



Information and participation conditions

Seminar Human Rights and Migration

Spring semester 2025, Chair of European Law and Migration Law
University of Fribourg

1. Subject of the seminar

Human rights are playing an increasingly important role in the area of migration. In principle, states have the right to control migration flows on their territory independently and to define the conditions of residence for foreign nationals. However, this core area of state sovereignty can be restricted in certain cases by international law, in particular human rights law. In Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is one of the most important sources of law offering protection to migrants. As a treaty under international law, it binds the 46 member states of the Council of Europe. The prohibition of torture under Art. 3 ECHR, from which the principle of non-refoulement is derived, as well as the right to respect for family life (Art. 8 ECHR), the right to liberty and security (Art. 5 ECHR), the right to a fair trial (Art. 6 ECHR), the prohibition of discrimination (Art. 14 ECHR) and the prohibition of collective expulsions of foreign nationals (Art. 4 Additional Protocol 4 ECHR) are of great importance in the context of migration. Many other human rights standards have an impact on the legal status of migrants as well.

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The case law of the ECtHR has significantly shaped and sharpened the contours of human rights in the context of migration (Chahal, M.S.S., Hirsi Jamaa, Tarakhel, Emre, etc.). It is also of importance for Switzerland, where there have been repeated calls to leave the ECHR or to give national law priority over international law.

The seminar examines the role of human rights in the context of migration in Europe. The basics of both European Migration Law and European Human Rights Protection are taught. This gives students an insight into current problems and encourages them to discuss these issues from a legal perspective.

2. Programme of the seminar

The seminar will take place **in Fribourg in the spring semester 2025** and will start with an introductory event, where the organisational details of the seminar will be presented.

At the introductory event, students will receive an introduction into the overarching topic of the seminar. Individual topics will then be distributed. The topics will not be announced in advance. Each participant is expected to write a **paper** and prepare an **oral presentation** on his/her topic.

The seminar will be held only in English! The presentation and the written paper must be made in English.

The introductory event will take place on **20 December 2024 (9h to 11h00), room BQC 11 2.518**.

Attendance of the first Master's course 'Migration, Human Rights and Ethics' (**Friday, 14 March 2025, 15-18h**) is also compulsory in order to get an introduction into Human Rights Law.

The participants' oral presentations will take place on **15 April 2025 (whole day)**. Every participant presents his or her topic during 20 minutes. It will then be discussed by the whole group.

Holding a presentation is mandatory. Presentations will be graded (see D.).

In addition, participants write a seminar paper on their topic (36'000 - 50'000 characters including spaces and footnotes, the technical apparatus not included). Directive No. 3 concerning written papers of 8 October 2013 must be respected. The paper must be submitted by **30 May 2025** at the latest. Writing a seminar paper is mandatory. The paper is graded (see D.). Students will receive individual feedback on their work.

For the submission modalities, please refer to the information sheet for written papers of the Chair:

<https://www.unifr.ch/ius/progin/de/lehre/arbeiten.html>

We kindly ask you not to send the written paper by registered mail!

3. Participation requirements and enrolment

Registration opens on **20 November 2024** and closes on **15 December 2024**. **Registrations made before or after these dates will not be considered!** Registration is binding. Participation is limited to a total of 10 students. Participants will be selected on the basis of the criteria below.

With regard to the participation requirements, Directive No. 2 concerning the seminars of 28 May 2013 applies. Students must have passed at least their IUR II exam.

In addition, students must also fulfil the following requirements:

- Previous knowledge of migration law is necessary. Previous participation in a course on migration law (Swiss migration law, European asylum law, Free movement of persons or bilateral agreements) is desirable.
- Excellent knowledge of the English language is essential. The seminar will be held in English only! Papers also need to be written in English.

4. Proof of performance

The paper and the oral presentation are graded (grading scale 1-6). In addition to the content of the paper, formal aspects are also assessed. Directive No. 3 concerning written papers of 8 October 2013 must be respected.

The final grade of the seminar will be calculated on the following basis:

Paper: 2/3 of the grade

Oral presentation: 1/3 of the grade

The grades are awarded for session 2/2025.

Participation in all the above-mentioned dates is mandatory!

There is no possibility to participate online!

5. Registration modalities

Please describe briefly in an e-mail (maximum 300 words) what your motivation is for participating in the seminar and to what extent you fulfil the conditions of participation. It is not necessary to send additional documents (CV, certificates etc.).

Registration opens on **20 November 2024** and closes on **15 December 2024**. Registrations made **before or after these dates will not be considered!**

People who have registered will be informed on **17 December 2024** at the latest whether they can attend the seminar.

Please send your letter of motivation between 20 November 2024 – 15 December 2024 to:

Melanie Berger: melanie.berger@unifr.ch

We look forward to an exciting and informative seminar with you!

