

EMA 2025/2026 Call for Applications

1. PRESENTATION

The European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), organised by the Global Campus of Human Rights, is a one-year post-graduate course that provides a practice and policy-oriented approach to learning that combines legal, political, historical, anthropological, and philosophical perspectives of human rights and democratisation with skill building activities and a field trip exercise. EMA is organised by 43 participating universities representing all EU Member States and managed by the jointly owned Global Campus of Human Rights. The University of Padua, Italy, assumes the role of university of first enrolment on behalf of the consortium.

Students are taught by leading academics representing EMA participating universities, experts and representatives of international organisations (including the European Union, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe-OSCE) and NGOs while studying in a multicultural environment.

EMA students, upon completion of all course components, are expected to **gain both academic and practical skills**: on the one hand, the ability to conduct independent and interdisciplinary academic research in relation to human rights and democratisation issues; on the other hand, skills which are relevant to human rights practitioners such as reporting, fact-finding and project management.

2. CONTENTS OF THE EMA PROGRAMME

FIRST AND SECOND SEMESTER

The academic year of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation is divided into **two semesters**: the first semester (September to February) in Venice-Lido and the second (February to July) at an EMA participating university situated in the European Union, UK or Switzerland. The second part of the programme is conceived as a **university exchange**, which implies that students will be hosted for the second semester activities in a university located in a country other than their home country.

The EMA Programme, being multidisciplinary and wide-ranging, includes lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, skill-building sessions and individual research.

The EMA **first semester** curriculum consists of a core programme, made up of thematic sections (the first stream) aimed at the plenary group of students, and a series of second stream activities consisting of units devised for smaller groups.

First stream courses are organised in thematic sections as indicated below (they are subject to modification):

- TS1: Human Rights Institutions, Mechanisms and Standards (United Nations; Council of Europe; EU; OSCE; Organisation of American States; African system; perspectives on Asia);
- TS2: Globalisation, Development and Human Rights (Stakeholders in Economic Globalisation: States, International Economic Organisations, Companies, NGOs; Human Rights and Development; Business and Human Rights; Economic, Social and Cultural Rights);
- TS3: Human Rights in Context: Historical, Philosophical, Religious and Anthropological Perspectives;
- TS4: Building and Protecting Democracy (Regime Change and Democratic Consolidation; Transition and Transformation Processes; Governance; Political Participation; Electoral Processes)

- TS5: Human Rights, Peace and Security + Field Trip (Humanitarian Law; International Criminal Law; Security and Vulnerabilities; Field Missions; Terrorism and Human Rights). In the a.y. 2025/2026 students participate in a field trip to Kosovo.

Second stream courses consist of different components such as a series of Cluster classes that foster advanced knowledge of human rights issues; rolling seminars on international law, philosophy and international relations; weekly sessions on academic skills; and some semester-long special projects involving students in the production of collective events.

During the **EMA second semester** students relocate to one of the 43 participating universities to follow courses in an area of specialisation of their own choice and to undertake personal supervised research for their master's thesis.

3. ASSESSMENT

First semester assessment is made on the basis of written and oral assignments and exams. Only successful students are allowed to proceed to second semester courses. During the second semester, students will attend further specialised courses, the assessment of which will be based on the practices of the hosting universities.

4. DEGREE

After successfully passing exams and completing a Master's thesis, students will be awarded the "European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation", which is worth 60 ECTS credits. The diploma is jointly conferred by the universities of the Global Campus of Human Rights/EMA network that have ratified the Joint Degree Agreement ('Inner Circle Universities'). Graduates receive one of two versions of the joint diploma, which is based on the ECTS credits or an equivalent thereof they held at the time of admission (either 180 or 240), which in turn are required for admission to postgraduate programmes in the Inner Circle Universities, according to the relevant national or other applicable legal framework:

- The Universities of Graz, Padua, and Ca' Foscari Venice issue the EMA diploma to students having accessed the EMA programme holding a university degree of 180 ECTS credits or recognised as equivalent thereto;
- The Universities of Graz, Padua, Ca' Foscari Venice, Deusto (Bilbao), Ruhr-University Bochum, Hamburg, and Ljubljana issue the EMA diploma to students having accessed the EMA programme with a university degree of at least 240 ECTS credits or recognised as equivalent thereto.

The national equivalent value attributed to the EMA Joint Programme varies among the Inner Circle Universities as follows:

- for the Italian universities (Padua, and Ca' Foscari University Venice) the EMA Degree corresponds to a "Master Universitario di primo livello" (see DM 270/2004);
- for Ruhr-University Bochum the EMA Degree corresponds to a Master's title as envisaged by paragraph 66, Hochschulgesetz (HG) 16.9.2014;
- for the University of Deusto – Bilbao the EMA Degree corresponds to a "Master Universitario" recognised by the Real Decreto 1393/2007 de 29 de octubre;
- for the University of Graz the EMA Degree corresponds to a Master's title recognised by the UG 2002 (BGBl I nr. 120/2002);
- for Hamburg University the EMA Degree corresponds to § 1 Abs. 2 der Prüfungsordnung für den Masterstudiengang "Peace and Security Studies - (M.A.)" vom 26. Januar 2022.
- for the University of Ljubljana, the EMA Degree corresponds to magistrski št. druge st., mag. člov. prav. in demo. according to the Odločba Sveta NAKVIS št. 6034-46/2015/15.

5. PLACES AVAILABLE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

EMA is open to a maximum of 90 candidates from EU and non-EU countries.

Candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Have at least a three-year university degree (180 ECTS credits) or equivalent.
- Have a certified knowledge of English at least at level B2. Accepted certificates are IELTS (min. score 6), TOEFL (min. 80 for the IBT) and Cambridge exams (min. score 160-172), obtained no more than 3 years before the start of the Programme.
- Applicants completing the degree entry requirements subsequent to the application deadline are allowed to apply for the Programme and might be admitted with reserve. For students completing their degree during the year of application, eventual admission into the Programme will be conditional upon documentation of completed degree qualification within one day of the start of the Programme.

Students still enrolled in a university course might be admitted under the following conditions:

a) that the qualification to be obtained at the end of the first enrolment course does not constitute the qualification access to the EMA Programme;

For more information about entry requirements please also refer to [Legge 33](#) issued on 12 April 2022, and to [Decreto MUR](#) issued on 29 July 2022.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Applicants will be selected by a Selection Committee, made up of the EMA National Directors for every EU country and the EMA academic team. The selection process covers an assessment of the applicants' qualifications and, if deemed relevant by the Selection Committee, a telephone or an online interview.

The Committee will select the applicants by awarding up to 30 points to their qualifications and motivation, based on the following criteria:

- University final grade, evaluated by using a scale from 6 to 10;
- Relevance of the degree and thesis subject (where a thesis is required for graduation), evaluated by using a scale of 1 to 5;
- Relevant additional academic work/courses/publications, measured by using a scale of 1 to 5;
- Relevant practical experience, measured by using a scale of 1 to 5;
- Motivation, measured by using a scale of 1 to 5;

Only applicants who receive an overall score of at least 20/30 points will be considered eligible for the Programme. All eligible applicants will be contacted for admission in accordance with the order of ranking.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants will submit their application online at: <https://apply.gchumanrights.org/> and follow the instructions described in the section "How to apply" of the EMA website. For further information or any problem concerning the application submission, applicants may contact the EMA Secretariat.

In order to be evaluated, all applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- Transcript of records and degree diploma
- Curriculum vitae
- 2 reference letters
- Copy of passport picture page

- Proof of English language proficiency
- Receipt of payment of the application fee of 50 Euro

8. DEADLINES

Applications are accepted and processed on an on-going basis.

All interested candidates should apply by 2 February 2025. However, the EMA programme reserves to the right to open an additional call in April for self-funded candidates, should further applications be required.

The EMA Executive Committee approves the final list of admitted students (for a maximum of 90 students). Short-listed candidates will be contacted on a rolling basis. The application process is completed by the end of July each year.

9. TUITION FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The tuition fee for the a.y. 2025/2026 is €6450,00 (€6300,00 tuition fee + enrolment fee of €150) payable in instalments (see paragraph 10 for payment timeline). The tuition fee covers attendance costs and participation in the field trip, learning materials, canteen service (on class and exam days), and access to the Global Campus library resources. Travel, visa and accommodation costs during both the first and second semester are the responsibility of student.

Students who have a disability certificate pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 1 or 3 of Italian Law n. 104 of 5 February 1992 issued by an Italian Medical Committee or with civil disability equal to or greater than 66% attested by an Italian Medical Committee are exempt from payment of tuition fees. They are only required to pay the pre-registration fee (Euro 30.00), insurance costs (Euro 6.50) and a tax duty (Euro 16.00).

The Global Campus does not offer full scholarships. However, there are a small number of scholarships available for qualified candidates. Scholarships include a full tuition waiver and a modest stipend of €2,600 as a contribution toward living expenses. This stipend is paid in instalments.

Nine scholarships in total are available for qualified candidates. Two of these scholarships are reserved for qualified candidates who commit to researching issues related to Children's Rights for their thesis project. Support for these scholarships is provided by the Right Livelihood. A further scholarship is reserved for a qualified candidate who commits to researching the topic of Information Technology and Human Rights. This scholarship has been created in memory of Nicola Tonon who was the IT and Web Marketing Coordinator for the Global Campus for 16 years, and who passed away suddenly in 2022. The remaining six scholarships are open to all qualified candidates regardless of their research interest.

Please note that scholarship recipients are responsible for bearing all additional costs associated with the EMA programme and they should ensure they have sufficient funds available for their studies. Further information on living costs in Venice can be found [at this link](#).

The allocation of scholarships will be determined by the EMA Executive Committee on the basis of merit. Candidates who wish to apply for these scholarships should specify it in the online application form, to be submitted by 2 February 2025.

10. ENROLMENT PROCEDURE AND PAYMENT

Admitted applicants who wish to enrol in the EMA Programme are required to confirm their acceptance of the enrolment offer within one week of the date indicated in the admission letter by completing and signing the provided Enrolment Form and returning it by email to the EMA Secretariat (ema.secretariat@gchumanrights.org).

Timeline for payment of the EMA tuition fee:

In order to secure a place, a non-refundable security deposit (€1000,00) needs to be sent within ten days of the date indicated in the admission letter.

The receipt of payment of the first instalment (€2650,00) is due by 1st May 2025.

The receipt of payment of the second instalment (€2800,00) is due by 1st June 2025.

Payment methods:

Fees should be paid to the following bank account by bank transfer: -INTESA SANPAOLO SPA
Bank address: Piazza Paolo Ferrari, 10 – 20121 Milano.

For money transfer between the countries included in the **SEPA Region** (Single Euro Payments Area): IBAN code (International Bank Account Number): IT72Q 03069 09606 10000 0016008

BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMM

For money transfer from countries **not included in the SEPA Region**: ABI Code: 03069 - CAB Code: 09606 Bank account C/C: 10000 0016008 BIC/SWIFT: BCITITMM

Beneficiary: GLOBAL CAMPUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS; description of payment: EMA 2025-26, student's full name.

To complete the enrolment process, all admitted students must provide the following documents by 31 August 2025:

- Copy of: degree, final transcript and, for those graduated in the EU, diploma supplement.
- English language certificate, if not already provided at the application stage.
- Copy of passport picture page.

Additional requirements for Non-EU applicants

- Copy of type-D study visa, which must cover the entire duration of the academic year.
- If the degree was obtained in a country outside the EU, students should provide: the Declaration of Value ("Dichiarazione di Valore in loco") issued by the relevant Italian diplomatic office responsible for the country/area where the qualification was obtained; or, alternatively the Statement of Comparability ("attestato di comparabilità") issued by CIMEA.

Failure to provide these documents will prevent enrolment in the programme.

At any time, the EMA Programme, by a substantiated decision, may withdraw an offer of admission because of the candidate's failure to comply with admission requirements or failure to provide the required admissions documents. In such cases, the student is not entitled to any reimbursement of the tuition fees already paid.

11. WITHDRAWAL FROM STUDIES

A student can withdraw from the Programme at any time by presenting a specific request. Upon withdrawal, the student is not entitled to a refund of the security deposit.

12. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Having obtained the EMA Diploma, many graduates find job opportunities with human rights organisations (both governmental and non-governmental, international and national), which might put them to work in field missions (electoral observation, human rights monitoring, international cooperation projects) or as officials taking care of the activities carried out at headquarters. In a number of cases, graduates are involved in human rights-related activities by their home Ministries of Foreign Affairs or are seconded by them to work for international institutions. In many cases, access to these institutions starts with an internship period. Some graduates pursue further academic studies and research.

The Global Campus of Human Rights facilitates the entry of its graduates in the human rights job market through a successful placement programme: the **EMA Internship Programme**. Every year since 1998/1999 the Global Campus of Human Rights, with the support of the European Union, has awarded a **paid internship** in the field of human rights to the 15 students who have achieved the highest results during each academic year. EMA Internships last five months.

13. SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

EMA is primarily financed by the European Union* through the Global Campus of Human Rights. The Global Campus of Human Rights premises are made available by the Municipality of Venice. EMA also collaborates with UNESCO, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Region of Veneto, and benefits from close cooperation with the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other international organisations.

The EMA Programme is further enriched by the input of representatives of non-governmental organisations such as, among others, Human Rights Watch, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims. All these organisations are members of the Global Campus of Human Rights, thus providing their expertise to the EMA management on a continuous basis.

* subject to approval by the budgetary authorities.