

GENEVA CENTRE OF
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES
HUMANITAIRES GENÈVE

Improving Humanitarian Response



A Joint Centre of



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

THE
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE
GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

“There’s no better entry door to the humanitarian world than the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies”

Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action student, 2018



Ceará, Fortaleza. In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICRC donates sewing machines, cleaning machines and supplies to produce protective equipment to detention centers in the region. Photo © ICRC

The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, a joint Centre of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Geneva, is a unique academic and research platform for humanitarian action based in Geneva. For over 20 years, the Centre has been advancing humanitarian action, both through education and research.

Our mission is to contribute to a better, more effective, humanitarian response. We do so by offering a range of high quality post-graduate courses that enable humanitarian professionals, graduates and other professionals to improve the lives of people affected by conflicts, epidemics, disasters, climate change or social exclusions, as well as increase the capabilities of humanitarian organisations.

We organise public events, conferences and workshops, to stimulate debates on contemporary humanitarian issues and strengthen the link between theory and practice, action and reflection.

We are also promoting the critical reflection of the humanitarian system through research projects developed by our researchers on current issues either in the field or in collaboration with major humanitarian organisations. Our flagship research project, the **Humanitarian Encyclopedia**, offers a platform for practitioners, community leaders, policy makers and academics to reflect on humanitarian concepts and practice in the 21st century.

To learn more about the Humanitarian Encyclopedia visit: www.humanitarianencyclopedia.org.

More Information on our courses is available [here](#)

Our values:

Independence

The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies is free to analyse, compare and create knowledge, tools and processes. Critical thinking and analysis, as well as creative concepts, design and researches, are central to the centre.

Ethical action

Mutual respect and ethical action are solidly anchored at the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies. Decisions and actions are based on what serves best the interests of affected people and our research must abide by the highest ethical standards.

Diversity

Diversity is promoted through diverse and divergent thinking, drawing from diverse disciplines and knowledge ecologies and favouring diverse cultural perspectives.

Effectiveness and quality

All our activities are evidence-based, result-oriented and ultimately geared towards improving the humanitarian response on the ground.

Our Centre experience

We offer our students a learning experience based on a unique blend of elements:

Teaching body

Our lecturers and trainers are experts in a wide range of disciplinary fields - from anthropology to communications, from economics to public health - and are complemented by more than 150 external speakers from both academia and humanitarian organisations to ensure our teaching content is anchored in reality and practice.



At the heart of the humanitarian hub

Geneva is a vibrant centre of humanitarian action: The city is the European headquarters of the UN, its main agencies and hundreds of international organisations and NGOs. At our Centre we benefit from privileged access to, and ties with, many of these organisations, and thanks to that, our students are granted unique access to humanitarian actors, inside and outside the classroom. We also collaborate with the main academic institutions in Geneva to develop our courses and ensure a high level of our programmes' scientific standards and a perfect match of these with the understanding and management of current stakes and practices of humanitarian action.

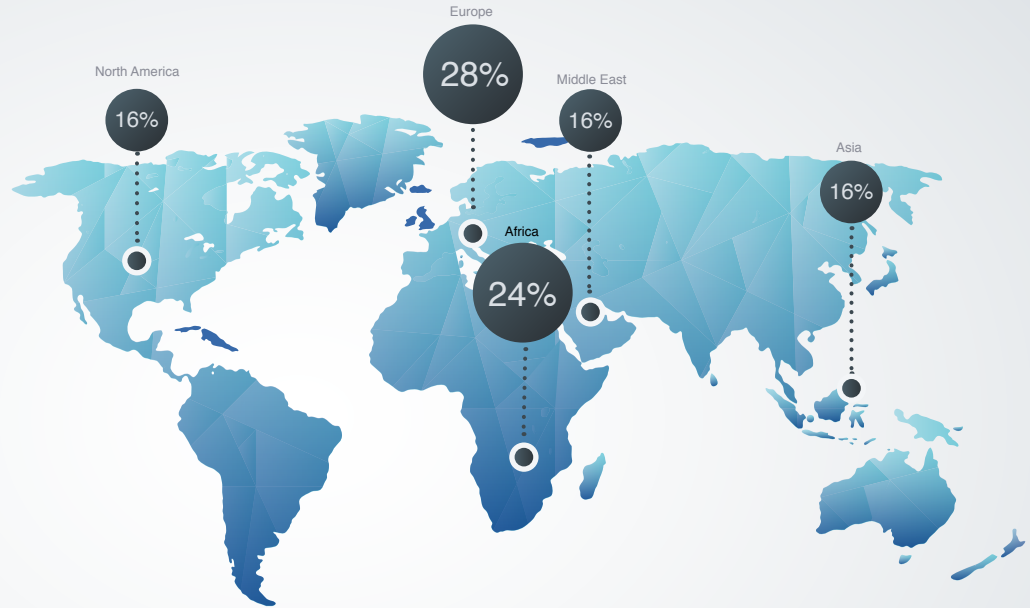


Our students

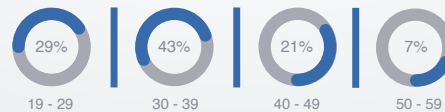
Each year, more than 200 professionals join our courses, each one of them bringing their own unique experience. In our classes we have doctors and nurses, lawyers and communications experts, project managers and emergency coordinators, all committed to improve the humanitarian response.

Our student body reflects the geographical, cultural, professional diversity of the humanitarian sector.

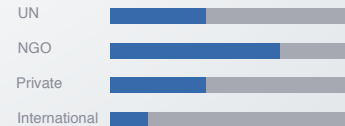
Approximately half of our students come from low- and middle-income countries. Since 2020, we have been opening our doors to graduate students with relevant voluntary or intern experience. Our students build their skills immersed in a dynamic context, learning from each other's different perspective and experience. **By joining our Centre, they become part of a strong alumni network to exchange ideas, share career opportunities and provide advice in an informal way.**



AVERAGE AGE



ORGANISATION





Partnerships

Our partnerships are at the core of what we are. Over the years we have built strong partnerships with Médecins Sans Frontières, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. We also have a rich network of collaborating institutions that contribute to our success in three key areas: strategy, funding, and education. More information on this can be found on our website.

We are also part of the Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.), a training course developed by ICRC for managing humanitarian operations in disasters, conflicts and other crises.

Academic approach

We offer a variety of programmes and courses for professionals to support their current role or achieve future career goals. We offer a flexible range of courses, from one week short courses to a 1-3 year Executive Master. Our courses give professionals the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills in both the conceptual and operational aspects of humanitarian action.

Our approach will challenge students' pre-conceptions, take them out of their comfort zone, expose them to new ways of thinking critically, reflect on their experiences to date and utilise this experience to sharpen their management skills going forward.

Our courses critically analyse the humanitarian sector, the politics and instrumentalisation of aid, as well as the power dynamics that exist within humanitarian organisations. We turn managers into leaders who can critically assess a situation and develop innovative strategies in emergency and development settings.

Modular, flexible, interdisciplinary educational offer

Our range of postgraduate courses focuses on strengthening in-depth competencies of professionals.

Our offer includes residential courses in Geneva, distance-learning programmes and blended learning offers.

Disciplines include political science, economics, law, public health, geopolitics, sociology, anthropology, project management, communications, international relations and ethics, all linked through our interdisciplinary approach.

Trainings can also be developed on demand and arranged in various locations.

Scholarships

We strongly believe in promoting diversity and inclusiveness.

Thanks to the generous support of our partners, our scholarship programme remove barriers so that humanitarian professionals from crisis-affected countries can benefit from our training.

More informations about our scholarships and living costs in Geneva is available here:

<https://humanitarianstudies.ch/scholarships-and-funding/>

MAS

Master
of Advanced Studies
in Humanitarian Action

DAS

Diploma
of Advanced Studies
in Humanitarian Action

CAS

Certificate
of Advanced Studies

CAS

Online Certificate
of Advanced Studies

ESC

Executive Short Courses

MOOC

Massive Online Open Course

Accredited by the Swiss Agency for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ), an agency that safeguards and promotes the quality of teaching and research at universities in Switzerland.



“

**With what I have learned I feel
more confident, more helpful
to my organisation's
beneficiaries and to my team”**

Executive Short Course student, 2019



Partners



ICRC



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



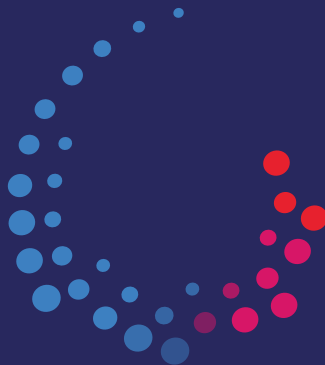
LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG



Die
Bundesregierung

Baghdad. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and Emergency Medical Service, conducts for more than 100 participants with a broad range of professional backgrounds.

Photo © ICRC



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