



## Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action (DAS)

<b>Credits</b>	30 credits ECTS
<b>Dates</b>	1 September – 17 December 2024
<b>Format</b>	Residential course in Geneva <i><b>This DAS programme is intensive, with at least 4 days per week in class. Participants should invest full time for classes, self-learning activities, assignments and dissertation, as well as networking in Geneva.</b></i>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Fees</b>	CHF 8'000
<b>DAS coordinator</b>	Dr. Valerie Gorin

### Course overview

#### Short description

The Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) aims to offer professionals a critical understanding of the humanitarian system and an ability to contextualize humanitarian action in today's world. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, it explores the historical, political, social, cultural and economic roots of humanitarianism and the power dynamics at play in relationships between States, non-State actors, international organisations, international and local non-governmental organizations and affected populations. Finally, the programme addresses the colonial legacy of past and present humanitarian interventions to identify new avenues for contemporary and future crises.

## Learning outcomes of the course

At the end of the course, students will have developed a critical understanding of contemporary humanitarian action informed by academic scholarship, which will enable them to become better informed, and more aware and effective humanitarian practitioners, more autonomous in their decisions.

More specifically, at the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the politico-historical foundations of humanitarianism, the changing nature of humanitarian crises and the various forms of humanitarian action.
- Widen their conception of humanitarianism by acknowledging the existence of other philanthropic, charity and faith-based endeavours
- Understand the ethical, normative and legal aspects of humanitarianism including the overlap between humanitarianism, militarism and sanctions
- Identify the various actors of humanitarian action and understand the political economy of the field
- Examine the aid sector in its relation to existing silos (emergency, development, peace)
- Discuss the new global politics reshaping the aid sector and calls to “localize” or “decolonize” the sector

## Workload

Around 750 hours of work for the whole Diploma, including:

- App. 200 hours of face-to-face teaching (lectures, group work, round tables, debates, visits)
- App. 425 hours of self-study time (e-learning modules, readings, assignments, videos, quizzes, etc.)
- App. 125 hours for the DAS dissertation

<b>Structure of the course</b>	
<b>Module 1: Humanitarianisms</b>	This module traces the genealogy of secular humanitarianism since the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, to explore historical and political dynamics and mechanics that led to the development of several forms of humanitarianism, including its visual, moral and political economy along the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Module 2: Humanitarian ethics, norms and principles</b>	This module discusses the normative aspects of contemporary humanitarianism, introducing students to the basic principles of international humanitarian law (IHL), Human Rights, refugee law as well as humanitarian ethics.
<b>Module 3: “Decolonizing” and “localizing” humanitarian action: why and how?</b>	This module questions the incentive to “localize” humanitarian action in the context of new global politics reshaping the humanitarian system, in light of similar calls to “decolonize” the aid sector.
<b>Module 4: The triple nexus humanitarian-development-peace</b>	The module explores the existing silos between areas of interventions and possibilities of integration. The changing nature of humanitarian crises is examined looking at the consequences these changes have had on the humanitarian response, notably the humanitarian-development nexus.
<b>Module 5: The Humanitarians: relationships and interactions in Aidland</b>	This module focuses on Aidland as a specific transnational field with its codes of conduct, values and behaviours. It examines the everyday life of humanitarian workers, and the production of internal differences among various humanitarian identities and categories of practitioners.
<b>DAS dissertation</b>	Throughout the DAS, participants will engage in a series of workshops designed to develop information-gathering and processing, ethnographic observation and visual analysis. These workshops will help participants write two assignments (film review and conference report) that constitute the core of the dissertation. The overall aim of the DAS dissertation is to stimulate a critical and original reflection on issues linked to humanitarian action through specific writing exercises. The submission deadline for the DAS dissertation is January 31, 2025.

## Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector looking to increase their competencies as well as reflect and capitalise on their experiences
- Professionals from other sectors (health, military and peace-keeping, private sector, social services) who wish to develop 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 with a view to entering the humanitarian sector