

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		Masters in International Humanitarian Affairs 2017/18	
Awarding institution		Teaching institution	
University of York		University of York	
Department(s)			
Health Sciences			
Award(s) and programme title(s)		Level of qualification	
Masters of Science in International Humanitarian Affairs		Level 7 (Masters)	
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards			
Postgraduate Certificate in International Humanitarian Affairs			
Postgraduate Diploma in International Humanitarian Affairs			
Admissions criteria			
<p>Applicants for this programme are expected to hold an upper second-class undergraduate degree in a related field, an equivalent university degree from an overseas institution, or have relevant equivalent professional experience. Due to the fully online nature of the course, applicants will be expected to demonstrate a basic level of computer literacy and must have regular access to the internet, with reasonable connection speeds and satisfactory minimum download speeds of no less than 128Kbps (the reason for this is that most students are in active disaster or conflict zones working for humanitarian agencies. However, the MIHA VLE contains video clips where the students can download when they are on Rest and Recuperation – R&R leave every 6-8 weeks).</p> <p>Applicants for whom English is not a first language will have to demonstrate English language proficiency in order to be eligible for the programme, in line with the broader requirements of the Department of Health Sciences, where an IELTS score of 7.0 or above (or equivalent language qualification is required).</p> <p>As a distance learning programme MIHA students will not need to apply for visa to study in the UK.</p> <p>Since students will represent diverse academic cultures, while others may not have a first degree, academic literacy training is provided (mandatory introductory Academic Skills Tutorial on the VLE) which will start in the induction phase, with each module also reinforcing study skills development.</p>			
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study			
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode

			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MSc in International Humanitarian Affairs	2 years (part- time)	Annual September 2015 onwards	No	Yes	Online
Language of study	English				
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
<p>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</p> <p>This interdisciplinary Masters programme aims to provide professionals with the opportunity to critically assess and deepen their understanding of contemporary issues in international humanitarian affairs whilst also strengthening their abilities to operate knowledgably and decisively in the field. To this end, the programme will enable students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) advance their understanding of the humanitarianism through engaging critically with the core academic debates, policy paradigms and theories of good practice; 2) develop their skills to respond to humanitarian crises with a particular focus on the overlapping contexts of violent conflict and war, natural hazards and complex emergencies. 3) advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of practice through engagement in international communities of learning and research. 					
<p>Additionally for the Diploma (if applicable):</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills through the selection of two further specialised modules. These modules will allow students to focus in on particular areas of interest and will ensure students are able to engage with more than one sector in the humanitarian field.</p>					
<p>Additionally for the Masters:</p> <p>The programme aims to increase the employability of students who complete the MSc by equipping them with the analytical and research skills necessary to either pursue further education at the MPhil or doctoral level, or pursue a career in strategic-level humanitarian assistance and crisis response. Students will achieve this through developing their capacity to engage in original research through the production of a dissertation.</p>					

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes	
<i>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:</i>	<i>The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</i>
A: Knowledge and understanding	
<p>Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate :</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> contemporary theories of international humanitarian affairs. the ethical, organisational, protection and legal frameworks of humanitarianism. the challenges and opportunities in the sectoral delivery of humanitarian assistance at both policy and practice levels. the complexities of humanitarian responses (for example, sector responses, donorship and coordination). how evidence can best inform the policy making cycle. <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Social-science based methods of researching humanitarian affairs. the dynamic relationships between policies and humanitarian delivery. the global mechanisms of implementing humanitarian policy and practice. critical aspects of humanitarian affairs the specific impacts, needs and trends surrounding humanitarian delivery in different social, political, economic, cultural and environmental contexts the governance of humanitarian delivery at both policy and practice levels <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the humanitarian system, delivery of each sector, challenges faced, approaches to improve the impact, efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of humanitarian affairs 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module guide and guided online reading (1-12) Discussion boards/ online discussion (1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12) Problem-based learning (1-12) Analysis of case studies (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12) Online debates (1,2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) Webinars (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12) Online presentations, videos and interviews (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12)
	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 12) Analytical report (1, 2) Group poster and group proposal (1, 2, 3, 4) Mini-research project and report (2, 5, 6, 9, 10) Dissertation (1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 12)

B: (i) Skills – discipline related

<p>Students will be able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. identify the key actors and players working in any given humanitarian context at the local, national and international level.2. analyse and evaluate international humanitarian policies3. select and apply advanced research techniques to gather information by using quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods and participatory research methods.4. present their research, ideas and proposed responses in writing to international humanitarian affairs	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module guide and guided reading (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)• Discussion boards/ online discussion (1, 2, 3, 5)• Problem-based learning (2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8)• Analysis of case studies (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)• Online debates (2, 5)• Webinars (3, 4, 8)• Online presentations, videos and interviews (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)
<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. design, plan, manage, deliver and critically evaluate humanitarian aid activities across the main sectors of humanitarian intervention.6. develop humanitarian assistance policy and programmes by considering global, national and local contexts.7. Draw on humanitarian processes and policies and apply them to a range of projects8. Critically reflect on humanitarian programmes and their own work. <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Manage a research or humanitarian project in the area of protection, food and nutrition, shelter, health and WASH.	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)• Analytical report (2, 3, 4)• Group poster and group proposal (2, 3, 4)• Mini-research project and report (1, 3, 4, 5)• Dissertation (2, 3, 7, 8, 9)

B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work and study independently, managing their own time and resources effectively; 2. address problems in a thoughtful yet systematic and efficient manner; 3. create and apply effective research strategies to locate a range of information resources using appropriate methods. 4. select and apply suitable data collection and analysis techniques to research projects 5. produce clear, evidenced, accurate reports and oral presentations; <p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. confidently project manage and evaluate projects. 7. confidently analyse the academic and policy-based literatures and to present empirical case studies. 8. critically reflect on their own work and experiences. <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. carry out independent research within the humanitarian field as preparation for further postgraduate study. 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module guide and guided reading (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) • Discussion boards/ online discussion (1, 2, 6, 7) • Problem-based learning (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) • Analysis of case studies (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) • Online debates (3, 5) • Webinars (1, 2, 5, 6, 7) • Online presentations, videos and interviews (1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay (1, 2, 5, 7, 8) • Analytical report (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) • Group poster and group proposal (2, 5) • Mini-research project and report (1, 2, 3, 4) • Dissertation (1, 3, 4, 6, 9)

C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Students will have gained experience of:</p> <p><i>For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. working within a strong online community and cooperating with people remotely to examine and assess complex humanitarian issues. 2. considering complex practical case studies of humanitarianism. 3. exercising their own initiative and personal responsibility. 4. making decisions in complex humanitarian contexts. 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module guide and guided reading (1, 2, 3, 4, 6) • Discussion boards/ online discussion (1, 2, 3, 6) • Problem-based learning (2, 4) • Analysis of case studies (2, 4, 6) • Online debates (1, 2, 3, 5) • Webinars (1, 3, 5, 6) • Online presentations, videos and interviews (1, 4, 5, 6)

<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>5. debating the main issues of humanitarianism with key experts in the field.</p> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <p>6. conducting their own independent research at a high academic level and analyse and present their own findings.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay (2, 3, 4, 5) • Analytical report (1, 2, 3) • Group poster and group proposal (1, 2, 3, 4) • Mini-research project and report (2, 3, 4) • Dissertation (2, 3, 4, 6)
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<p>Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)</p>
<p>There are no relevant benchmark statements for this programme.</p>
<p>University award regulations</p>
<p>To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.</p>
<p>Departmental policies on assessment and feedback</p>
<p>Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences</p>
<p>Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences</p>

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Masters

All modules are 20 credits unless otherwise stated

Year 1			
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer Vacation
Examining Humanitarianism	Protection and Assistance in International Humanitarian Law	Humanitarian Response: Food and Nutrition, Shelter, Health, WASH	Research Methods in Humanitarian Affairs
Year 2			
<i>Education in Emergencies</i>	<i>Communities in Humanitarian Affairs</i>		
OR	OR		
<i>Evaluating Humanitarian Programmes</i>	<i>Disasters in Complex Political Emergencies</i>		
		Dissertation (60 credits)	

Postgraduate Diploma

As above for the MSc with the exception of the dissertation module.

Postgraduate Certificate

To obtain a Postgraduate Certificate students will need to secure 60 credits by successfully completing any of the above modules.

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards				
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Year 1 (2017/18)				
	Examining Humanitarianism: Week 1 Re-assessment week 14			
		Protection and Assistance in International Humanitarian Law: Week 1	<i>Protection and Assistance in International Humanitarian Law:</i> Re-assessment Week 3	
		Humanitarian Response: Food and Nutrition, Shelter, Health, WASH: (Poster) Week 8	Humanitarian Response: Food and Nutrition, Shelter, Health, WASH: (Proposal) Week 1	
Year 2 (2018/19)				
<i>Humanitarian Response: Food and Nutrition, Shelter, Health, WASH:</i> Re-assessments Week 0				
Research Methods in Humanitarian Affairs Week 1	<i>Research Methods in Humanitarian Affairs</i> Re-assessment week 1			
	First Optional Module: <i>Education in Emergencies</i> OR <i>Evaluating Humanitarian Programmes</i> Week 1	Second Optional Module: <i>Communities in Humanitarian Affairs</i> OR <i>Disasters in Complex Political Emergencies</i> Week 1 First optional module reassessment week 5	Second optional module re-assessment week 4	

			Dissertation Submissions Week 11	Resubmitted marginal fail dissertations December
			Internal Progression Board July 2019	Final Exam Board November 2019

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module? ⁵
Examining Humanitarianism	HEA00095M	7	20	N/A		Year 1, SpT, week 1; Essay	NO
Protection and Assistance in International Humanitarian Law	HEA00096M	7	20	N/A		Year 1, SuT, week 1: Analytical Report (100%)	NO
Humanitarian Response: Food and Nutrition, Shelter, Health, WASH	HEA00097M	7	20	N/A		Year 1, SuT, week 8: Group Poster (30%) and Year 1, SuVac, week 1: Group Proposal (70%)	NO
Research Methods in Humanitarian Affairs	HEA00098M	7	20	N/A		Year 2, AuT, week 1: Research Proposal	NO
Dissertation	HEA00101M	7	60	N/A	NC	Year 2, SuVac, week 12: Dissertation	YES

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Optional modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Education in Emergencies	HEA00103M	7	20	N/A		Y2, SpT, week 1: Essay	NO
Evaluating Humanitarian Programmes	HEA00102M	7	20	N/A		Y2, SpT, week 1: Essay	NO
Communities in Humanitarian Affairs	HEA00099M	7	20	N/A		Y2, SuT, week 1: Essay	NO
Disasters in Complex Political Emergencies	HEA00100M	7	20	N/A		Y2, SuT, week 1: Essay	NO

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	21/8/17
Departmental web page:	https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/gradschool/msc-international-humanitarian-affairs/
Please note	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	