



Course Specification

MSc Disaster Management & Resilience

EECT016 (on campus)

EECT140 (online)

PG Cert Disaster, Risk and Resilience

EECT018 (on campus)

EECT141 (online)

Faculty of Engineering, Environment & Computing

School of Energy, Construction & Environment

Academic Year: 2021/22

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

MSc Disaster Management & Resilience

1. Introduction

The original MSc course, MSc Disaster Management had been running since 2005. That course enjoyed an excellent reputation, with many students enrolling on the basis of professional recommendations. Like its predecessor this revised course, MSc Disaster Management and Resilience, is designed to give students the knowledge and skills necessary for successful disaster intervention across the globe. It aims to develop in-depth understanding of disaster theory, policy and management practice and to support the development of capacity to identify, analyse, interpret, and manage risk and disaster issues. An essential aspect of study is the development of a strategic perspective, which draws on an analysis of various forms of intervention into disasters, integrated into relevant policy and practice frameworks. It places an emphasis on both academic content and on the application of theory and concepts, taught by staff with a variety of backgrounds - both academic and practitioner. The aim is to provide those new to the field and those currently working in the sector with the skills needed to analyse approaches, identify good practice and to facilitate change for the better. Many of the course team undertake relevant research and consultancy that informs module content, provides a network of guest speakers and influences the course structure.

Some students may wish to initially enrol on the PG Certificate in Disaster, Risk & Resilience. This course comprises the four core (15 credit) modules. Upon completion of those four modules students may choose to leave with the award of PG Certificate or continue on to complete a full MSc degree requiring an additional four (15 credit) modules and the 50 Credit project and the CMI module (10 credits).

Students may study on a full or part time basis. The PG Cert and the MSc may be studied on campus in Coventry, online. Both modes of study will contain elements of synchronous learning e.g. an on-campus seminar or an on-line class and asynchronous learning via material accessible online 24 hours a day.

A wide range of students enrol on the course – UK/EU and International; those at the start of their careers, and experienced practitioners. Historically, the diversity of student body on related courses has provided excellent networking opportunities, valuable discussion and peer learning opportunities which serves to foster a stimulating and supportive 'learning community'.

The course uses case studies to illustrate how applied and theoretical knowledge complement each other, a range of contexts are explored – areas of recurrent "natural" disaster, rapid onset wider area disasters; large scale chronic emergencies centred around food insecurity and conflict. The MSc covers a range of pertinent specialist topics within the interdisciplinary field of "disaster" – influences and challenges in operational and strategic contexts, emergent risks and changing landscapes and demands, community perspectives, interrelationships between concepts such as disaster risk reduction, adaptation, resilience and sustainability in an international context; developing exercises for capacity development; and decision making under conditions of uncertainty. Case studies that illustrate current challenges such as urban risk and disasters, fragile states, displacement and migration, evaluation of interventions and learning for improvement are provided. All of this is with a view to enhancing disaster risk reduction, response, resilience and sustainability in the sector.

The course is ideal for students seeking career advancement within this field. The course of study has been designed for both professionals currently working in disaster management, and for individuals who wish to enter this field. Many of our students are currently employed in the sector and are looking to postgraduate study to give them a formal qualification relevant to the sector in which they work, to gain a specialism, or to aid career progression. Our graduates are sought after by a range of organisations with humanitarian, disaster risk reduction and development duties, such as government, military, humanitarian, development, health, as well as private sector and consulting, risk and security companies.

There is also a specialist postgraduate certificate (PG Cert) as a qualification aim, which then allows "top-up" to postgraduate diploma and masters. It is a feeder route into the full MSc for those who would like a short course (4 modules) at Masters level because they feel that they cannot, or do not want to, undertake a full MSc initially, but may wish to top-up later.

Innovative and Distinctive Features of the Course.

- The course supports focused vocational postgraduate certificate qualifications
- Those having completed these PG Certs can “top-up” for the MSc
- Modules reflect the needs in the sector.
- The content builds on relevant material freely available to the sector through the application of conceptual and strategic elements and assessment of understanding so as to ensure graduates are knowledgeable and skilled at Master level. Those incoming students who have PG level credits will be considered for Recognition for prior learning (RPL) against aligned modules.
- The Coventry courses emphasise the importance of analysing complex risk landscapes as the key to effective preparedness thereby ensuring effective response, the minimising of impacts and the shortening of recovery time. Module clusters emphasise the relationship between agencies and the public or communities who they serve. In addition, the curriculum recognises that in a dynamic and uncertain world all risks are not quantifiable and a resilience approach that encourages flexibility and adaptation is essential.
- The course team are a mix of academics and “pracademics”. The team have an auspicious alumni and engage a range of guest speakers to provide insight into current issues and research in the sector.
- All students will be supported by an academic tutor with structured tutorial activities to facilitate quick and effective transition into postgraduate study, particularly focusing on academic reading, writing critically and evidencing assertions. Each module has a guided study to support completion of assignments, thus providing a schedule of structured learning events for all students each week.
- Additional support is provided for research methods in “semester 2”. The Academic Personal Tutorial (APT) series, focuses on constructing literature reviews, methodology and methods for extensive, intensive and review research and supports the online and campus based module.
- As part of this course you will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module, you will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Disaster Management & Resilience • PG Cert Disaster, Risk, Resilience 	FT 1 year; PT (normally 2 years)		Level 7
	FT (normally 12 months); PT (normally up to 2 years)		Level 7

3 Awarding Institution/ Body	Coventry University.
4 Collaboration	N/A
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University Coventry University – online
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of latest review: (February 2018) Date for next review: (Academic year 2023/24)
7 Course Accredited by	N/A
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	N/A

9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	There are no subject benchmarks for disaster management. However, the course and component modules are aligned to and evaluate sector standards - Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS Alliance), Sphere, Protection etc.
10 Date of Course Specification	April 2021
11 Course Director	Emma Parkinson.

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The course is designed to equip graduates and professionals, with the necessary knowledge to identify, critically analyse, evaluate and successfully manage an increasingly complex and dynamic range of risks and emergencies; and to operate confidently in management and policy sectors. The overall aim is to foster a strengthening of community, professional, organisational and governmental capacity to deal with these complex, multi-factoral risks and emergencies, from local to national level. In line with the University's mission statement, the course intends to:

- ensure Coventry University maintains its established position in offering high quality educational provision in emergency and resilience.
- provide an educational experience that meets students' needs and expectations and those of the sectors' employers.
- provide an up-to-date curriculum that articulates the current challenges and good practice in risk, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and resilience policy and practice;
- demonstrate the benefits of taking a resilience-based approach in a world of complex and emergent risks that cannot be quantified, and in respect of which, a different way of working is demanded.
- build sector capacity to evaluate social, political, technological, legal and environmental influences on risk, preparedness, response, recovery and resilience.
- ensure students' capacity to evaluate, review and improve approaches and systems and to effectively apply learning at an appropriate level using relevant methodologies, ensuring continuous improvement.
- develop personal, technical and management skills that enable highly competent graduates to apply professional knowledge, skills and excellent practice across the world.
- develop abilities in rigorous and valid independent investigation and research.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, a student should be able to demonstrate:

PG Cert level modules provide

1. A comprehensive evaluation of risk, its components and influencing factors, approaches to assessment, and prioritisation and organisational role in planning, managing and recovering from humanitarian crises and disasters.
2. A detailed knowledge of policy and approaches for mitigating, preparing for, managing and recovering from crises, conflict and disasters for responding agencies, organisations and affected communities.
3. A thorough comprehension of approaches to assessing complexity and interaction and developing, monitoring and evaluating resilience in processes, systems, organisations and communities at risk from known and emergent threats in a sustainable way.
4. A detailed analysis of multi-stakeholder engagement, communication, co-operation and governance in all aspects of policy and strategy development, implementation and management, at all scales in disaster contexts.
5. An ability to manage information, evaluate uncertainty, ambiguity and complexity in knowledge, method and management and to make appropriate and defensible decisions for managing complex disaster situations.

In addition MSc Level modules provide

6. A critical awareness of issues and challenges at the forefront of research and practice in disasters and resilience.
7. An ability to evaluate and use appropriate methods of enquiry and analysis, and to progress good practice in the discipline over the course of their career.
8. The skills demanded to research, evaluate high level material in order to produce an independent working paper that meets ethical requirements of the university, synthesises both academic and sector perspectives and presents findings and recommendations in a professional way.
9. Critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and equality, diversity and inclusion at a strategic level.

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

14.1 Course Structure

The structure of the course is designed to provide core knowledge and skills and an understanding of the interrelationship of specialist areas with one another and for humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and development and resilience as a whole. The named postgraduate certificate is designed to meet the needs of the sector – a short course that allow those studying to achieve a credit bearing FHEQ level 7 qualification which covers the essential requirements of the sector in four mandatory modules.

The degree comprises 120 credits of taught modules. Where students simply complete all the available subject modules to provide both breadth and depth of knowledge.

Modules within the courses, the level at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in Tables below. No modules are condonable.

On this course, you may be able to switch between studying on campus and studying online at certain points of the academic year, subject to availability. Request processes and restrictions apply. A change in study mode is likely to have visa and/or student finance implications. If you have commenced your studies online after having been refused a UK visa or had a request for sponsorship declined by Coventry University, you will not be eligible to switch between study modes.

14.2 Course Duration

Master of Science (MSc)

Full-time MSc students are expected to fully complete their programme of study (including both taught modules and dissertation) within one year (12 months).

Part-time students may take between two and three years to fully complete their programme of study (including both taught modules and dissertation). Subject to the timetabling of taught modules (which may vary from year-to-year), part-time students may take any module in any year of their programme of study. It is expected that 7095EXQ Researching Perspectives & Practice will normally be taken and passed prior to studying 7122EXQ Professional Working Paper. It is expected that part-time students will normally take 7122EXQ – Professional Working Paper in the final year of their programme of study.

Post-graduate Certificate

PG Certificates would normally be completed. Part-time students should expect to take one to two years to complete the course – i.e. if they did one each semester over a two-year period to complete the four mandatory modules.

Those enrolling directly on a PG Cert Disaster Risk & Resilience must pass all four mandatory modules for the award. Students may choose not to take the award and progress directly onto the MSc. If a student takes the award of PG Cert they must wait a period of one year before returning to continue on to the MSc. Use of post-nominals associated with the PG Cert ceases to be valid upon enrolment on the MSc. In order to achieve the award of MSc, students who commenced on the PG Cert must ensure that they have completed all the mandatory modules for that MSc. Students who do not wish to complete the full MSc may “fall-back” to a PG Diploma in Disaster Management and Resilience, it should be noted that this is not a qualification aim, but a failed award. However, this PG Diploma is a valued and externally recognised FHEQ level 7 award.

14.3 Cascade of Awards:

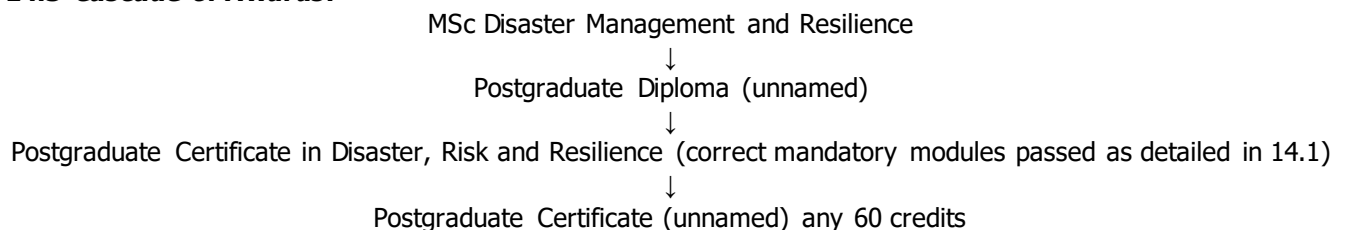


Table 14.1 MSc Disaster Management & Resilience & PG Cert Disaster, Risk & Resilience

Module credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7089EXQ	Risk, Incidents and Leadership	15	1, 4, 5
7	7016EXQ	Humanitarian Principles, Preparedness & Response	15	1, 2, 4
7	7017EXQ	Disaster Risk, Resilience, Adaptation & Sustainability	15	3, 4, 6
7	7019EXQ	Disaster Interventions, Evaluation and Learning	15	1, 2, 5
7	7158EXQ	Foresight, Insight & Strategy	15	3, 4, 6
7	7095EXQ	Researching Perspectives & Practice	15	3, 5, 6, 7
7	7093EXQ	Training & Exercise Design and Delivery	15	1, 2, 3
7	7087EXQ	Community Preparedness, Recovery & Resilience	15	3, 4, 6
7	7074EXQ*	Preparing to Research (APT)	0	3, 5, 6, 7
7	7084EXQ*	Supporting Transition to Postgraduate Study (APT)	0	7
7	7122EXQ	Professional Working Paper	50	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
7	70049CRB**	Leading Diverse Workforces	10	9

Those shaded in grey are the four mandatory modules for the PG Certificate in Disaster, Risk and Resilience

* 7074EXQ and 7084EXQ are zero credit modules and are passed/failed on the basis of attendance at tutorials. They do not count towards the overall degree classification. Students may not resit a zero credit module.

**Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and developing people to optimise performance (unit 702); Strategic approaches to diversity and Inclusion (unit 715). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the [UCAS website](#), then clicking on 'Entry profile'.

Normally, the entrance requirement is a second classification degree in a relevant discipline. Current requirements are specified on the course page of the university web page.

Campus applicants are normally invited to visit the University as part of the postgraduate open days in the Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing. This offers an opportunity for either party to evaluate each other and to ask questions. It also offers the applicant an opportunity to view the facilities on offer at the University.

International applicants with an equivalent of a second class honours degree or demonstrated experience at an appropriate level will be considered for admission. Applicants whose first language is not English or who have not completed a first degree in which English was the main language of tuition must provide evidence of English language ability. An IELTS score of 6.5 or higher (and at least 5.5 in each component) or equivalent qualification is the criterion for admission.

The course team encourages students to seek recognition of their prior experience and learning. There are opportunities for a student to demonstrate prior knowledge of module learning outcomes and where a student can demonstrate that their knowledge and skills meet all intended learning outcomes of a module that student may receive the credits for that module. Evidence may include some or all of the following as required.

- Transcript from previous level 7 study stating module learning outcomes and mark
- ~ 2 page analysis of professional experience and knowledge against module learning outcomes
- CPD non-assessed course (content detailed)

In calculations for an award these modules will be handled in accordance with University Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Courses.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Regulations](#) Mode R

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The course evaluates and improves quality of standards and learning via.

- a strong portfolio of industry-related research and consultancy
- excellent links with national and international employers;
- regular consultation with Alumni Advisory group who provide input to course review and development
- evidence of employability of graduates
- *Quality Assurance Agency Higher Education Review 2015*
 - setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards;
 - quality of student learning opportunities;
 - quality of the information about learning opportunities;
 - enhancement of student learning opportunities
-

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support. Key sources of information about the course and student support can be found in:

- Student Handbook
- Course Handbook
- Module Guides
- Aula Course & Module Webs
- Module Information Directory <https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebNext/Main.aspx>
- EEC Student Portal
<https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/EC/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Coventry University Student Portal
<https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/Pages/Index.aspx>