Global Humanitarian Studies BSc

Unique in the UK, this multidisciplinary programme aims to educate and train future generations of humanitarian leaders in the theory and practice of humanitarian action. Not only will you learn about the political, historical and development context, you will also gain an understanding of the emergence, impacts and response to humanitarian crises. The critical and analytical research skills you will acquire, grounded in practice, will equip you to anticipate evolving humanitarian threats and manage widening vulnerability and crisis response.

Programme themes

- **Inequality, Social Justice and Ethics**
  Understanding culture and identities, inequality, aid, gender and intersectionality, conflict and migration.
- **Humanitarian Crises Response and Logistics**
  Theoretical background and historical context with practical approaches based on scenario simulations.
- **Climate and Hazard Risks Impacts and Adaptation**
  Concepts of risk, resilience, exposure and vulnerability to climate change and hazards in theory and practice.
- **International Development**
  Sustaining development in the face of crises and disasters.
- **Digital Science (optional pathway)**
  Humanitarian data science, risk quantification, digital health and big data, for evidence-based decision making.
- **Management Science (optional pathway)**
  Organisational and project management, decision making and leadership for the complex interconnected world.
- **Global Public Health (optional pathway)**
  Disease, poverty, conflict and health crises, to challenge policy and interact with healthcare professionals.
- **Anthropology and Social Science (optional pathway)**
  Social networks, resilience, anthropology of war, to deepen understanding and provide tools for shaping practice.

Teaching and learning

**Learn** from world-class researchers and professionals delivering the programme through a combination of lectures, class discussions, problem-solving exercises, practicals, fieldwork, directed reading, student-led dialogue, and practitioner-led scenario simulations.

**Fieldwork**: You will lean quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches in short field programmes in the UK, embedded in taught modules. Many students will pursue third-year research projects that include substantial field components, in the UK or internationally.

**Assessment** is by individual and group presentations, coursework, written examinations and a research project.

Why study at UCL IRDR?

**UCL** is one of the world’s leading universities, regularly featuring in the top 10 in global rankings (2020 QS World University Rankings).

**The Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR)**, leads multidisciplinary research, knowledge exchange and advanced teaching across UCL. As a student, you will join our active seminar series on international development, specialised masterclasses, high-profile public meetings and networking events, with senior policymakers, UN managers and front-line workers.

**UCL Humanitarian Institute**: The IRDR leads the Humanitarian Institute and the BSc Global Humanitarian Studies with key partners: Institute for Global Health, Institute of Education, School of Management and the Departments of Anthropology and Statistical Science.

**London** is one of the world's great cosmopolitan cities. It is an international hub for humanitarian agencies, NGOs, consultancies and enterprises. The IRDR nurtures networks across London, and beyond.

**Careers**

Humanitarian organisations and employers have emphasised the need to professionalise the sector. The core skills in the degree programme are based on a framework developed through on-going consultation with global and national employers in the humanitarian sector, including inter- and non-governmental organisations, international consultancies and humanitarian enterprises. You will develop skills in key areas required for a career in the humanitarian sector. These include the principles, evidence base, analysis and assessment for humanitarian action; qualitative and quantitative research methods; strategic planning and project management; leadership and team working; communication, negotiation and presentation skills; understanding security and ethics.

Between the second and third years, we will help facilitate an optional four-week summer placement, in the UK or internationally, to help you connect your academic learning with skills in the humanitarian workplace.

**Career opportunities in the humanitarian sector**

- Inter-governmental organisations
- Government agencies
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- International consultancies
- Humanitarian enterprises

Our extensive professional networks and careers events give you access to practitioners across the sector.
You will study this course full time over three years. In the first and second years you will take eight taught modules (15 credits each), adding to a total of 120 credits. In the third year you will take six taught modules and an independent research project (30 credits).

You will take a compulsory central core of humanitarian studies (four modules or 50% of the programme) running through all three years.

You then select two optional pathways (two modules or 25% each) to follow through three years, which provide both breadth and depth according to your interests. ‘Intro Week’ showcases the pathways to support your selection.

### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

There are 150 study hours per module, totalling 1200 hours per year. For a taught module you will spend about 20 hours in lectures, 20 in practicals, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork, and the remainder in independent study. See www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ONE: Four compulsory humanitarian core taught modules (15 credits each)</th>
<th>YEAR TWO: Four compulsory humanitarian core taught modules (15 credits each)</th>
<th>YEAR THREE: Two compulsory humanitarian core taught modules (15 credits each) + Independent Project (30 credits)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global History of Humanitarianism</td>
<td>Conflict and Migration</td>
<td>Humanitarian and Aid Economics</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Crisis Response</td>
<td>Humanitarian Planning and Logistics</td>
<td>Gender, Disaster and Conflict</td>
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<td>Climate and Natural Hazard Risks</td>
<td>Humanitarian Policy</td>
<td>Independent Research Project*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and Geospatial Data Analysis</td>
<td>Humanitarian Research Methods</td>
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*The independent research project culminates in a 5,000 word dissertation and poster presentation. Projects may be field, theory or modelling based and can be conducted in collaboration with external industry or NGO partners.

### PATHWAYS: Opt for up to two of four optional pathways over three years (select two modules per year in each pathway)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Science Pathway</th>
<th>Management Science Pathway</th>
<th>Global Health Pathway</th>
<th>Anthropology and Social Science Pathway</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logic, Computation and Language Theory</td>
<td>Understanding Management</td>
<td>Global Health Policy (counts double)</td>
<td>Introductory Social Anthropology (counts double)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology for Humanitarian Studies</td>
<td>Communication and Behaviour in Organisations</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probability and Statistics</td>
<td>Managerial Decision Making</td>
<td>Health, Poverty and Development</td>
<td>Social Anthropology and Material Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algorithms, Logic and Program Structure</td>
<td>Business in a Competitive Environment</td>
<td>Global Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>Social inequality and Mobility</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Data Science</td>
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<td>Population Studies</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Health: Epidemics in the Era of Big Data</td>
<td>Strategic Project Management</td>
<td>Conflict, Humanitarianism and Health</td>
<td>Anthropology of War</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision and Risk</td>
<td>One Management elective</td>
<td>Global Child Health</td>
<td>Political Sociology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Some pathway modules have a cap on student numbers and therefore may not be available for all students. If a pathway module is over-subscribed, an alternative will be offered so that students will still be able to take their chosen pathways.

**Elective modules:** You will be able to choose elective modules from other pathways and from across UCL, for instance in international development and human rights, to substitute for pathway modules, subject to availability and timetabling.
BSc Global Humanitarian Studies

Key information

Programme starts
September 2021

Modes and duration
Full time: 3 year

Tuition fees
UK/EU: £9,250
Overseas: £20,570

Note on fees: Tuition fees shown are for the year 2020. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. See website for current information.

Additional costs: UCL covers all accommodation and travel costs for field trips. You may need to contribute to third-year projects if you choose one that involves overseas fieldwork. A discretionary fund will be made available to assist access.

Funding
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a bursary or scholarship. UCL offers a selection of scholarships for international students.

Please see the Fees and Funding webpages: [www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students). For further advice and programme-specific scholarships information please see the IRDR webpages.

Application dates
Open:  September 2020  Close:  January 2021

Applications are through UCAS: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

UCAS code: LL80

Entry requirements
The breadth of the programme means that we recruit students across the humanities, natural and social sciences, geography, mathematics, business studies, economics and computing.

A levels at A B B (or equivalent for overseas students) are required as well as GCSE in English and Mathematics at grade 5.

Students who wish to take the optional statistics modules in the Digital Science pathway will need A in A level mathematics.

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency. The English language level for this programme is: Good

This brochure is correct at time of print. Please see the IRDR website for current information about the course.