UCL believes disaster and risk management requires a specific yet multidisciplinary understanding of risk and related disasters. This builds on insights from geophysics, engineering, global health, statistics, the built environment and beyond. UCL looks to increase our knowledge of the processes involved to better understand the effects on the world we live in and how these can be mitigated by design, engineering, managerial, societal and organisational processes.

UCL is seventh in the world’s top ten universities (QS Rankings 2015) and the UK’s top-rated university for research strength (REF 2014). With over 6,000 academic and research staff, £1 billion turnover, and students from 150 countries, we are London’s Global University.

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Web: www.uclconsultants.com
Email: info@uclconsultants.com
Phone: +44(0)20 7679 9796

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Our accomplishments include:

• Warnings issued by UCL’s tropical-storm tracker have helped to save lives in a number of storms, including the devastating cyclone Sidr and tropical storm Mahasen in Bangladesh. Commercial products complementing these alerts benefit international organisations including the Norwegian Hull Club.

• Academics from UCL’s Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction produced a widely commended report on the Volcanic Hazard from Iceland which analysed the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption and its social consequences.

• UCL has provided evidence to the House of Lords Arctic subcommittee, published in the IRDR Arctic Report, on Arctic risk scenarios including implications of shipping changes on search and rescue services, oil and sea ice interactions, and geopolitical considerations.

Research themes:

• Disaster planning and management
• Statistical approaches to quantifying risk
• Recovery and reconstruction
• Risk society
• Geological and metrological hazards
• Climate change and natural hazards
• Health risks and pandemics
• Technological hazards
• Engineering for hazards and disasters
• Mass movement and migration
• Water resource management
• Risk visualisation
• Managing hazards and disasters
• Multiple and interacting hazards
• Health and nutrition in refugee populations
• Humanitarian action

Services and capabilities offered:

• Multi-hazard assessment
• Policy reviews
• Hazard modelling
• Risk analysis
• Professional development courses

UCL brings value when:

• Designing policy
• Managing disasters (response, reconstruction and recovery)
• Enhancing business continuity