

Children at the Heart of Human Rights

From 31 August to 11 September 2026
At the University of Geneva

“I really enjoyed the discussions with my colleagues and the project work that provides an opportunity to collaborate on an important issue affecting children's rights.”



COURSE DIRECTOR

Dr. Roberta Ruggiero, Director of the Children's Rights Academy

TARGET AUDIENCE

Undergraduates, master's students, Ph.D. candidates, and junior professionals from all walks of life who are interested in children's rights.

TUITION FEES

Junior professionals: CHF 1,700

External students: CHF 1,400

UNIGE students: CHF 300

COURSE DESCRIPTION

2024 was a landmark year for children's rights, marking the 35th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the centenary of the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the first international document to recognize children's rights. Despite these significant milestones and numerous positive developments, children still face many challenges in fully realizing their rights. The 2025 program focuses on emerging challenges and innovative approaches in children's rights.

Set in Geneva, a global hub for international law and human rights, the program leverages the University of Geneva's expertise to offer a rich, interdisciplinary learning experience. Students and young professionals will explore current debates, legal frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the practical application of children's rights in a global context.

Participants will engage with experts from around the world, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas that bridges theory and practice. This immersive course provides a unique opportunity to deepen knowledge, gain fresh perspectives, and prepare for careers in children's rights and human rights organizations.

This course was developed in 2014 by Dr. h.c. Jean Zermatten, former member and Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC); by Dr. Philippe Jaffé, former Vice-Chair and current member of the CRC; and by Roberta Ruggiero, Director of the Children's Rights Academy and of the Summer School.

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