

Interested in working in emergency and disaster interventions?

Then, come to study at the University of Stirling, this programme is for you!

Study to engage communities in meeting today's emergencies sustainably!

MSc in Disaster Interventions and Humanitarian Aid

(12 month programme, Fulltime). Programme Director, *Professor Lena Dominelli*)

Come to study on this exciting new programme at the University of Stirling set in the beautiful historic city of Stirling, Scotland. Study and enjoy the beautiful countryside with easy access to the magnificent Scottish Highlands, the capital city of Edinburgh and dynamic Glasgow with its industrial heritage.



The MSc in Disaster Interventions and Humanitarian Aid (MSc in Disaster Action for short) begins with two continuing professional development modules in October 2020. These can be taken to obtain credits that can be traded in for two specified modules on the MSc Programme which begins in February 2021.

Introduction:

Disasters, whether 'natural' or (hu)man-made are increasing in frequency and impact, affecting more people and causing more infrastructural and environmental damage. These include health pandemics like Covid-19, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, climate change, extreme weather events like floods, droughts and wildfires, chemical spillages and others.

Humanitarian aid workers, emergency workers, social workers and health-related professionals are amongst the professionals intervening in emergency and disaster situations to develop individual, group and community resilience and rebuild communities. They have to understand concepts like risk, vulnerability and resilience to support victim-survivors in mitigating risk; preparing themselves to better survive catastrophic events; developing resilience before, during and after a disaster; rebuilding better societies afterwards; and devising preventative and adaptative strategies to promote long-term survival in sustainable communities in reconstruction; and effective engagement with the media. The programme includes a field-based learning opportunity to learn about agency involvement in emergency and humanitarian aid agencies that operate within an ethical framework that supports social justice including environmental justice and human rights. Also considered are diverse agencies and experts including various professionals, government officials and other stakeholders working at local, national and international levels. This prepares you to work as a culturally sensitive, reflective practitioner.

Aims:

After completing this course students will be able to:

- Understand and sensitively utilise concepts of risk, vulnerability, resilience and sustainability in disaster situations;

- Understand the range of policy instruments and humanitarian aid agencies and organisations that are relevant to those delivering humanitarian aid.
- Understand the significance of social and environmental justice and human rights.
- Act ethically in disaster situations and research.
- Use research evidence and critically evaluate its relevance in emergency and disaster interventions and humanitarian aid practice.
- Intervene effectively and support disaster-affected populations in developing sustainable communities.
- Work across disciplinary boundaries and with diverse agencies and populations involved in emergency and disaster interventions.
- Support disaster victim-survivors in regaining control of their lives at the personal, interpersonal and community levels.
- Understand different types of hazards and how to intervene effectively in different contexts and settings.
- Communicate effectively with disaster survivors, professionals, policymakers and the media.
- Critically reflect upon one's own learning experience and identify personal development needs.

Core Modules:

Humanitarian Aid: History, Policies, Legislation and Contemporary Structures (20 credits).

Social and Environmental Justice, Human Rights, Ethics and Values (20 credits).

Theories and Concepts in Humanitarian Aid and Emergencies: Risk, Vulnerability, Resilience and Sustainability (20 credits).

'Natural' and (Hu)man-made Disasters: Definitions, Stages and Strategies of Intervention (Prevention, Mitigation, and Adaptation) (20 credits).

Feld-Based Learning Opportunity (FBLO): Practice Theories, Methods and Skills, Community Engagement and Coproducing Solutions (20 credits).

Communication Skills and Media Interactions (20 credits).

Research Methods: Comparative and Participatory Action Research (20 credits).

Dissertation (Comparative Project) (40 credits).

Continuing Professional Development Modules (If audited only, certificate of attendance is given):

The Social Dimensions of Disasters (20 credits)

Disaster Interventions from Green Social Work Perspectives (20 Credits)

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, workshops, tutorials, project work

Assessment:

Essays, project work; presentations including a peer-assessed one for the FBLO; empirical dissertation project; according to module taken.

You can find out more and apply at: <https://www.stir.ac.uk/courses/pg-taught/social-sciences/disaster-interventions-humanitarian-aid/>

You can also email your questions to me at lena.dominelli@stir.ac.uk
I, the Programme Director, look forward to welcoming you to Stirling!

