



GENEVA CENTRE OF
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES
HUMANITAIRES GENÈVE

Course Catalogue

— 2024 - 2025

**Where Education,
Research and Dialogue
meet to make an impact**

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: <https://humanitarianstudies.ch/application/>

Special discounts and scholarships

Early bird offer (10% discount) for candidates applying for the MAS before December each year (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 ESC scholarships to participants from low- or middle-income countries. Please check if you are eligible before applying. More detailed information about scholarships is available here: <https://humanitarianstudies.ch/scholarships-and-funding/>

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 approximately 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.

Technical pre-requisites

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
- Computers or laptops are preferred to access weekly content
- Have a microphone and a webcam

Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information about our courses.
www.humanitarianstudies.ch



Our Courses

12

Master of Advanced Studies
in Humanitarian Action

15

Diploma of Advanced Studies
in Humanitarian Action

16

Certificate of Advanced Studies
in Humanitarian Action

18

Executive Short Courses
wide range of topics

Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action | 1 September 2025 to 31 October 2026

Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action | 1 September to 16 December 2025

1. Certificate of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

Quality Management of Humanitarian Projects | 6 January to 30 March 2025

2. Certificate of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

Accountability to Affected People | 6 January to 30 March 2025

Executive Short Courses

1. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts | 16 to 27 September 2024
2. Planetary Health | 30 September to 11 October 2024
3. Digital innovations in humanitarian action: opportunities and challenges
Option I: 14 to 25 October 2024
Option II: 9 to 20 June 2025
4. Humanitarian Leadership and People Management
Option I: 7 October to 8 November 2024
Option II: 17 February to 21 March 2025
5. Patient Safety in Humanitarian Crises: Addressing Healthcare-Related Incidents | 2 to 13 December 2024
6. Humanitarian Leadership and People Management | 9 to 31 January 2025
7. Health Systems Assessment in Humanitarian Crises | 14 to 25 April 2025
8. Negotiating on the Frontlines | 28 April to 9 May 2025
9. Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) | 5 to 16 May 2025
10. Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Crises: What Works? | 12 to 23 May 2025
11. Humanitarian Advocacy: From Bearing Witness to Activism | 26 May to 6 June 2025
12. Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Emergency Settings | 23 June to 18 July 2025

Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action

Blended Learning

Option I: 14 months

Option II: Flexible, up to 38 months

This Executive Master 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 includes a residential session in Geneva and relies on its unique humanitarian environment. The programme 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 study plan that can last up to 38 months.

MAS Option I: 14-month consecutive programme

The MAS starts in September with a 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 March)

Term Three: elective Executive Short Courses — online (April to October)

Term Four: Final MAS Dissertation by the end of October

Scholarship deadline: 1 February 2025

Application deadline excl. EU/EFTA citizens: 31 May 2025

Application deadline EU/EFTA citizens: 30 June 2025

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

MAS Option I


 2 Sept 2025 -
31 Oct 2026

 14 months

 60 ECTS

 English

 CHF 15'000

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

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

This option gives participants the flexibility to start the MAS with the core course (term 1), 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.

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

MAS Option II



Up to 38 months



60 ECTS



English



CHF 17'000



Blended learning
(residential in
Geneva and online)

Diploma of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action







Residential term in Geneva

This executive Diploma offers professionals a critical understanding of the humanitarian system and an ability to contextualise 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 organisations 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.

The Diploma is a **100% residential programme in Geneva**, with intensive face-to-face classes four days a week, as well as visits and conferences.

Application deadline excl.
EU/EFTA citizens: 31 May 2025

Application deadline EU/EFTA
citizens: 30 June 2025

-  2 Sept - 16 Dec 2025
-  4 months
-  30 ECTS
-  English
-  CHF 8'000
-  Residential in Geneva

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. Following the Result-Based Management approach and taking into account ethical issues, specificities of contexts and the mandates of aid agencies, this certificate develops a qualitative framework to manage projects and teams in line with local and international prerogatives.

This programme is **100% online and includes 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.

Application deadline:

8 December 2024

-  6 Jan - 30 Mar 2025
-  12 weeks
-  10 ECTS
-  English
-  CHF 5'000
-  Online

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 discusses 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 20-25 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.

Application deadline:

1 December 2024

	6 Jan - 30 Mar 2025
	12 weeks
	10 ECTS
	English
	CHF 5'000
	Online

Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts

This course provides applies comparative and critical thinking on the concept of protection.

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 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, child protection or the protection of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees.

Application deadline:

25 August 2024



16 - 27 Sept 2024



2 weeks



2 ECTS



English



CHF 1'700



Online

Planetary Health







Planetary health focuses on the changes humans are making to their environment and its multidimensional impacts on ecosystems and human health. It 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.

The 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.

Application deadline:

8 September 2024

	30 Sept - 11 Oct 2024
	2 weeks
	2 ECTS
	English CHF
	1'700
	Online

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.

Application deadline:

Option I: 22 September 2024

Option II: 18 May 2025



Option I:

14 - 25 Oct 2024

Option II:

9 - 20 June 2025



2 ECTS



English



CHF 1'700



Online

Humanitarian Project Cycle Management

This course aims to strengthen the capacities of project managers to design humanitarian responses that focus on sustainable and locally defined changes. The course is based on the Theory of Change (ToC) and Results-Based Management (RBM) approaches. Essential tools such as problem tree or logical framework are adapted to ensure the transfer of those approaches at operational level.

Throughout the course, participants will work on case study to build a project, covering the entire project cycle. Emphasis is put on practice and experience sharing. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their professional situation with the group and the course director.

Application deadline:

Option I: 15 September 2024

Option II: 26 January 2025



Option I:

7 Oct - 8 Nov 2024

Option II:

17 Feb - 21 March 2025



2 ECTS



English CHF



1'700



Online

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, unfortunately, incidents in the healthcare field remain 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 was developed in collaboration with the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, **Médecins sans Frontières (MSF)**, and the **Geneva University Hospitals (HUG)**.

Application deadline:

10 November 2024



2 - 13 Dec 2024



2 weeks



2 ECTS



English



CHF 1'700



Online







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 discover their preferred management style.

In plenary sessions or peer-to-peer sessions, 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.

Application deadline:

18 December 2024

-  8 - 31 Jan 2025
-  2 weeks
-  2 ECTS
-  English
-  CHF 1'700
-  Online

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.

Application deadline:

23 March 2025



14 - 25 April 2025



2 weeks



2 ECTS



English CHF



1'700



Online







Negotiating on the Frontlines

This course is designed to equip participants with essential negotiation skills and tools needed to navigate complex and adversarial environments. Participants will gain a robust understanding of crisis management approaches, strategic frameworks for high-stake dialogues, and tactical tools for the planning of effective negotiation in complex environments. The course combines theoretical presentations, practical exercises and simulations based on real-world scenarios such as public health crises, protection challenges, irregular migration and climate-induced disasters.

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to engage in group work with experienced practitioners to apply and reflect on their learning, culminating in a final reflection paper. The course aims to enhance participants' abilities to build trust, manage adversarial relationships, and lead constructive engagements in high-intensity situations.

Application deadline:

6 April 2025

-  28 Apr - 9 May 2025
-  2 weeks
-  2 ECTS
-  English
-  CHF 1'700
-  Online







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?

Application deadline:

13 April 2025

-  5 – 16 May 2025
-  2 weeks
-  2 ECTS
-  English
-  CHF 2'000
-  Residential in Geneva







Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Crises: What Works?

In recent years, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has emerged as a key game-changer in how humanitarian assistance is implemented, especially as CVA is becoming a standard modality to deliver relief. Cash and voucher as a means of assistance are not new, with examples dating back to the 19th century. However, the mainstream adoption of CVA is a recent phenomenon. Despite this favourable global environment, there is a significant gap in expertise. 7 out of 10 humanitarian organisations report having difficulties finding staff equipped with this skill set.

This course has a dual objective. First, it aims 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. Secondly, it seeks to develop their critical and reflexive skills on the topic of cash and voucher assistance.

Application deadline:

20 April 2025

-  12 - 23 May 2025
-  2 weeks
-  2 ECTS
-  English
-  CHF 1'700
-  Online

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. Additionally, the course delves into the assessment of public campaigns for policy change or protection.

The second main competence provides participants with the overall methodology to create an advocacy plan. The course focuses on operational advocacy specifically. This ensures that programme managers can learn how to address operational needs and field constraints in their advocacy strategy.

Application deadline:

4 May 2025



26 May - 6 Jun 2025



2 weeks



2 ECTS



English



CHF 1'700



Online

Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Emergency Settings

The overall objective of this course is to provide humanitarian mid-level and senior managers with the knowledge, competencies and skills required to conceive and operationalise a multidisciplinary approach 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 (with a particular focus on the East Africa region for the course in Uganda). 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 centred on victims/survivors' rights, needs and wishes, and will be competent to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual violence.

Application deadline:

1 June 2025

 23 June – 18 July 2025

 2 weeks

 2 ECTS

 English CHF

 1'700

 Online

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