

2015 Curriculum for the Master of Disaster Management programme at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen

This curriculum comes into force on **1 September 2025** and shall apply in relation to students admitted on or after that date.

The curriculum was approved by the Dean on 10 March 2025.

This subject-specific curriculum, the course or module descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk, and the general curriculum provisions together comprise the curriculum for the [Master of Disaster Management](#).

Part 1 Objectives and competence profile

§ 1 Objectives

The objective of the [Master of Disaster Management](#) programme (in Danish master i katastrofehandtering) is to provide research-based, postgraduate, cross-disciplinary education in the field of disaster management with the aim of fostering professionals who can formulate effective responses to complex practice and policy issues and thereby substantially reduce disaster losses.

1.1 Successful completion of the programme gives the right to use the title of Master of Disaster Management and the Danish title master i katastrofehandtering.

1.2 The degree is worth 60 ECTS credits.

1.3 The programme falls within the scope of the Study Board for the Professional Master's Degree Programmes at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences.

1.4 The programme falls within the scope of external examiners for The Body of External Examiners for Public Health Science and Related programmes.

§ 2 Admission requirements

It is a condition for admission that the applicant should meet the following minimum requirements:

2.1 Qualifying degree

Any bachelor's, master's degree or equivalent qualification from a recognised higher education institution in Denmark or abroad.

2.2 Professional experience

A minimum of two (2) years of professional experience following completion of the applicant's first degree.

2.3 English Language proficiency

Admission to a professional master's programme requires a mastery of English corresponding to level B English at Danish upper secondary level. Applicants must document proficiency in English as stated in the programme webpage.

2.4 Statement of Motivation

All applicants must submit a statement of motivation describing their reasons for applying for admission, including how the programme will build on pre-existing knowledge and skills, and describe other relevant experiences. It should also include the competencies and skills he/she

would like to achieve, career expectations and aspirations upon completing the master programme.

2.5 Applicants who do not meet the requirements stipulated in subsections 2.1-2.4 above but have acquired academic competences at a commensurate level may be admitted to the programme based on an individual assessment of their qualifications and experience.

2.6 The admission committee may grant exemptions from the provisions of subsections 1-4 when special circumstances apply.

§ 3 Competence profile

The Master of Disaster Management graduate has acquired the knowledge, skills and competencies listed below to work and research in the field of disaster management.

Knowledge

On completion of the Master of Disaster Management the graduate will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of international humanitarian frameworks, standards, principles and codes of conduct.
- Demonstrate research based knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of the three interrelated processes of disaster management (disaster risk reduction, response and recovery) as well as identifying scientific challenges within the areas.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the complex interrelation of stakeholders in the context of the evolving field of disaster management.
- Have an understanding of the complexity of vulnerability in disasters and demonstrate the ability to relate to issues of health, socio-economic, political, physical, and environmental vulnerabilities.
- Critically relate the understanding of theories and practices of disaster management to the political, social, economic and cultural contexts of disasters.

Skills

On completion of the Master of Disaster Management the graduate will be able to:

- Apply appropriate research methodologies to theoretical and practical issues in disaster management
- Identify, analyze and assess risk capacities and vulnerabilities and design appropriate evidence-based interventions
- Implement and monitor integrated disaster risk reduction, response and recovery activities
- Communicate academic findings to an interdisciplinary audience
- Communicate effectively with affected populations and other stakeholders in disaster management planning and operations

Competences

On completion of the Master of Disaster Management the graduate will be able to:

- Search and critically evaluate research based literature
- Synthesize complex information and make flexible strategic decisions in emergencies and disaster situations
- Develop and maintain interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration in complex and unpredictable situations
- Identify and take responsibility for individual needs for further learning within the field of disaster management

- Learn from experience and stakeholder involvement and apply lessons learnt to build capacities, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability

Part 2 Modules, instruction, maximum duration of study

§ 4 Modules and methods of instruction

The modular structure of the programme is designed to provide the students with the overall academic qualifications within a prescribed timeframe, which is defined in terms of ECTS points. All courses in the programme are subject to a modular structure.

§ 5 Maximum duration of study

5.1 The Master of Disaster management is a full-time-one-year programme of study totalling 60 ECTS. The programme may be completed on a part time basis over a period of three years following commencement.

5.2 In exceptional circumstances the Study Board may waive the deadlines in 5.1 above.

Part 3 Study and exam activities

§ 6 Study and exam activities

The Master of Disaster Management comprises of seven modules and exams: four mandatory courses (1st Semester/Fall Semester), two elective courses and a master's thesis (2nd Semester/Spring Semester).

Placement	Course	ECTS
1 st semester	<u>Core Course 1: Introduction to Disaster Risk Management and Climate Adaptation</u> SDMM25002U/ SDMM25002E	7,5
	<u>Core Course 2: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises</u> SDMM15002U/ SDMM15002E	7,5
	<u>Core Course 3: Disaster Recovery Planning and Development</u> SDMM15003U/ SDMM15003E	7,5
	<u>Core Course 4: Research Methodology and Ethics</u> SDMM15004U/ SDMM15004E	7,5

Placement	Course	ECTS
2nd semester (Spring Semester)	2 (two) Elective courses (totaling to 10 ECTS)	10
	<u>Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methods</u>	5
	SDMM13007U/ SDMM13007E	5
	<u>Geo-Information in Disaster Situations</u>	5
	SDMM12008U/ SDMM12008E	5
	<u>Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health</u>	5
	SDMM16002U/ SDMM16002E	5
	<u>Shelter and Settlements in Disasters</u>	5
	SDMM20001U/ SDMM20001E	
	<u>Water Supply and Sanitation in Emergencies</u>	
	SDMM16001U/ SDMM16001E	
	<u>Master's Project</u> SDMM25001U/SDMM25001E	20
TOTAL		60

§ 7 Compulsory, constituent subject elements and elective elements

The programme includes the following courses and exams:

The programme consists of 30 ECTS credits from compulsory study and exam activity.

7.1 The programme consists of 10 ECTS credits from elective study and exam activity.

7.2 The programme consists of 20 ECTS credits from the compulsory Master thesis.

7.3 The programme's constituent subject elements are:

- All compulsory study and examination activities
- The Master's thesis

§ 8 Group examinations

Written papers can be undertaken in groups with other students if stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk

8.1 Group examinations can be done for groups of no more than four students, unless otherwise stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk

8.2 A jointly written paper is permitted provided the contributions made by each member of the group can be identified. A separate and individual grade will be given to each student.

8.3 Oral examination on the basis of jointly written papers should be individual, and a student may attend the examination of other students in the group only if his or her examination has been held.

§ 9 Instruction and exam languages

English is the language of instruction for and examination in the Master of Disaster Management.

§ 10 Elective elements

The Master of Disaster Management includes a compulsory element of elective courses worth a total of 10 ECTS credits.

10.1 The study board must ensure that Master students have access to at least 2 elective courses, each worth 5 ECTS credits. These elective courses are described in the course catalogue at www.kurser.ku.dk and announced no later than 1 May and 1 November in the preceding semester.

10.3 The study board must approve the elective course descriptions no later than a year prior to the start of the course concerned.

10.4 The study board offers elective courses in keeping with the objectives of the Master of Disaster Management, see 1.1 above.

§ 11 Master's Project

11.1 The program concludes with a master's project, as stipulated in § 11, paragraph 1, no. 2 of the master's regulation. The student must have completed and passed all courses and examinations in the program before the oral defense of the master's project; otherwise, the student will be deregistered. The master's project must demonstrate the student's ability to formulate, analyze, and process issues within a relevant, delimited scientific subject in a qualified manner.

11.2 The master's project is prepared individually.

11.3 The master's project must adhere to length guidelines specified in the course description for the master's project and fall within the topic of the approved master's project agreement.

11.4 The master's project must include a summary in English, not exceeding 1 A4 page. The summary contributes to the overall assessment of the master's project

11.5 In assessing the master's project, emphasis is placed not only on the academic content but also on the student's spelling and writing skills. Academic content is given the greatest weight.

11.6 The master's project is worth 20 ECTS points.

11.7. The master's project must be written in English; this also applies to the oral defense.

Part 4 Specific provisions

§ 12 Transitional arrangements

There are no existing transitional arrangements in this curriculum.

Part 5 Concluding remarks

§ 13 Exemptions from these provisions

In exceptional circumstances, the study board may grant exemptions from any curriculum provisions within the sole remit of the study board.

§ 14 Date of commencement

This curriculum takes effect from 1 September 2025.