEE
Not published. It is agreed with each university, according to the route and the number of participants.

SUPERVISION
Every piece of work is reviewed, one to one, by Zouhaier Chihaoui.

FORM
Online, in English; French is possible in Programmes 1 and 2. Start in January or in September.

AT A GLANCE

Three programmes

Programmes 1 and 2, on the European Court of Human Rights, are the main programme: they are for universities in Europe and follow each other, from litigation before a Chamber to the Grand Chamber. Programme 3, an advanced master, stands apart: it adds the routes outside Europe, among them the United Nations, and is written first of all for universities in countries that climate change has hit hard in recent years. Each programme can be taken on its own, by Route 1 or by Route 2.

1

PROGRAMME 1 · FOR UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE

ECHR Litigation

Real litigation before the European Court of Human Rights, on real cases: third-party interventions, the applicant's case from the supreme court judgment to the application, the procedure before a Chamber, and the request for referral to the Grand Chamber.

FOR WHOM
Graduates with a master's degree in human rights or international law, who know the Convention

DURATION
Six months, one semester

PRACTICAL BOOK
Human Rights Litigation, Training Notes 1 to 6

2

PROGRAMME 2 · FOR UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE

Grand Chamber Masterclass

An exceptional programme. Litigation before the Grand Chamber, the Court's highest formation: the proceedings, strategic third-party interventions, the critical analysis of judgments and the oral hearing, under the supervision of counsel who has argued three cases before the Grand Chamber.

FOR WHOM
Graduates of Programme 1 who move up; advanced graduates and practitioners, by selection

DURATION
Six months

PRACTICAL BOOK
The Grand Chamber Masterclass, Training Notes 7 to 12

3

PROGRAMME 3 · IN PREPARATION · REGISTRATION OPEN

Advanced Master · Human Rights, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy

A full master, in theory and in practice, with real interventions through the Human Rights Litigation Foundation. Written first of all for universities in countries that climate change has hit hard in recent years, in Europe and beyond.

FOR WHOM
Graduates in law; the programme begins from the beginning

DURATION
One academic year

START
January or September 2027

THE ROUTE MAP

How the programmes connect

Each programme can be taken on its own. Programmes 1 and 2 are each written for six months; Programme 3 for one academic year. The University decides which programme it takes, by which route, and for whom.



IF THE UNIVERSITY WISHES	1	2	3	HOW
Practice for its best and most motivated students	●	●	●	Route 1. The University funds their place in the programme it chooses.
A practice programme of its own, before the European Court	●	○	○	Route 2, with Programme 1: six months of real litigation, certified by the University.
The whole path, to the Grand Chamber	●	●	○	Programme 1, then the Masterclass for those who are selected.
An advanced master on climate change and human rights	○	○	●	Route 2, with Programme 3: one academic year, as a master of its own. Planned for January or September 2027.

Each programme has a document of its own, with its purpose, its conditions and its terms.

01

Practice, on real cases

In every programme the participants litigate. The programmes are practice. The litigation runs through Just Rights Europe, for applicants, or through the Human Rights Litigation Foundation, for third-party interventions, so that participants work on both sides.

Many graduates hold a master's degree or an advanced master's degree in human rights or international law and have never worked on a real file. A university can give its best students that practice, or build it into a programme of its own.

The European Court of Human Rights comes first. Programme 1 is litigation before the Court, from the third-party intervention to the request for referral to the Grand Chamber, and Programme 2, the Grand Chamber Masterclass, is litigation before its highest formation. Beside them stand programmes on other mechanisms, such as the United Nations: the first is Programme 3, an advanced master in human rights, climate change and sustainable energy, written first of all for universities in countries that climate change has hit hard. Others will follow.

02

One method, in every programme

All the programmes teach the same thing first: a way of thinking. The European Court examines every case in a fixed order, and a lawyer who wants to persuade it must follow that order.

1. **The facts and the documents.** What happened, in what order, and what proves it.
2. **The domestic proceedings.** Was the complaint raised, in substance, up to the highest national court, and within the time-limit?
3. **Admissibility.** Victim status, State responsibility, scope of the Convention.
4. **Applicability.** Which right is at stake, and does the situation fall within it?
5. **Interference.** Has the State interfered with that right, or failed to protect it?
6. **Justification.** A law that is accessible and foreseeable; a legitimate aim; necessity and proportionality.
7. **Procedural safeguards.** A fair procedure and an effective remedy.
8. **Conclusion and remedy.**

This order of reasoning is useful far beyond Strasbourg. It is how a careful lawyer tests any measure against a fundamental right, before any court or arbitral tribunal. The method is the heart of the programmes: the subjects change from one programme to the next, the method does not.

03

How the programmes work

Real cases. The three programmes are built around real cases, subject to the stage of the proceedings, the consent of the clients and confidentiality.

The teaching material. Each programme has its practical book: a book to work with, step by step, with worked examples, comparisons of judgments and models. *Human Rights Litigation* brings together Training Notes 1 to 6, for Programme 1; *The Grand Chamber Masterclass*, Training Notes 7 to 12, for Programme 2; *Climate Change and Human Rights*, in five parts, is the book of Programme 3. The books are handed to participants as their programme advances and are reserved for the programme.

Critical thinking. Participants are not asked to adopt anyone's position. They learn to form their own reasoned view and to defend it.

Result. Each participant leaves with an assessed portfolio and a Litigation Practice Record listing the work done. Any certificate is decided and issued by the University under its own rules.

04

Zouhaier Chihaoui, Just Rights Europe and the Foundation



SUPERVISION

Zouhaier Chihaoui

Grand Chamber and ECHR litigator · Lawyer, Brussels Bar

Every piece of written work is reviewed in detail. Participants work largely on their own, online, and can ask questions at any time.

M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece
GRAND CHAMBER, 2011

Bouyid v. Belgium
GRAND CHAMBER, 2015

Lhermitte v. Belgium
GRAND CHAMBER, 2016

Miladze v. Georgia
GRAND CHAMBER · LEAVE TO INTERVENE REQUESTED, 2026

Further cases, decided and pending
WWW.JUSTRIGHTS.BE

Just Rights Europe. Just Rights Europe is the law firm of Zouhaier Chihaoui, in Brussels. It offers the programmes. It acts only at the European level: after the supreme court, before the European Court of Human Rights, in its Chambers and in the Grand Chamber. Since September 2026 it takes cases against all the member States of the Council of Europe; to our knowledge it is among the first firms to work in that way. The cases of its clients are confidential and are not named here.

The Human Rights Litigation Foundation. The Foundation belongs to the same practice. The third-party interventions of the programmes are filed in its name. It has three aims: to give graduates experience by letting them litigate; to help keep the standards set by the Grand Chamber applied in full before the Chambers, through third-party interventions; and to litigate internationally, on human rights and on climate change. Today it runs a pilot project: thirty-one graduates from seventeen countries prepare third-party interventions in pending cases, under supervision, and every step is recorded in a register. Thirty-one files have been opened, on cases against fifteen States.

Beyond the European Court. In climate cases the route can be worldwide, before the bodies of the United Nations, through the firm or the Foundation.

05

The University and the programmes

	THE UNIVERSITY, AND ZOUHAIER CHIHAOUI WITH JUST RIGHTS EUROPE
ZOUHAIER CHIHAOUI AND JUST RIGHTS EUROPE BRING	The three programmes and their practical books; the supervision and the correction of every piece of work; the real cases, through the firm and through the Foundation; the method
THE UNIVERSITY BRINGS	On Route 1, its best and most motivated students and the funding of their place. On Route 2, its students and its name, and its own rules for admission, credits, certificates and degrees
AGREED TOGETHER	The route and the programme; the number of participants; the start, the workload and the credits; the fee
ONE CONDITION, ON BOTH SIDES	The level stays high. The name of the University and the name of Zouhaier Chihaoui are attached to the programmes

The programmes are not exclusive: several universities can take part. A university can begin with its best students and decide later whether it makes a programme its own.

06

Admission and practical terms

The programmes are given online, in English; French is possible in Programmes 1 and 2. They start in January or in September. Each programme takes at most twenty participants and is open by Route 1 and by Route 2; once the places are taken, the intake is closed.

	PROGRAMME 1 · ECHR LITIGATION	PROGRAMME 2 · GRAND CHAMBER MASTERCLASS	PROGRAMME 3 · ADVANCED MASTER
FOR UNIVERSITIES	In Europe	In Europe	First of all in countries hit hard by climate change, in Europe and beyond
OPEN TO	Graduates in human rights or international law	Graduates of Programme 1; advanced graduates and practitioners, by selection	Graduates in law
ON ENTRY	Knows the Convention	Knows the Convention in depth	No specific training in human rights
ADMISSION	A master's degree in human rights or international law, and a writing sample	The six pieces of work of Programme 1; or a master's degree in human rights or international law with very good results. Selection on a critical analysis of a Grand Chamber judgment	A completed master's degree in law; criteria set with the University
DURATION	Six months	Six months	One academic year, in two semesters (proposal)
START	January or September 2027	January or September 2027	January or September 2027; in preparation, a university can register now
AS THE UNIVERSITY'S OWN	The programme, certified in full	The Masterclass, certified in full	An advanced master of the University
FEE	Agreed with the University	Agreed with the University	Agreed with the University
PRACTICAL BOOK	*Human Rights Litigation*, Training Notes 1 to 6	*The Grand Chamber Masterclass*, Training Notes 7 to 12	*Climate Change and Human Rights*, in five parts

A university that wishes to take part contacts Just Rights Europe, in Brussels, through www.justrights.be. It then receives the full terms, among them the fee.

Graduates do not lack knowledge. What they lack is their first file.

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO REAL CASES · FROM GRADUATES TO IMPACT