JUST RIGHTS EUROPE
FROM THE SUPREME COURT TO STRASBOURG



PROGRAMME 1 OF 3 · FOR UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE

ECHR Litigation

Real cases before the European Court of Human Rights

For graduates who know the Convention and have not yet worked on a real file. Six months of supervised work on real, confidential cases: a third-party intervention, an applicant's case from the supreme court judgment to the application, the written procedure before a Chamber, and the request for referral to the Grand Chamber. A university can offer a place to its best and most motivated students, or make the programme its own.

6	6	20	2
MONTHS, ONE SEMESTER	TRAINING NOTES, ONE A MONTH	PLACES AT MOST	ROUTES FOR A UNIVERSITY

01

In brief

	PROGRAMME 1 · ECHR LITIGATION
FOR WHOM	Graduates who hold a master's degree in human rights or international law and who know the Convention
PURPOSE	Real litigation before the European Court of Human Rights, on real cases
DURATION	Six months, one semester
PRACTICAL BOOK	*Human Rights Litigation*: Training Notes 1 to 6, one for each month
FORM	Online, in English (French possible); every draft is reviewed individually
START	January or September 2027, on a date agreed with the University
RESULT	An assessed portfolio and a Litigation Practice Record. Credits and any certificate are decided by the University under its own rules

02

How a university takes part

A university in Europe can take part in two ways. The two routes can be combined.

	TWO ROUTES FOR A UNIVERSITY
ROUTE 1	*A place for the University's best students.* The University offers a place to its best students in human rights or international law: those who excel and are the most motivated. It funds their place, as an award. Once they hold their master's degree, they join the group of the programme and work on real cases
ROUTE 2	*The programme as the University's own.* The University takes the programme into its own offer, for a group of its own: under its name, with its own admission, its credits and its certificate. The programme can be certified in full
PLACES	Places are limited: at most twenty participants. The first places go to Route 1; the size of a group on Route 2 is agreed with the University. Once the places are taken, the intake is closed
FEE	No fee is published. It is agreed with the University, according to the route and the number of participants

03

The purpose

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. In Programme 1 they do. It is real practice, and it rests on a knowledge of the Convention.

Real litigation. Six months of supervised work on real, confidential cases before the European Court of Human Rights: third-party interventions, the applicant's case from the supreme court judgment to the application, the written procedure before a Chamber, and the request for referral to the Grand Chamber. Every draft is reviewed individually.

04

For whom, and the conditions of admission

Graduates who hold a master's degree in human rights or international law and who know the European Convention well. Admission asks for a writing sample that shows that the candidate knows the Convention. On Route 1 the University proposes its candidates; on Route 2 it admits them itself, on the same conditions.

05

How it works

Real cases. The programme is built around real cases, subject to the stage of the proceedings, the consent of the clients and confidentiality.

The teaching material. The practical book of the programme, *Human Rights Litigation*, brings together Training Notes 1 to 6: practical, step-by-step guides with worked examples, comparisons of judgments and models. They are handed to participants as the 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.

06

The programme, month by month

MONTH	CONTENT	WHAT THE PARTICIPANT PRODUCES
1	**Finding a case for a third-party intervention** (Training Note 1).	*A request for leave to intervene*
2	**Writing the third-party intervention**, on a real case of the Human Rights Litigation Foundation (Training Note 2).	*Written comments*
3	**Identifying and assessing an applicant's case**, from the supreme court judgment to Strasbourg (Training Note 3).	*An assessment of a real case*
4	**Preparing and lodging an application** (Training Note 4).	*A draft application*
5	**Written observations and Chamber litigation** (Training Note 5).	*Draft observations*
6	**Referral to the Grand Chamber**: requests under Article 43 (Training Note 6).	*A reasoned recommendation on referral*

SUPERVISION AND REAL CASES

Zouhaier Chihaoui

Grand Chamber and ECHR litigator · Lawyer, Brussels Bar · Just Rights Europe

Every piece of written work is reviewed in detail. Participants work largely on their own, online, and can ask questions at any time. The real cases come through Just Rights Europe, for applicants, and through the Human Rights Litigation Foundation, for third-party interventions.

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

Bouyid v. Belgium
GRAND CHAMBER, 2015

Lhermitte v. Belgium
GRAND CHAMBER, 2016

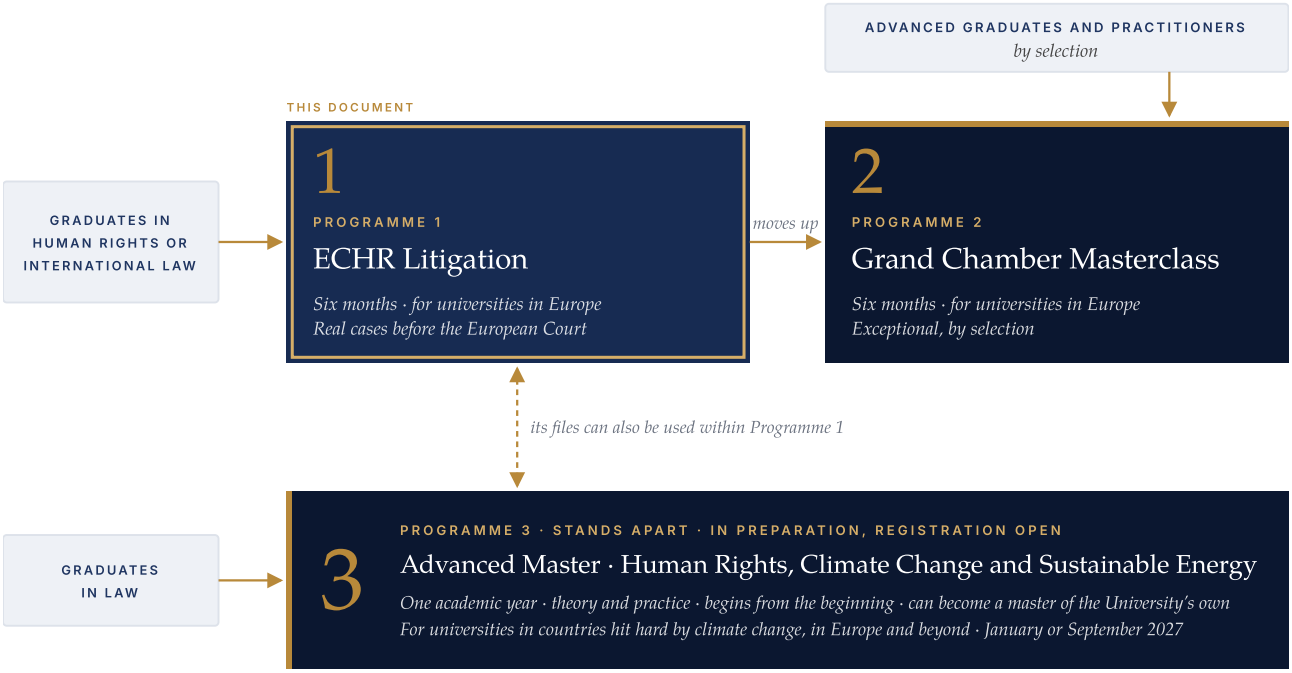
Miladze v. Georgia
GRAND CHAMBER · LEAVE TO INTERVENE REQUESTED, 2026

Further cases, decided and pending
WWW.JUSTRIGHTS.BE

07

Its place among the three programmes

Programme 1 is the first of three programmes and can be taken on its own. It leads to Programme 2, the Grand Chamber Masterclass: once the six pieces of work of Programme 1 are complete, the participant is selected on a critical analysis of a judgment of the Grand Chamber. The files of Programme 3, on climate change and sustainable energy, can also be used within Programme 1.



08

What is agreed with the University

	TO BE SETTLED WITH THE UNIVERSITY
THE ROUTE	Route 1, Route 2, or both
THE PARTICIPANTS	The University's best students on Route 1; a group of its own on Route 2
THE START	January or September 2027; the date is agreed with the University
THE DURATION AND THE FEE	Six months. If the programme is made longer or shorter, the fee is adapted
CREDITS AND CERTIFICATE	Whether credits are attached, and how many; the workload per week; whether a certificate is issued, and under which name: all under the University's own rules. The University may add its own assessment

Everything set out here can be adjusted with the University. The financial terms are sent on request.