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 2018 and shall apply in relation to students admitted on or after that date.

The curriculum was approved by the Dean on 17 April 2018.

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 qualification profile

§ 1 Objectives
The objective of the Master of Disaster Management programme (in Danish master i katastrofehåndtering) 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 katastrofehåndtering.

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 Bachelor’s degree
A Bachelor’s degree or equivalent qualification in the field of health sciences, social sciences or another relevant field from a recognised higher education institution.

2.2 Professional experience
A minimum of two (2) years of professional experience following completion of the applicant’s first degree.
2.3 Proof of English Proficiency

- Applicants for whom English is not their first language must submit a proof of English language proficiency equivalent to English B level (cf. Section 11 of the Danish Ministerial Order on Admission at Universities.) or any of the following English language test: International English Language Testing System (IELTS/Academic) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum acceptable score for the IELTS is 6.5; the minimum acceptable score for the TOEFL is 560 on the paper test, or 83 on the internet-based test or equivalent.

2.4 Draft Thesis Proposal

All applicants must submit a draft thesis proposal of max. 4 pages, based on a field study or on a critical review of articles referring to a relevant problem within Disaster Management.

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 Qualification 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 the ability to relate 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, instruction, maximum duration of study
4.1 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.

4.2 Maximum duration of study
4.2.1 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.
4.2.2 In exceptional circumstances the Study Board may waive the deadlines in 4.2.1 above.

Part 3 Study and exam activities

§ 5
The Master of Disaster Management comprises of seven modules: four mandatory courses (1st Semester), two elective courses and a master’s thesis (2nd Semester).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st semester</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>Core Course 1: Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice \nCore Course 2: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Block 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
§ 6
The programme consists of 30 ECTS credits from compulsory study and exam activity.
6.1 The programme consists of 10 ECTS credits from elective study and exam activity.
6.2 The programme consists of 20 ECTS credits from the Master thesis.
6.3 The programme’s constituent subject elements are:
   - All compulsory study and examination activities
   - The Master’s thesis

§ 7
The programme includes the following courses and exams:

1st semester
Block 1
Course title: Core Course 1: Disaster Risk Management - From Theory to Practice
STADS code: SDMM15001U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Core Course 1: Disaster Risk Management - From Theory to Practice
STADS code: SDMM15001E
ECTS: 7.5

Course title: Core Course 2: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises
STADS code: SDMM15002U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Core Course 2: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises
STADS code: SDMM15002E
ECTS: 7.5

Block 2
Course title: Core Course 3: Disaster Recovery Planning and Development
STADS code: SDMM15003U
ECTS: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block 2</th>
<th>Core Course 3: Disaster Recovery Planning and Development</th>
<th>7.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Methodology and Ethics</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>2 (two) Elective courses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semester</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of exam: Core course 3: Disaster Recovery Planning and Development
STADS code: SDMM15003E
ECTS: 7.5

Course title: Core Course 4: Research Methodology and Ethics
STADS code: SDMM15004U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Research Methodology and Ethics
STADS code: SDMM15004E
ECTS: 7.5

2nd semester
2 Elective courses
ECTS: total of 10

Course title: Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methods
STADS code: SDMM13007U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methods
STADS code: SDMM13007E
ECTS: 5

Course title: Geo-Information in Disaster Situations
STADS code: SDMM12008U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Geo-Information in Disaster Situations
STADS code: SDMM12008E
ECTS: 5

Course title: Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health
STADS code: SDMM16002U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health
STADS code: SDMM16002E
ECTS: 5

Course title: Shelter and Settlements in Disasters
STADS code: SDMM13006U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Shelter and Settlements in Disasters
STADS code: SDMM13006E
ECTS: 5
Course title: **Water Supply and Sanitation in Emergencies**
STADS code: SDMM16001U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Water Supply and Sanitation in Emergencies
STADS code: SDMM16001E
ECTS: 5

Course title: **Master's Thesis**
STADS code: SDMM12005U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Master's Thesis
STADS code: SDMM12005E
ECTS: 20

**§ 8 Group examinations**
Written papers can be undertaken in groups with other students if stipulated in the course descriptions at [www.kurser.ku.dk](http://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](http://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 element**
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 descriptions at [www.kurser.ku.dk](http://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 Thesis
Students must complete a Master's thesis. The thesis must demonstrate the student’s ability to formulate, analyse and process issues within the field of disaster management.
11.1 The master’s thesis must be completed individually.

11.2 The thesis must be completed in accordance with the MDMa Thesis Guidelines and submitted on or before the approved MDMa Thesis submission dates. The thesis comprises the equivalent of 30-35 A4 pages (1 page = approximately 2400 characters including spaces). The master's thesis must be accompanied with an abstract in English of no more than one A4 page. The abstract must summarize the problem statement, research questions, research objectives, the methods used, important findings, discussion, and conclusion. The abstract will be included in the overall assessment of the Master's thesis.

11.3. In assessing bachelor projects, master's (candidatus) theses, master's project and other major written assignments, emphasis must, in addition to the academic content, also be placed on the student’s spelling and writing skills.

11.4. The master's thesis is worth 20 ECTS credits.

Part 4 Concluding remarks

§ 12 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.

§ 13 Date of commencement
This curriculum takes effect from 1 September 2018