About the course

This multidisciplinary course focuses on response to crises originating from both conflict-zones and natural disasters. Bringing together the study of medicine and humanities, the course gives you an inclusive approach that mirrors the reality of aid operations and informs the reflexive processes of both analytical and applied disciplines.

You will benefit from being able to draw on an exceptionally wide breadth of disciplinary traditions and research expertise at the Institute and beyond.

We welcome graduates from all disciplines as the programme is interdisciplinary.

Study options:
Available as 1 year full time or 2 years part time study
(part time study only available to UK/EU students)

To apply and for bursary information: www.hcri.ac.uk

Why study at HCRI?

As a leading global centre for the study of humanitarianism, conflict response, global health, international disaster management and peacebuilding, HCRI offers an unrivalled learning environment for students interested in pursuing careers in humanitarian aid or research.

HCRI aims to facilitate improvements in crisis response on a global scale whilst providing a centre of excellence for all concerned with emergencies, conflicts and peace. Our postgraduate courses work to develop a scholarly and professional agenda for humanitarians and peacebuilding around the world.

You will have the opportunity to engage first-hand with the people, projects and organisations that shape humanitarian, global health, disaster management, conflict response and intervention strategy around the world.
Intended learning outcomes:

On completion of the programme, you should be able to show 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

• 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 your dissertation

You will undertake 180 credits of course units, with the dissertation contributing 60 credits.

Course units may include:

• Anthropology of Violence and Reconstruction
• Border-Crossings: Comparative Cultures of Diaspora
• Disaster Diplomacy
• Global Health and Food Insecurity
• Humanitarian Diplomacy and Negotiation in Practice
• Humanitarian and Conflict Response: Inquiries
• Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Humanitarian Crises
• Research and Evaluations Methods
• The History of Humanitarian Aid
• The History of Humanitarian Aid

Dissertation

This module is an opportunity for you to plan, manage and conduct a programme of research on a topic related to your programme of studies. This provides vital experience of developing and managing a specific programme of work through to submission, which provide transferable skills for your future career.

Work placement

This module will see you carry out a short placement within a relevant organisation. It provides you with the chance to engage with local employers in order to develop career choices, as well as developing organisational awareness.

Career options

Students come from a broad range of backgrounds, with varying levels of experience. This means there are a wide range of career choices to consider, including:

• Civil Service
• International Institutions (such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and regional bodies such as the European Union, African Union, Organization of American States)
• NGOs working on peacebuilding initiatives
• Academia/research institutes/think-tanks

Student voice

“...the best thing about HCR was the staff and other students I worked alongside. The lecturers, guest speakers, associates and affiliates were all so inspiring and this really motivated you to pursue different areas of research, as they are all so approachable and encouraging.

The friendships I made during my time studying have been amazing, and there is a now a global network of us!”

Charlotte Marriott-Dodington
MA in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response graduate