Within the distinguished context of Geneva, the hub for children rights with the widest network of child rights specialist and advocates, the University of Geneva’s Centre for Children’s Rights Studies offers the Master of Advance Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR). The MCR is an interdisciplinary and international part-time two-years postgraduate master programme, which attracts a large range of graduate students from all over the world. The 12th cycle of the MCR will begin on February 2025 and the deadline for online application is 31 December 2024.

The applicants are required to hold a university degree (or equivalent), and are expected to have at least two years of professional experience that is relevant to the programme.

The MCR combines residential teaching and distance learning. It privileges both an international and an interdisciplinary approach of children’s rights. The learning objectives of the MCR are:

- To acquire extended and specialised knowledge in children’s rights in their theoretical and practical dimensions.
- To deepen understanding of the role of international instruments on children’s rights in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes.
- To develop critical thinking on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Participants
The MCR is designed for professionals who work with children’s rights, these may include: lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, social workers, government officials, staff from non-governmental organisations, academics and journalists. The participation of students with different backgrounds and levels of professional experience in an interactive learning environment helps to foster exchange at both theoretical and practical levels.

Teaching staff
Being embedded within the distinctive setting of Geneva and benefiting of the strong ties of the UNIGE with the many international governmental and nongovernmental Geneva-based organizations, the MCR programme exposes students to international expertise with unique networking opportunities. Lectures are given by international experts in the field of children’s rights from the academic world, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental institutions. The participation of these prominent academics and highly skilled field experts with various types of expertise and from different countries ensures multidisciplinary and cultural perspectives on children’s rights.

Study programme and venue
The programme takes place over a two-year venues and requires participants to attend seven-week long modules combined with completion of exercises and examinations based on the required readings. Students are also expected to write a paper, to complete a group project, to participate in an external seminar or conference and to write a master thesis dissertation. A team of professors and academic staff members will guide them through the process.

Module 1 | Children’s rights and childhood studies | 17-21 February 2025 – Online learning
Module 2 | International children’s rights law | 12-16 May 2025 – University of Geneva
Module 3 | Child protection strategies and policies | 29 September-3 October 2025 – Online learning
Module 4 | Children’s rights and migration | 24-28 November 2025 – Online learning/University of Geneva
Module 5 | Child labour and education | 9-13 March 2026 – Online learning
Module 6 | Children’s rights and criminal justice | 8-12 June 2026 – Online learning
Module 7 | Children’s rights policy implementation and monitoring | 9-13 November 2026 – Valais Campus (Sion)

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