COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Crisis and Disaster Management

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Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	***MSc Crisis and Disaster Management***
Final Award	*MSc*
Exit Awards	*PGCert, PGDip*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*C2297F/P, P2297FTC/ PTC*
Mode of study	*full time, part time*
Mode of delivery	*Blended, Campus*
Normal length of course	*1 year FT or 2 years PT*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*from September 2023 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Science Faculty & Health*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of the Environment and Life Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*[School of the Environment and Life Sciences	University of Portsmouth](#)*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*[https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-crisis-and-disaster-management](#)*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	
[Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level](#)	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The Crisis and Disaster Management programme aims to:

· Facilitate a deep understanding of relevant knowledge and a critical awareness of current issues at the forefront of Crisis and Disaster Management
· Develop intellectual and practical skills in the collection, analysis, interpretation and understanding of geoscience and environmental data, with specific reference to the assessment and management of hazards, vulnerability and risk of disaster
· Provide a challenging and stimulating framework of study for students that facilitates personal, academic and professional development
· Develop the interpersonal and personal skills necessary for effective crisis and disaster management principles in a strategic and business management context
· Enable students to develop high-level, in-depth knowledge in a range of disciplines related to crisis and disaster management, enabling the development of a proactive disaster risk reduction culture
· Facilitate the formulation, planning and execution of a research project in the field of crisis and disaster management
· Enable students to demonstrate the ability to analyse data, make decisions, plan critically and objectively and communicate effectively, presenting findings as coherent arguments with an assessment of future needs and consequences

Students will most likely be employed in government first-response and emergency management agencies, defence and security organisations, civil engineering or environmental consultancies and non-government organisations (NGOs) in the emergency response or humanitarian sectors, or in commerce and industry (particularly the insurance and reinsurance sectors). Graduates from this programme should prove very attractive to employers and are likely to be in demand by organisations within any sector.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The variety of hazards (natural, anthropogenic, socio-economic, and technological), vulnerable features (physical and socio-economic) and risk	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, computer practicals, workshops and role play simulations, external speakers	Technical report with case studies, and poster presentations
A2	Key principles and processes in crisis and disaster management and the appropriateness of different methodologies	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops and role play simulations, external speakers	Case Studies, seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports, laboratory practical work, field reports, oral presentations
A3	The importance of business continuity planning and governance for organisations and communities	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, and role play simulations, guest speakers	Seminar oral presentations, Case Studies, technical reports.
A4	The application of appropriate risk management and emergency response strategies	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops & role play simulations, guest speakers	Fieldwork observations, technical reports, oral presentations
A5	The application of research methods and specialist subject knowledge in the area researched for a dissertation	Lectures, seminars, workshops, e-learning resources, research seminar	Research project proposal, dissertation, oral presentation

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
B1	Deal with complex issues and make sound judgements based on available data	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops, role play simulations, guest speakers	Seminar oral presentations, technical reports, design of a role-play disaster simulation exercise
B2	Critically evaluate the relevance of theories of risk, governance and business continuity	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops, role play simulations	Case Studies, seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports
B3	Demonstrate creativity, analysis and original thinking in the design and application of crisis and disaster management solutions	Workshops, site visits and fieldwork, role play simulations	Seminar oral presentations, design of a role-play disaster simulation exercise
B4	Analyse and interpret data and information from a variety of sources to identify crisis and disaster management issues	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops, computer practicals for GIS and information management, role play simulations	Fieldwork observations, technical reports, oral presentations
B5	Apply and adapt crisis and disaster management theories for use within multidisciplinary scenarios	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops, role play simulations	Case Studies, seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports, oral and poster presentations

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Undertake independent study through research, both primary and secondary	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops	Project proposal, fieldwork observations, dissertations, seminar oral presentations
C2	Select and apply relevant models to support high quality analyses and decisions	Lectures, seminars, computer practicals, e-learning resources	Technical reports, laboratory practical work, oral presentations
C3	Construct reports and assignments coherently, evaluating alternatives and supporting recommendations	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops	Case Studies, technical reports
C4	Understand, evaluate and employ concepts of the disciplines underpinning crisis and disaster management	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops	Case Studies, seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports, oral presentations
C5	Demonstrate an awareness of the role of emergency planners, risk managers, emergency responders and disaster managers	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, e-learning resources, site visits and fieldwork, role play simulations, external speakers	Fieldwork observations, technical reports, case studies, field reports, oral presentations

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
D1	Work effectively individually and in group settings to achieve set goals	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops, role play simulations	Individual: fieldwork observations, technical reports, field reports, poster presentations; Group /team: seminar oral presentations, design of a role-play disaster simulation exercise
D2	Communicate effectively in writing, orally and through graphical representations in professional and academic settings	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops	Case Studies, seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports, field reports, oral and poster presentations
D3	Assess problem domains and formulate appropriate problem-solving strategies	Lectures, seminars, e-learning resources, workshops, role play simulations	Seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports, laboratory practical work, oral presentations
D4	Build on previous experience in order to improve systems for emergency planning and crisis response	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, e-learning resources, role play simulations	Case Studies, seminar presentations, fieldwork observations, technical reports, field reports, oral presentations
D5	Use appropriate information technology to handle text, data, simulation, design and testing	Lectures, seminars, computer practicals using GIS, e-learning resources, workshops	Fieldwork observations, technical reports, oral presentations, design of a role-play disaster simulation exercise

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides…

A 2-day induction programme that introduces the student to the University and their course.

Students have access to a dedicated MSc study room in Burnaby Building, with networked computers and printers.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- External stakeholders as represented by the Employers consulted in the development of the
- programme
- QAA Benchmark Statements for specialist masters awards in business and management
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **Emergency Planning College (EPC)**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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