

# MASTER OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A shared professional approach to humanitarian  
action and disaster risk management

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN  
FACULTY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES



---

## **BECOME A HUMANITARIAN AID PROFESSIONAL**

Experience gained from recent major disasters, changes in the humanitarian field, the changing nature of conflict, and climate change impact have all made it clear that a holistic approach to disasters and crisis management is needed to substantially reduce losses and deal with new challenges to which the current system seems ill-equipped to respond.

The Master of Disaster Management (MDMa) is a research-based, cross-disciplinary postgraduate programme in the field of disaster risk management with the aim of fostering professionals who can formulate effective responses to complex practice and policy issues and thereby substantially reduce disaster losses.

The programme covers the three main processes of disaster risk management – reduction, response and recovery, and emphasizes that disaster risk reduction needs to underpin and guide decisions in preparedness, response and recovery planning.

The holistic approach of the Master of Disaster Management programme provides a solid basis for professional aid workers. The programme consists of lectures, team case assignments, field trips and individual assignments that combine practice-based competencies with the latest research and knowledge of disaster risk management.

The combination of science and hands-on learning allows a comprehensive understanding of disaster risk management processes. This enables a more strategic and tactical approach to be taken to ensure the best possible solutions for obtaining appropriate disaster response, recovery and risk reduction.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**The programme will provide you with a mix of practice-based competencies, in-depth scientific knowledge and effective negotiation skills.**

As a graduate of this programme, you will be able to:

- understand the complexities of health, socio-economic, political, physical and environmental vulnerability in disasters
  - identify scientific challenges, analyse and assess risk capacities and vulnerabilities and design appropriate evidence-based interventions
  - communicate effectively with affected populations and other stakeholders in disaster management planning and operations
  - develop and maintain interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration in complex and unpredictable situations.
-





### PROGRAMME LAYOUT

The Master of Disaster Management programme consists of 4 core courses, 2 elective courses and a thesis, equalling 60 ECTS in total.



CORE COURSES	30 ECTS
Disaster Risk Management – From Theory to Practice	7.5
Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises	7.5
Disaster Recovery Planning and Development	7.5
Research Methodology and Ethics	7.5
2 ELECTIVE COURSES	10 ECTS
Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methods	5
Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health	5
Water Supply and Sanitation in Emergencies	5
Geo Information in Disaster Situations	5
Shelter and Settlements in Disasters	5
THESIS	20 ECTS



*“I strongly welcome this effort of professionalising – in all meanings of the term – the work of managing and delivering humanitarian aid and disaster relief.”*

- Poul Nielson, Former European Commissioner of Humanitarian Aid and Development.

## FOUNDED IN GLOBAL PROCESSES

The Master of Disaster Management is a research-based postgraduate programme, designed in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015), the Sendai Framework (2015–2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2016–2030).

## PARTICIPANTS

This programme is relevant for those from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds – risk managers, engineers, doctors, nurses, military officers, social scientists, logisticians and journalists, to mention but a few. Enrolment requires a Bachelor degree and at least two years of work experience within the humanitarian field.

## STUDY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME

The Master's programme can be completed as 1 year's full-time study or up to 3 years on a flexible study (part-time) arrangement. You can sign up for the full programme or individual courses.

## FEES

Exact course fees can be viewed on the website.

## CONTACT

For further information and enrolment, visit [mdma.ku.dk](http://mdma.ku.dk) or write to [mdma@sund.ku.dk](mailto:mdma@sund.ku.dk)

