The University of Manchester
Faculty of Humanities
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

PGT Handbook 2025-26

Humanitarianism & Conflict Response Institute

WELCOME

We are so happy you chose to study at HCRI and look forward to working with you this year. This handbook introduces HCRI and key contacts, as well as our master programmes, including their structure, learning outcomes, key dates, and more.

ABOUT HCRI

The Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) at the University of Manchester is inspired by the need to conduct rigorous research and to support postgraduate training on the impact and outcomes of contemporary and historical crises. HCRI is driven by a desire to inform and support policy and decision makers, to optimise joint working between partner organisations, and to foster increased accountability within a knowledge-gathering framework. Bringing together diverse disciplines to achieve these aims, HRCI facilitates improvements in crisis response on a global scale whilst providing a much-needed centre of excellence for all concerned with disasters and conflicts.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

When a question arises, determine if it is **academic or administrative.**
Academic matters include assessment deadlines, reading lists, managing workload, processing feedback, discussing dissertation topics, etc.

- If academic, see **HCRI Contacts and Process (Figure 1)**.

Administrative matters include registration, accommodation, finance, enrolment, visas, programme information, letters of enrolment, etc.

- If administrative, see **SALC Contacts and Process** (Figure 2).

HCRI Contacts
In case of questions or concerns about **academic matters**, first refer to the relevant course Canvas page. If your question is not answered there, then email your Course Convenor or Academic Advisor as appropriate.

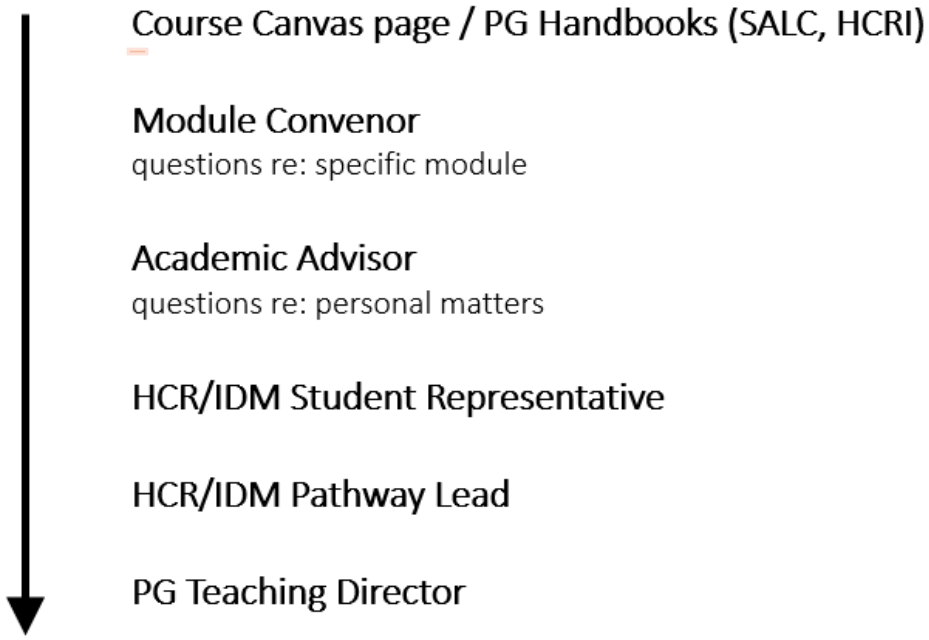


Figure 1: HCRI Academic Contacts

- **Module Convenor**
  Contact information is provided on each module Canvas page.

- **Academic Advisor**
  Assigned during Welcome Week.

- **Student Representative**
  Determined in early Semester 1.

- **Dr. Jessica Hawkins, MA HCR Pathway Lead**
  Senior Lecturer in Humanitarian Studies Profile
  jessica.hawkins@manchester.ac.uk

- **Dr. Ayham Fattoum, MSc IDM Pathway Lead**
  Lecturer in Disaster Operations and Management Profile
  ayham.fattoum@manchester.ac.uk

- **Dr Nathaniel O'Grady, PG Teaching Director**
  Senior Lecturer in Human Geography and Disaster Profile

SALC Contacts
In case of questions or concerns about **administrative matters**, consult the list below of School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) topics and email the appropriate address, including your name, module number and student number.

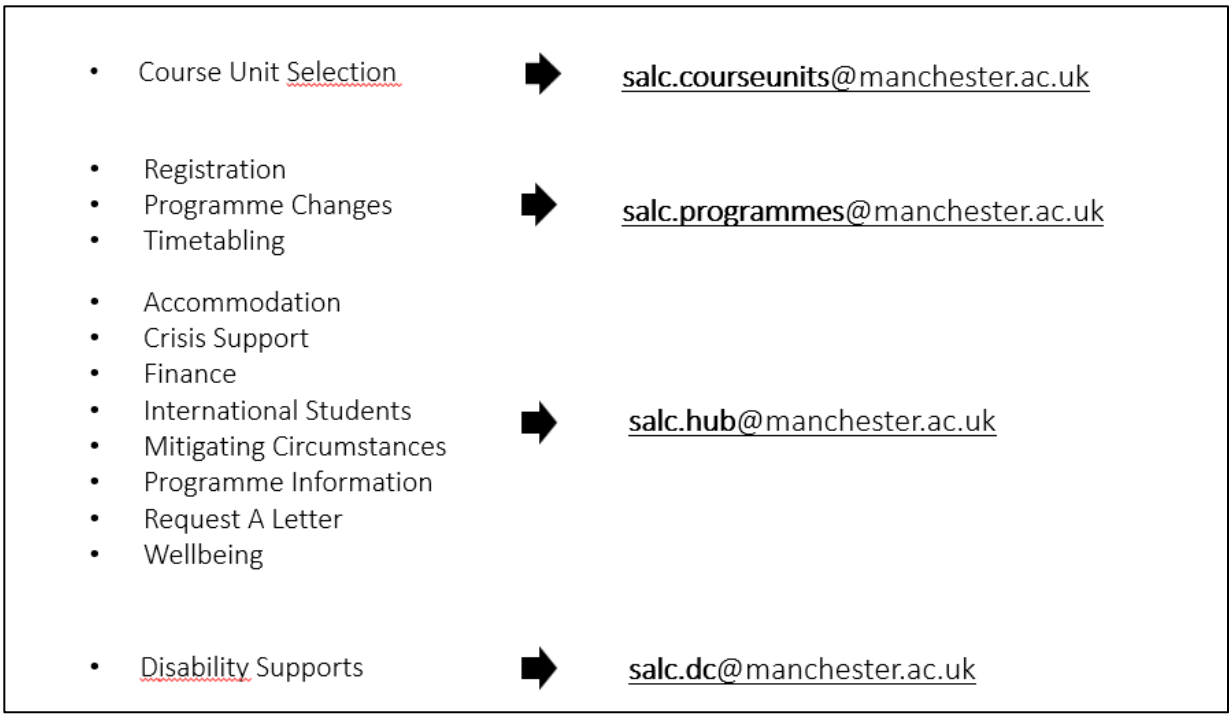


Figure 2: SALC Administrative Contacts

PROGRAMME AIMS & OUTCOMES

MA IN HUMANITARIANISM & CONFLICT RESPONSE

Pathway Lead: Dr Jessica Hawkins
(antoine.burgard@manchester.ac.uk)

Aims
Students will be able to draw synergies from an exceptionally wide breadth of disciplinary traditions and research expertise, embracing the disciplines of history, the arts, medicine, politics and development studies. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to engage with scholars and practitioners from the humanitarian world.

Outcomes
MA students need to demonstrate a critical understanding of:

- Key issues and debates in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response, familiarity with different theoretical approaches, practical problems and an appreciation of the diversity of policies at international and national levels;
- Both the range of social science topics associated with Humanitarianism and Conflict Response and the normative and historiographic assumptions which underpin these issues;
- The analytical and policy literature concerning the related issues of the causes of conflict, reconstruction, ethics and international governance structures and institutions, the role and perspectives of the state, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international and domestic NGOs and other civil institutions; and
- A detailed and extensive understanding of a specific conceptual and/or policy-related area of Humanitarianism and Conflict Response, of the implications and limitations of research findings on this subject, and of how to produce an original piece of academic research, all through their dissertation.

The MSc IDM has mandatory and optional modules. Students will be automatically enrolled in mandatory modules and should make their choices of optional modules to meet the credit requirements of the programme. You can read more about the programme and review the module offerings here: **MA Programme Structure.**

MSc in INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT (IDM)

Pathway Lead: Dr Ayham Fattoum
(ayham.fattoum@manchester.ac.uk)

Aims
The MSc in International Disaster Management is designed for those interested in engaging in a critical analysis of key concepts in disaster management theory, research, policy, and practice, including the mainstream approach to disaster management and its theoretical underpinnings, the effectiveness of societal systems (e.g. disaster response systems, not-for-profit, and communities), vulnerability, governance, disaster risk reduction, and enhancing resilience to disasters through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

Outcomes
MSc students need to demonstrate a critical understanding of:

- Key issues and debates related to disaster management practices, and demonstrate familiarity with different disciplinary and theoretical approaches, practical problems and an appreciation of the diversity of policies at international and national levels;
- The analytical and policy literature related to disaster management, including environmental studies, emergency management structures and institutions, the role and perspectives of the state, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international and domestic NGOs and communities;
- An understanding of common approaches to disaster management, including an awareness of critiques associated with the disaster management cycle in higher and lower-income countries;
- A detailed understanding of a specific conceptual and/or policy-related area of disaster management, along with implications and limitations of research findings on this subject, and of how to produce an original piece of academic research. Delivered via a dissertation.

The MSc IDM has mandatory and optional modules. Students will be automatically enrolled in mandatory modules and should make their choices of optional modules to meet the credit requirements of the programme. You can read more about the programme and review the module offerings here: **MSc Programme Structure.**

Taking Modules External to HCRI
For both the MA and MSc programmes, students are permitted to take **one (1)** module external to HCRI. If you wish to undertake a non-HCRI/SALC-coded module, you need to receive:

- guidance from your HCRI Academic Advisor;
- permission from the HCRI PG Teaching Director; and
- permission from the PG teaching Director of the external department/institute.

Taking Online Modules

For both the MA and MSc programmes, students are permitted to take **one (1)** online module. Please note that online modules can be scheduled differently from the standard in-person modules, such as starting mid-term and running beyond the end of term.

KEY DATES

The following list contains key dates. Students are expected to be on campus for all academic weeks of Semesters 1 and 2.

SEMESTER 1	
Starts	Sep 28
Reading Week	Nov 2-8
Ends	Dec 18
SEMESTER 2	
Starts	Feb 1
Reading Week / Easter	Mar 22- Apr 11
Ends	May 14
Dissertation Submission	Sep 2027

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Academic Advisor

You will be assigned an Academic Advisor who can provide support related to academic progress and other issues that may arise. Ensure you meet regularly with your Academic Advisor to discuss your goals and address any issues that arise. Your Academic Advisor will provide references after your complete the programme, therefore it is in your best interest to nurture this relationship.

HCRI Community

PG students are expected to participate in the broader HCRI community including regular research seminars and events.

HCRI Partnership and Code of Practice

The HCRI Partnership is statement of student and lecturer responsibilities, while the HCRI Code of Practise is a statement of in class expectations. Both will be introduced in Welcome Week.

Self-Directed Learning

In addition to organised teaching and learning, PG students are encouraged to undertake self-directed learning to support your career and research goals. This may involve reading, languages, computer programmes, attendance at research seminars in other departments, visiting local galleries and museums, volunteering in relevant institutions, and more.

Academic Writing
The university offers academic writing supports that are of benefits to all students:

- Centre for Academic English – Academic Success Programme
    - These workshops are available to students with English as a first language and with English as an additional language.
- Counselling Services
    - Struggling with perfectionism or procrastination? Check out the in-person and online (anonymous) sessions offered here.
- My Learning Essentials
    - Fantastic range of mini modules.
- SALC60000 Research Skills for Graduate Education
    - Non-assessed module that provides grounding in academic skills.

Style Guidance

- Double space essays.
- Use Harvard referencing style unless otherwise directed.

Late Submission
Queries about late submissions are handled by SALC, not HCRI lecturers. See SALC's late submission penalty information **here**.

If you are registered on modules external to SALC, ensure you are aware of the penalties imposed by the relevant School.

Mitigating Circumstances
During the forthcoming academic year, you may experience unforeseeable and unpreventable personal or medical circumstances that have a significant adverse effect on your academic performance. If this case, you may be eligible to apply for mitigating circumstances in relation to assessment submission deadlines.

- Refer to the SALC guidance and consult with your Academic Advisor, then submit an online application.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, is a serious academic offence. As with all your modules at the University of Manchester, I expect you to uphold the standards outlined in University and School guidelines regarding academic malpractice. Failure to do so could result in referral to SALC Academic Misconduct.

Three fundamental principles need to guide your choices:

(1) All assessments you submit must be your own (i.e., no collaboration permitted on any assignment unless explicitly allowed);
(2) When you use, quote, or paraphrase the work of others, including fellow students, you must give full credit using accurate and complete citations; and
(3) Assessments you submit must be unique and original to this module (i.e. not adapted from an essay submitted at another institution).

In all cases it is your responsibility to learn more, to clarify what is and is not plagiarism / academic dishonesty, and to avoid it in your assessments. If you have questions, talk to your Academic Advisor.

Artificial Intelligence

- Guidance will be provided during Welcome Week.
- Different HCRI modules will have different rules regarding the use of generative AI. Consult with module guidance on Canvas.