

Thinking of 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, Full-time). 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, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and cultural heritage nearby.



The MSc in Disaster Interventions and Humanitarian Aid (MSc Disaster Action for short) is an intensive programme. Two continuing professional development (CPD) modules offered in summer 2023 can be taken to obtain credits that can be traded in for two specified modules on the MSc Programme which begins on 26 September 2023. Registration is currently open for the MSc for the 2023-24 academic year.

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 climate change, health pandemics like Covid-19, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, extreme weather events like floods, droughts and wildfires, chemical spillages, war, and others.

Humanitarian aid workers, emergency workers, social workers, health-related professionals, police, firefighters and volunteers intervene in emergency and disaster situations to develop individual, group and community resilience and rebuild communities. Come, explore, understand and use concepts like risk, vulnerability, resilience, sustainability. Learn to help victim-survivors to mitigate risk; prepare themselves to survive better catastrophic events; develop resilience before, during and after disasters; rebuild equitable and inclusive societies; devise preventative and adaptative strategies to promote long-term survival with sustainable community reconstruction; engage effectively with the media. The programme includes a field-based learning opportunity in agencies that support people in emergencies to learn about operating within an ethical, social justice framework that includes environmental justice and human rights. It also considers diverse agencies and experts from different professions, government officials and other stakeholders working at local, national, and international levels. The programme prepares you to work as a culturally sensitive, reflective practitioner in humanitarian-based disaster settings.

Help Yourself Achieve Skills and Knowledge:

After completing this programme you will be able to:

- Understand and utilise sensitively concepts of risk, vulnerability, resilience, sustainability and inclusivity in emergency and disaster situations.
- Understand the range of policy instruments and humanitarian aid agencies and organisations relevant to those delivering humanitarian aid.
- Understand the significance of social and environmental justice and human rights in disasters.
- 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 when developing sustainable communities.
- Work across disciplinary boundaries and with diverse agencies and populations involved in humanitarian aid, emergency or 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 media.
- Critically reflect upon your own learning experience and identify personal development needs including living through disasters, e.g., floods, heatwaves, the Covid-19 pandemic.



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).
- Field-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).

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

And a student's story on: <https://www.stir.ac.uk/student-stories/samuel-besigwa/>

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

- Social Dimensions of Disasters (20 credits) Apply at <https://www.stir.ac.uk/courses/cpd-short-courses/social-dimensions-of-disasters/> early June 2023 TBC.
- Disaster Interventions from Green Social Work Perspectives (20 Credits) Apply at <https://www.stir.ac.uk/courses/cpd-short-courses/disaster-interventions-from-green-social-work-perspectives/> early June 2023 TBC

Teaching Methods:

Lectures including from overseas experts, workshops, tutorials, project work.

Assessment (varies according to module taken):

Essays; project work; presentations including peer-assessed ones; empirical dissertation project.

Fees: Fees vary yearly and are given on the programme websites.

You can also email your questions to me at lena.dominelli@stir.ac.uk

As the Programme Director, I look forward to welcoming you to Stirling!

