



GENEVA CENTRE OF  
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES  
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES  
HUMANITAIRES GENÈVE

# Course Catalogue 2023

## Improving Humanitarian Response

Barsalogo, medical center. A doctor whose team consults more than 150 children a day for cases of malaria and malnutrition. Photo © ICRC

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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

# Education

## Flexibility

Our courses focus on strengthening competencies for humanitarian professionals. Prospective students can select from a wide variety of courses in terms of length, discipline and format, with flexible and modular options for professionals to deepen their knowledge. Thematic priorities for our courses are developed in close consultation with the Centre's academic and humanitarian partners, including the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**.

## Audience

- Entry and mid-level professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector looking to develop their competencies as well as reflect and capitalise on their experience.
- Professionals from other sectors (health, military and peace-keeping, private sector, social services) who wish to increase their understanding of the humanitarian sector for a potential career change.
- Graduate students with relevant volunteer or intern experience, looking to undertake a postgraduate course to enter the humanitarian sector.

## Admission criteria

To be admitted to our courses, participants need to have:

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a Swiss or foreign university
- At least two years of relevant professional experience
- Excellent command of English. Please see detailed language requirements [here](#).

## Special discounts and scholarships

Early bird offer (10% discount) for candidates applying for the MAS before 15 December 2021 (except for scholarship applicants).

Participants working with our partners ICRC and MSF may benefit from a 20% special discount on the tuition fees of Executive Short Courses.

We offer full or partial MAS and DAS scholarships to participants from low- or middle-income countries. Please check if you are eligible before applying. More detailed information about scholarships and funding is available [here](#).

## E-learning courses

A majority of our courses are online. They include a combination of asynchronous self-study activities (such as case studies, videos, recorded slideshows, readings, written exercises, quizzes and wikis) and synchronous live sessions and group work.

Live sessions meet via Zoom two to three times a week, in the afternoon (Central European Time), for 2,5 hours.

**Online courses will require 20-25 hours of dedicated work per week. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the online courses and adapt their professional activity accordingly.**

## Prerequisites

To be able to fully adapt to our e-learning courses, please make sure you:

- Have access to a broadband/high speed Internet connection – 2.5 Mbps minimum
- Download the Zoom application
- Most weekly content and activities are accessible via phone, but a PC/laptop/tablet is preferred
- Have a microphone and a webcam

To apply to any of the courses, please register on our platform: <https://apply.humanitarianstudies.ch>

More courses are currently developed on topics including digital innovations, patient safety and accountability.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit [our website](#) to check availability and news.

# Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

## Blended Learning

**Option I:** 14 months

**Option II:** Two-Three year flexible entry

This Executive Master programme is a unique **blended learning** postgraduate course on humanitarian action providing current and future humanitarian professionals with the managerial, theoretical and practical skills needed to optimise responses to humanitarian crises.

Our programme has been developed in response to the growing need to understand, question and reform today's humanitarian system. The programme offers evidence-based, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural education in the field of humanitarian action.

The Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action is a **flexible and modular course**, allowing students to choose from **two options** to organise their studies: **either a 14-month consecutive course, or a flexible 2-3 year course.**

### MAS Option I: 14-month consecutive programme

The MAS starts in September with a "core course", residential term. The rest of the programme continues with online terms and finishes with the handover of the MAS dissertation.

- **Term One:** DAS — residential term in Geneva (September to December)
- **Term Two:** CAS — online (January to April)
- **Term Three:** elective Executive Short Courses — online (April to October)
- **Term Four:** Final MAS Dissertation by the end of August

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

### MAS Option II: Flexible programme (up to 38 months)

This option gives participants the flexibility to start the MAS with the core course (term one), or any other courses that are part of the MAS programme. Students have up to 38 months to complete the 60 ECTS credits necessary for the MAS.

### Option I: 14-month consecutive programme

Note: Only this option is available for students applying for a scholarship.

**Duration:** 1 September 2023 to 31 October 2024

**Format:** Blended learning (Term 1 residential in Geneva and Terms 2, 3 and 4 online)

**Scholarship deadline:** 1 February 2023

**Application deadline excl. EU/EFTA citizens:** 31 May 2023

**Application deadline. EU/EFTA citizens:** 30 June 2023

**Credits:** 60 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 15,000 CHF

### Option II: Flexible up to 38 months

Note: Students can start the programme at various times to suit their needs. Please contact the administration to discuss options.

**Duration:** 2-3 years

**Format:** Blended learning (residential in Geneva and online)

**Credits:** 60 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 17,000 CHF

# Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

## Residential term in Geneva

This executive Diploma offers professionals a critical understanding of the humanitarian system and response learning from history and various other disciplines and an ability to contextualise humanitarian action in today's world. It explores the role of humanitarianism in the way the world is governed today, and the political economy at play in relationships between States, non-State actors, international organisations, international and local non-governmental organisations and affected populations. Finally, the programme addresses the postcolonial dynamics of past and present humanitarian interventions to identify new avenues for contemporary and future crises.

The Diploma is a **100% residential programme in Geneva**, with intensive face-to-face classes four days a week, workshops and external learning activities (visits and conferences).

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

## Structure

The DAS is divided in five modules:

- **M1:** Humanitarianisms
- **M2:** Contexts, Actions and Consequences
- **M3:** Revisiting Vulnerabilities and Needs
- **M4:** Humanitarian Governance, Norms and Principles
- **M5:** The Humanitarians

The Diploma also includes the writing of a final dissertation.

**Duration:** 1 September to 15 December 2023

**Format:** Residential in Geneva

**Scholarship deadline:** 1 February 2023

**Application deadline excl. EU/EFTA citizens:** 31 May 2023

**Application deadline EU/EFTA citizens:** 30 June 2023

**Credits:** 30 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 8,000 CHF

## Certificate of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

### Quality Management of Humanitarian Projects

This executive Certificate addresses the dynamics and components that guarantee the quality management of adapted projects and cohesive teams. It integrates fundamental principles such as inclusion and diversity, do no harm, accountability and participation into processes, methods and tools of project and people management.

The course benefits from guest lecturers from various partner organisations, including SPHERE, HQAI, ACAPS and CHS Alliance.

This programme is **100% online and includes 20 hours of work per week**. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the course and adapt their professional activity accordingly.

Some of the modules can be taken as stand-alone, executive short courses (see below).

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

#### Structure

The CAS is divided in six modules:

- **M1:** Humanitarian Leadership and People Management
- **M2:** Managing and Leading Strategies
- **M3:** Assessing Needs and Capacities
- **M4:** Planning Projects and their Monitoring Systems
- **M5:** Programming Resources and Implementing Interventions
- **M6:** Monitoring and Evaluation

The CAS also includes the writing of a final paper.

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**Duration:** 9 January to 31 March 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 18 December 2022

**Credits:** 10 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 5,000 CHF

## Certificate of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

### Accountability to Affected People

This executive Certificate addresses the ambition of improving Accountability to Affected People (AAP) within the humanitarian sector. It addresses the components, conceptual underpinnings and practice of AAP in various contexts. It prepares participants to better realize the principle of accountability in their field of expertise, through familiarizing them with existing modalities and organizational practices of accountability and critically assessing these modalities' promises and limitations.

This programme is **blended**. It includes a **one-week residential session** in Nairobi, Kenya. The rest of the programme is **online and includes 20 hours of work per week**. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the course and adapt their professional activity accordingly.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

#### Structure

The CAS is divided in three modules:

- **M1:** Origins and evolution of AAP
- **M2:** Actors in AAP
- **M3:** Modalities and practices of AAP

The CAS also includes the writing of a final paper.

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**Duration:** 3 April to 25 June 2023 (incl. one-week residential session in Nairobi from 12 to 18 June 2023)

**Format:** blended

**Application deadline:** 5 March 2023

**Credits:** 10 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 5,000 CHF / 3000 CHF for participants from low or middle-income countries, according to the DAC list of ODA recipients.

## Executive Short Courses

The below list offers a series of short courses specifically designed to develop relevant skillsets as well as theoretical and practical competencies for the humanitarian sector. The courses will provide participants expertise in assessing methods, tools and approaches used to provide assistance to affected populations in different humanitarian contexts.

**The courses are 100% online and include 20-25 hours of work per week. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the course and adapt their professional activity accordingly.**

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### Humanitarian Leadership and People Management

While critically reviewing the current theories and practices of humanitarian leadership and people management, this course aims to ascertain the leadership capacities of participants and situating their preferred management style. In plenary sessions or peer-works, discussions and exercises will question emotional competencies, authority vs. authoritarianism, stress management and institutional vision. Licensed coaches, humanitarian professionals and psychologists will accompany participants in an approach that considers the human being in each worker.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 10 to 28 April 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 19 March 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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### Humanitarian Project Cycle Management / Gestion du cycle d'un projet humanitaire

This course aims to strengthen project managers' capacities to design humanitarian responses that focus on sustainable and locally defined changes. The course is based on the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach and provides concepts and tools for each phase of the project cycle.

**Duration:** 20 February to 24 March 2023 (in English)

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 29 January 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

According to the number of participants, this course can be **offered twice a year, including in French**.

**Session in French:** TBC

More information about the programme in English is available [here](#).

Plus d'information sur le programme en français [ici](#).

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### Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies

The overall objective of this course is to provide humanitarian mid-level and senior managers the knowledge, competencies and skills required to conceive and operationalise a multidisciplinary approach to in sexual violence prevention and response, both adapted to conflict and emergency settings and as an integral part of humanitarian operations. The course deepens participants' understanding of sexual violence, its root causes and contributing factors, and its impact on individuals and communities. The content adopts a survivor-centred and comprehensive approach to the core principles, challenges and practices by exploring multi-sectoral responses, including health, MHPSS and justice. Participants will be able to conceive safe and ethical interventions and will be competent to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual violence.

**Session I:** 6 to 10 March 2023 - residential in Geneva

**Application deadline:** 29 January 2023

**Session II:** 10 May to 5 July 2023 - online

**Application deadline:** 19 April 2023

**Session III:** 27 November to 1 December 2023 – residential in Uganda

**Application deadline:** 29 October 2023

**Format:** online or residential

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF (online/Geneva) / 2,350 CHF (Uganda)

This course is **offered several times a year in different formats**. More detailed information can be found for the [online course](#), the [Geneva residential session](#) or the [Uganda residential session](#).

## A Relationship at Stake: Media and Aid Organisations

The relationship between aid agencies and international/local media is often ambivalent yet vital for public and operational outcomes. This course explores the theoretical and practical implications of this challenging relationship. The programme focuses on the two sides of the interaction: the impact of media attention in a changing media environment and public communications by aid agencies framed by ethical codes of conduct. It offers key analysis of crisis reporting in humanitarian contexts, the visual politics of aid, audience and media landscapes, and media training for operational outcomes. Overall, the course questions the collaboration between aid and media organisations by adopting a cross-professional dialogue and a more ethical approach to messages and images.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 24 April to 5 May 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 2 April 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Negotiation in Humanitarian Crises

For a long time negotiating in humanitarian operations was felt as compromising on principles and norms. It is only recently that it was found as reinforcing humanitarian impact to consider the interests of all sides and the context in order to make a deal. This course focuses on the design of adapted negotiation strategies in humanitarian settings and the development of participant's self-awareness. It links real situations experienced by participants with the latest concepts around humanitarian negotiation, meaning negotiations aimed at securing access, assistance and protection for civilians facing humanitarian emergencies.

This course is **offered twice a year** in collaboration with the **Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN)**.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Session I:** 8 to 19 May 2023

**Application deadline:** 16 April 2023

**Session II:** TBC

**Application deadline:** TBC

**Format:** online

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Non-Communicable Diseases in Humanitarian Settings

This course focuses on the particular challenges presented by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in humanitarian settings, as well as the design of adapted and effective projects to address NCDs. Learning from international experts and diverse peers, this course equips participants with the fundamental knowledge and skills on NCD programme management in humanitarian settings.

The course is delivered in partnership with the **Centre for Global Chronic Conditions at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 22 May to 2 June 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 30 April 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Humanitarian Advocacy: From Bearing Witness to Activism

This course addresses two main competences related to advocacy in the humanitarian sector. The first relates to the critical analysis of the definition and dynamics of advocacy for humanitarian assistance – including discussions around the positioning of humanitarian actors towards witnessing, activism and human rights, or the assessment of public campaigns for policy change or protection. Then, it provides participants with the overall methodology to create an advocacy plan. The course will focus on operational advocacy specifically, so that programme managers can learn how to address operational needs and field constraints in their advocacy strategy.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 5 to 16 June 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 14 May 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

## Patient Safety in Humanitarian Crises: Addressing Healthcare-Related Incidents

This course has been developed to support healthcare professionals operating in low and middle-income countries in managing healthcare incidents. Despite the dedication and skills of healthcare professionals, incidents in the healthcare field remain unfortunately a reality. When things go wrong it is important not to blame the individuals involved but to look deeper into the root causes of the incident and learn from process/system perspective. This course will provide for the participants a solid understanding of the key concepts, strategies, and tools necessary to reduce and prevent risks, mistakes, and harm to patients during healthcare delivery in humanitarian settings.

The course is **offered twice a year** in collaboration with **the ICRC, MSF and the Geneva University Hospitals**.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Session I:** 5 to 16 June 2023

**Application deadline:** 14 May 2023

**Session II:** 13 to 24 November 2023

**Application deadline:** 22 October 2023

**Format:** online

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Health Systems Assessment in Humanitarian Crises

The primary purpose of this course, based on the book published by Professor Blanchet *Applied Systems Thinking for Health Systems Research* is to familiarise participants with a health systems approach to healthcare for communities in low- and middle-income countries affected by humanitarian crises, through practical interactive examples and case studies. The course is taught by experts with humanitarian expertise in low- and middle-income countries during or after humanitarian crises. This is the only course specifically focused on health systems assessment in humanitarian crises and built on the latest available evidence.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 19 to 30 June 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 28 May 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Crises: What Works?

This course has a dual objective to build students' practical skills to design, implement and monitor projects using Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and build their critical and reflexive skills on this topic. In recent years, CVA has emerged as a key game-changer in the way humanitarian assistance is implemented, especially as it is becoming a common modality to deliver relief. The use of cash and vouchers is not new, and examples date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, CVA has only become mainstream recently. Despite this favourable global environment, 7 out of 10 humanitarian organisations report having difficulties finding staff with this skill set.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 3 to 14 July 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 11 June 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Crises

This course focuses on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in humanitarian crises, using specific methods and tools. The overall objective of the course is to allow mid-level or senior managers to develop an understanding of sexual and reproductive health issues in emergencies and to provide them with skills to coordinate the implementation of a minimum set of SRH interventions at the onset of an emergency and as integral part of health assistance programmes.

The course is delivered in partnership with the **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 4 to 15 September 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 13 August 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

## Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts

This course provides a general introduction to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The first part sheds light on the multiplicity of operational contexts and threats found in complex conflict environments – from community-based or politically induced violence to violations by international or state security forces, or human rights abuses inflicted on civilian populations by non-state armed groups. It also explores the legal or normative frameworks applicable to the situation(s) at hand and the various mandates, roles and responsibilities of actors involved in the conflict. The second part provides a practical insight into humanitarian protection mainstreaming, risks assessments, programming and operations, and unveils inter-linkages between specialised protection mandates, including SGBV, child protection or the protection of IDPs and refugees. Overall, this protection course applies comparative and critical thinking on concepts, principles and professional standards most common amongst protection actors in conflict settings, and helps designing and implementing a protection response in practice.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 18 to 29 September 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 27 August 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Planetary Health

Planetary health focuses on the changes humans are making to their environment and its multidimensional impacts on ecosystems and human health. Planetary health recognises that human health and the health of our planet are interconnected. This course aims to understand how essential it is to integrate a planetary health lens and strategy into humanitarian action. Its programme reviews how human-caused changes disrupt natural ecosystems, causing climate change, air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, disruption to our food production system, and changing patterns of diseases. It emphasises the importance of humanitarian organisations reaching out to help people at risk and working to reduce the environmental impact of their aid efforts. The planetary crisis is a public health crisis. Human and animal health depends on the planet's well-being and its ecosystems.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 2 to 13 October 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 10 September 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF

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## Digital innovations in humanitarian action: opportunities and challenges

Since the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the use of digital innovations and new technologies is increasing to improve humanitarian assistance. While it shows the prevalence of data revolution in the aid sector, the growing involvement of tech companies in global philanthropy has only accelerated this innovation turn. From crowd-sourced data used in crisis mapping to the expansion of drones to facilitate relief distribution or the implementation of biometrics in refugee camps, humanitarian innovations are used in diverse contexts related to disasters, armed conflicts and migration. Exploring the entanglements between innovations labs, start ups and humanitarian governance, this course analyses opportunities and challenges of such innovations beyond the tech utopia, to consider ethical as well as privacy and protection issues.

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 16 to 27 October 2023

**Format:** online

**Application deadline:** 24 September 2023

**Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 1,700 CHF



## Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.)

HELP is a two-week course on the provision of humanitarian relief during disasters, armed conflicts and other complex crises. It was created in 1986 **by the ICRC, in partnership with the WHO and the University of Geneva**, to professionalise the delivery of humanitarian assistance during emergencies, and to promote professional ethics and humanitarian principles. There are complex issues that humanitarian personnel have to tackle, often during emergencies: What are the most effective means to protect the lives and dignity, and promote the health, of people affected by major climate change-related disasters or armed conflicts? What must be done to analyse a complex crisis, evaluate needs, assess the resources available and set priorities? What goes into planning and managing a response and, later, evaluating its effectiveness? How should threats to public health be prevented or responded to, mental and social well-being promoted, and care provided in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful and ethically sound?

More detailed information about the programme is available [here](#).

**Duration:** 26 June – 7 July 2023

**Format:** residential

**Application deadline:** 28 May 2023 **Credits:** 2 ECTS

**Tuition fees:** 2,000 CHF