



## EMA Director

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Prof. *Elina Pirjatanniemi*

**Fields of competence:** Public international law, criminal justice, constitutional law, human rights and the environment, minority rights, asylum and migration.

## Other academics involved in EMA 2017/2018

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Dr *Viljam Engström* (University Teacher), Dr *Mikaela Heikkilä* (University Teacher), JD *Magdalena Kmak* (Associate Professor) and *Catarina Krause* (Master's Programme Director), and other persons according to the specific needs of the EMA students.

## The university and the city

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Åbo Akademi University is situated in the city of Åbo, on the South-West coast of Finland. Åbo has around 185,000 inhabitants. With some 30,000 students in the city, the student life is very lively. Åbo is a bilingual town with Finnish as the majority language and Swedish as the minority language. The city is called Turku in Finnish.

Åbo Akademi University is the only Swedish-language multi-faculty university in Finland. The university offers both undergraduate and postgraduate studies and extensive study and research opportunities to some 8,000 students. Around 1,000 international students from more than 80 countries enroll at the university every year.

In Åbo, there are two universities: Åbo Akademi University and the Finnish-language University of Turku. The geographical proximity and an overlapping campus area of the two universities have resulted in various forms of cooperation, among them the Turku Law School, a cooperation structure that provides foreign students with a broad range of law courses in English.

Åbo Akademi University is characterised by its manageable size, close student-teacher relations, and highly flexible study programmes. It provides a lively campus milieu and an excellent opportunity to experience a part of the Swedish-speaking Finland. For more information, please see [www.abo.fi](http://www.abo.fi).

At Åbo Akademi University, the EMA students will conduct their second semester studies at the Institute for Human Rights, which is closely connected with the Chair of Public International Law and Constitutional Law at the university. The Institute's mission is to conduct outstanding academic human rights research of high societal relevance and to offer research-based education. Currently the research at the Institute is focusing on human rights and vulnerability, international and European migration and refugee law, and minority issues. There is a Master's Degree Programme in International Human Rights Law with students from several different countries. The EMA students will take part in the thesis seminars with the Master's students.

## Second semester courses

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### Human rights courses available for EMA students in the spring 2018:

- Thesis Seminars (compulsory; included in the credits of the EMA Thesis);
- Advanced Course on Refugee Law (5 ECTS);
- Autonomy and Participation (5 ECTS + 5 ECTS for optional essay);
- Human Rights and the Environment (5 ECTS);
- International and European Migration Law (5 ECTS);
- Migration, Development and Human Rights (5 ECTS; web-based course, separate application procedure).

### Websites:

[www.abo.fi](http://www.abo.fi)

[www.abo.fi/humanrights](http://www.abo.fi/humanrights)

### Department:

Law / Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Business and Economics

### Contact persons

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Further information on the courses is found at <http://www.abo.fi/fakultet/en/studyprogrammes>. For available courses at Turku Law School please see <http://www.utu.fi/en/units/law/studying/turku-law-school/Pages/home.aspx>. Other relevant courses from other academic fields may also be chosen, subject to agreement with the EMA Director.

**Deadline for enrolment in the courses:** Normally on the basis of an individual Learning Agreement, signed by the European Programme Director and filed in advance (preferably in December or early January) so that the actual enrolment can be done after arrival in Åbo. Please consult also the web information of the Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University and of Turku Law School (see addresses above).

**Examination procedures:** Procedures vary depending on the course and may consist of written examinations, essays and take-home exams as well as virtual studies.

## Thesis

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### Research areas:

The main research areas at the Institute for Human Rights are the following:

- Refugee and migration law
- Human rights and vulnerability (including children's rights and women's rights)
- Minorities
- The EU and fundamental/human rights (especially in connection to the AFSJ)
- Human rights and the environment
- International institutions/organisations

Other research areas include: economic and social rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, international criminal law, international humanitarian law, development.

**Thesis supervision:** The thesis supervision includes regular meetings with the supervisor as well as participation in thesis seminars.

### Recommended research topics in the areas of:

- Human rights and vulnerability
- Refugee and migration law
- Minority rights
- Human rights and the environment
- Economic and social rights

**Number of copies to hand in at the hosting university:** 2 (+ 1 copy to the EIUC Secretariat)

## Library

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The Faculty Library (address: Fänriksgatan 3 A) includes a very well equipped section with books and journals on human rights and public international law. Students at Åbo Akademi University have access to a variety of international and national databases. The Institute's own reference database on literature on human rights found in the library (Findoc), is available online (<http://trip.abo.fi/aadb/findoc/welcomee.htm>). There are reading rooms in the Faculty Library as well as in the building of the Department of Law (Gezeliusgatan 2).

## Contacts with NGOs and/or IGOs

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The Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University has close contacts with a broad range of NGOs, IGOs and research institutions within the field of human rights from all over the world.

## Administration and logistics

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**Information concerning visa arrangements:** Foreign nationals' entry into and residence in Finland is subject to the provisions of the Finnish Aliens Act and the Schengen Acquis of the European Union. As a rule, foreign nationals of countries outside the EU and who require an entry visa are requested to apply for one from the diplomatic mission that represents Finland in their home country. Detailed information in English on the visa requirements is found on the home pages of the Foreign Ministry of Finland, see <http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=49459&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>. **The Åbo Akademi University Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Economics** has an Office of Student and Academic Affairs. Address: Fänriksgatan 3 B, FI-20500 Åbo, Finland. Phone: +358-2-215 4219. E-mail: [tuija-liisa.pohja@abo.fi](mailto:tuija-liisa.pohja@abo.fi)

**IT and logistics:** Computers are available in the reading rooms. WLAN connection is available for students using their own laptops. The apartments provided by the Student Housing Foundation are all equipped with internet access.