Humanitarian Assistance Diploma & Certificate Programmes at Wits P&DM

Building a competent cadre of humanitarian workers who have the requisite skills to respond to crises in Africa

Applications are now open for the Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance Africa 2012! The programme comprises two Certificates in Humanitarian Policy and Practice, with an option to take the examination of the Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance.

Certificates in Humanitarian Policy & Practice:
7th May – 16th June 2012
DHA Exam: 18th June 2012

WHAT ARE THE CERTIFICATES? The certificates are intensive training programmes run by Wits University’s Graduate School of Public & Development Management, in collaboration with Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The multi-disciplinary programmes take a regional focus on tackling humanitarian issues across Africa and are designed and taught by experts from leading organisations and Academic Institutions such as ICRC, UNHCR, Oxfam, MSF, UNAIDS, and professors from LSTM and Wits University.

The Certificate in Humanitarian Policy and the Certificate in Humanitarian Practice can be studied as stand-alone programmes or one after the other, with the possibility to convert the two into a Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Wits P&DM will award a Certificate in Humanitarian Policy to students who successfully complete Weeks 1-3 and a Certificate in Humanitarian Practice for successful completion of Weeks 4-6. Students completing the 6-week course will be eligible to sit the examination for the Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

“All my knowledge and perceptions were challenged during the programme.”
Laura Constantino, MSF, Mozambique
WHO ARE THE PROGRAMMES DESIGNED FOR?
The programme is designed for practitioners and policy-makers such as NGO Workers, Government officials, Staff of multilaterals such as the UN, the Media, Civil society, Donors and persons wishing to enter the humanitarian field.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?
University degree or equivalent professional qualification/experience, with particular emphasis on recruitment of applicants from across Africa. There is space for approximately 10-15 people from any one organisation, particularly targeting senior staff from across the African region. There will be a maximum of about 50 students on the programme.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE PROGRAMMES OFFERED?
- Certificate in Humanitarian Practice: 28th May - 16th June (incl. final Saturday assessments)
- DHA Exam: 18th June (Monday)

Location: Johannesburg: University of Witswatersrand, School of Public & Development Management. All teaching is in English. Applications for the DHA require proof of English language proficiency with an ‘English as a Foreign Language’ certificate of competence.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? The costs are as follows:
- Certificate in Humanitarian Policy ONLY: ZAR 13,500 (SA Rand)
- Certificate in Humanitarian Practice ONLY: ZAR 15,000
- Certificates in Humanitarian Policy and Practice COMBINED: ZAR 24,600
- Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance: following completion of the previous 2 certificates and a Diploma final exam. Cost TBA

HOW DO I APPLY OR FIND OUT MORE?
Please email or call: Thandiwe Mlangeni: Thandiwe.Mlangeni@wits.ac.za; Tel: +27 (0)11 717 3505 at Wits P&DM for further information and application forms, or go to www.wits.ac.za/academic/clm/certificate%20programmes/14000/humanitarian_assistance.html

"The course is not just learning about the humanitarian world but it is a lifetime transformation. It changes your entire perception of the humanitarian world and many other things."

Zakir Rawat, Al Imdaad Foundation, Projects Administrator
I. Certificate in Humanitarian Policy

Module 1:

The Humanitarian Arena This module interrogates the environment in which humanitarian crises occur. This includes political social and economic contexts, the complications of natural disasters and global climate change. Participants look at international humanitarian law and human rights, and how these translate to humanitarian ethics and codes of conduct in humanitarian aid arena. The role of media in humanitarian crises is looked at as well.

Module 2:

Process towards stability and sustainable development This module looks at the complexities of the Humanitarian environment. This includes the diminishing humanitarian space and the blurring of military-humanitarian lines, the politics and humanitarian implications of global climate change. Putting this in context is case studies of war to peace situations focusing on the process of rehabilitation, demobilisation and moving from disaster to development.

Module 3:

Policy Advocacy and the Media This module develops students’ abilities to be able to analyse specific inputs that shape our responses to humanitarian crises. Given the contexts provided by the previous two modules this enables students to conduct political analysis of complex emergencies and practically apply humanitarian law. The media is analysed as one vehicle for advocacy on humanitarian interventions. Good and bad cases of media reporting are used as a vehicle for sensitising students on appropriate ways to interact through advocacy.

“I am eternally grateful for having been part of the DHA family of 2011. We somehow grew from classmates, lecturers to friends and I can even say family. The pressure of the programme caught me by surprise and my view on issues like African development and our constant painful problems of the continent was changed by this course. I think 20 years down the road when I decide to run for elections in my country, the principles you have taught me during these last six weeks will still be at the front of my mind.”

Bob Kalanzi (Uganda) UNDP – NEPAD capacity development Partnership – Platform Officer
II. Certificate in Humanitarian Practice

Module 1: Strategic Planning and Management of Displaced Populations
This module looks at project management, minimum standards, coordination, teams, people motivation, and the issues that confront people that are working in the field.

Module 2: Specialist Elective: Participants choose one of the following modules running in parallel:

2 (a) Health in Emergencies This module introduces participants to evidence based practice approaches to dealing with Health in emergencies. In a complex humanitarian environment an array of health issues need to be dealt with applying both a development and disaster lens.

2 (b) Technical Support In view of the continuum from disaster to development technical responses need to not just respond to immediate needs, be cognisant of the post-disaster context which requires sustainable responses. In order to do this module develops students’ knowledge on a range of technical interventions for post-disaster and developmental contexts. Students’ knowledge of these is developed through a range of learning in class and practically about the following areas.

2 (c) Possible new option depending on demand: Disaster Management

2 (d) Possible new option depending on demand: Applied Policy (personal project)

III. Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance

Participants who successfully complete the two certificates are eligible to sit the DHA exam offered by LSTM in South Africa.