



Information and participation conditions

Seminar “Migration and Human Rights”

Spring semester 2027, Chair of European Law and Migration Law
University of Fribourg

1. Subject of the seminar

Is there a right to cross borders? When can a state remove a foreign person from its territory? Do human rights limit the power of states to control migration?

Migration is one of the most debated political and legal issues of our time. While states generally have the sovereign right to regulate who enters and remains on their territory, this power is not unlimited. International human rights law places important constraints on migration policies and offers protection to individuals on the move.

In Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) plays a central role in safeguarding the rights of migrants. Its provisions influence a wide range of migration issues, including protection against return to countries where a person risks torture or ill-treatment, the right to family life, protection against arbitrary detention, access to justice, non-discrimination, and safeguards against collective expulsions.

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The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has developed a rich and influential body of case law that has profoundly shaped migration governance in Europe. Landmark judgments such as *M.S.S., Hirsi Jamaa, Tarakhel*, and *Boultif* continue to influence national migration policies and generate political debate. These questions are also highly relevant in Switzerland, where the relationship between national sovereignty and international human rights obligations remains a recurring topic of public discussion.

This seminar explores the role of human rights in the area of migration. Students will gain a solid understanding of contemporary legal and political challenges linked to migration. Through the analysis of case law, participants will learn how to critically assess and discuss some of the most pressing migration issues of our time from a legal perspective.

Why take this seminar?

- Explore one of the most politically relevant areas of law today.
- Study landmark decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.
- Understand the legal dimensions of current migration debates.
- Develop analytical skills by discussing real-world cases and controversies.
- Gain expertise at the intersection of international, European, and human rights law.

2. Programme of the seminar

The seminar will take place **in Fribourg in the spring semester 2027** 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 **16 December 2026 (9h to 11h00), room BQC 11 2.518.**

Attendance of the first Master's course 'Migration, Human Rights and Ethics' (**Thursday 18 March 2027, 08:15h-11:00h**) is also compulsory in order to get an introduction into Human Rights Law.

The participants' oral presentations will take place on **14 April 2027 (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 **28 May 2027** 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 2026** and closes on **10 December 2026**. **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 2/2027.

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 2026** and closes on **10 December 2026**. **Registrations made before or after these dates will not be considered.**

People who have registered will be informed on **11 December 2026** whether they can attend the seminar.

Please send your letter of motivation between 20 November 2026 – 10 December 2026 to:

Saša Cvetković: sasa.cvetkovic@unifr.ch

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

