

The EMA Joint Degree

EMA is a post-graduate programme organized by 43 participating universities representing all EU Member States, plus the UK and Switzerland, and is co-implemented by the Global Campus of Human Rights. The University of Padova, Italy, assumes the role of University of First Enrolment on behalf of the consortium. This means that EMA students are enrolled and registered as students in the University of Padova.

On successful completion of all course requirements, students are awarded the Diploma of the “European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.” The degree comprises 60 [ECTS credits](#). The diploma is jointly conferred by universities within the EMA network that have ratified the **Agreement on the European Master’s Degree in Human Rights And Democratisation and its protocols**.

These universities are called the EMA Inner Circle Universities. The rectors of these universities sign the diploma that is awarded to EMA graduates. However, which Inner Circle Universities sign the diploma is determined by the number of ECTS credits a student has already accumulated at the point of enrolment.

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EMA graduates receive one of two versions of the joint diploma, which is based on the number ECTS credits, or an equivalent, that have been earned by the student at the time of admission. Prior qualifications of each candidate is individually assessed to determine the correct recognition of ECTS credits, however, in general a student who has completed a three year bachelor’s degree will have accumulated 180 ECTS credits, and a student with four or more years of undergraduate or postgraduate education will be enrolled with 240 ECTS credits. In the case of qualifications obtained outside of the European Union, a Declaration of Value or a CIMEA statement is required.

The number of recognised ECTS credits at the point of enrolment determines which Inner Circle Universities will sign the diploma, and this is determined according to the relevant national or other applicable legal framework:

- University of Graz, University of Padua, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice issue the EMA diploma to students enrolled in EMA with 180 ECTS
- University of Graz, Ruhr-University Bochum, University of Hamburg, University of Padua, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, University of Ljubljana, University of Deusto, Bilbao issue the diploma to students enrolled in EMA with 240 ECTS

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 par. 66, Hochschulgesetz (HG) 16.9.2014;
- for the University of Deusto-Bilbao, the EMA Degree corresponds to a "Título de Máster" recognized by the Real Decreto 822/2021 de 28 de septiembre;
- for the University of Graz, the EMA Degree corresponds to the title recognised by the UG 2002 (BGBl I nr. 120/2002);
- for Hamburg University, the EMA Degree corresponds to a "Master of Peace and Security Studies" (MPS) as foreseen by the § 1 Abs. 2 der Neufassung 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.

Please note that under the Bologna Process a minimum of 300 ECTS credits are required in order to pursue doctoral degrees.