



Global Humanitarian  
Studies BSc

2021 entry

[www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction)

 IRDR

UCL Institute for Risk  
and Disaster Reduction

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 learn 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.



Schools DRR programme in Kargil, Ladakh

**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.



Scenario exercise with a partner organisation

## 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.

# Programme structure

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.



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.

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<b>YEAR ONE: Four compulsory humanitarian core taught modules (15 credits each)</b>	<b>YEAR TWO: Four compulsory humanitarian core taught modules (15 credits each)</b>	<b>YEAR THREE: Two compulsory humanitarian core taught modules (15 credits each) + Independent Project (30 credits)</b>
Global History of Humanitarianism	Conflict and Migration	Humanitarian and Aid Economics
Humanitarian Crisis Response	Humanitarian Planning and Logistics	Gender, Disaster and Conflict
Climate and Natural Hazard Risks	Humanitarian Policy	Independent Research Project*
Social and Geospatial Data Analysis	Humanitarian Research Methods	

\*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.

<b>PATHWAYS: Opt for two of four optional pathways over three years (select two modules per year in each pathway)</b>			
<b>Digital Science Pathway</b>	<b>Management Science Pathway</b>	<b>Global Health Pathway</b>	<b>Anthropology and Social Science Pathway</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
Logic, Computation and Language Theory	Understanding Management	Global Health Policy (counts double)	Introductory Social Anthropology (counts double)
Technology for Humanitarian Studies	Communication and Behaviour in Organisations		
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
Probability and Statistics	Managerial Decision Making	Health, Poverty and Development	Social Anthropology and Material Culture
Algorithms, Logic and Program Structure	Business in a Competitive Environment	Global Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases	Social inequality and Mobility
Humanitarian Data Science			Population Studies
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
Digital Health: Epidemics in the Era of Big Data	Strategic Project Management	Conflict, Humanitarianism and Health	Anthropology of War
Decision and Risk	One Management elective	Global Child Health	Political Sociology

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.

IRDR Programmes:

## Global Humanitarian Studies BSc

Risk, Disaster and Resilience  
MSc

Risk and Disaster Science MSc

Risk and Disaster Reduction  
MRes

Risk and Disaster Reduction  
PhD

### Admissions Contact

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### Postal address

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Reduction

University College London

Gower Street

London WC1E 6BT

United Kingdom

### Teaching location

Central London, Bloomsbury



# IRDR

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## 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.**

