

Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management

University of Lugano, Switzerland



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Introduction

The Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management is a part time master program intended for professionals in the humanitarian sector interested in advancing their managerial, quantitative, analytical and decision-making skills. The program is based on an interdisciplinary and integrative approach aimed at building understanding of pressing humanitarian issues and development of policies capable of addressing them. Through collaboration with several international humanitarian organizations the program provides a hands-on multi-institutional perspective on humanitarian relief challenges.

Courses will be hosted by the University of Lugano in Switzerland and will be conducted in English. An international cadre of professors, trained in the best institutions in the world and having years of applied experience, will ensure the program's academic excellence, international orientation and relevance to practice. The first course will begin in January 2009.

Objectives

- To provide the methodological, qualitative, quantitative, analytical tools essential for understanding and addressing the complex logistics and managerial challenges in humanitarian relief operations.
- To provide the conceptual and methodological foundations required to successfully align strategic, organizational, supply chain and project challenges faced by the humanitarian world.
- To prepare humanitarian professionals to play a key role in their organizations' strategic management, bringing relationships with multiple stakeholders to the center of management policy.
- To train professionals to contribute to their organizations' managerial policies, understanding the organizational and strategic drivers and their implications for emergency planning, and humanitarian relief operations and management

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Participants

The Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management is offered to professionals from governmental and non-governmental, international, national and private organizations, as well as independent professionals. The program is tailored for practitioners who expect to continue working in related fields, including those who will return to their organizations upon completion of the program, and those who are between jobs or anticipating a change of focus in their humanitarian assistance careers. The recruitment and admissions process seek to attract a mix of people from different countries, backgrounds, and experiences.

Access to participants from different organizations provides a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, and identify and solve issues common to multiple humanitarian organizations. Interaction among participants from various organizations also allows benchmarking and leveraging of opportunities and the essential basis for future successful collaboration in relief and development actions.

Schedule

The program is structured as a part time executive masters program of 60 ECTS credits, allowing students to continue their day-to-day activities while advancing their academic qualifications. Students attend classes for 2 week-sessions over an 18 month period.

Curriculum

The advanced studies program is composed of four main modules. Students are also required to take two research methods courses and write a thesis in the humanitarian area, applying some of the methodologies/frameworks developed in the program.

Organizational and Strategic Management Module

Offers a pragmatic approach to guide the formulation and effective implementation of corporate, business, and functional strategies in complex settings by adopting complementary "lenses," which address cultural, organizational and strategic design.

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Supply Chain Management in Humanitarian Operations Module

Focus on designing robust supply chain processes (procurement, transportation, warehousing, inventory, distribution, fleet management) capable of effectively fulfilling needs in highly complex and challenging environments. Highlights the modeling and development of optimization and simulation methods for improved strategic, operational and tactical decisions.

Project Management Module

Covers the principles of project management and advanced methods for effective scenario planning, scheduling, resource deployment, allocation, control and reporting in humanitarian relief operations.

Emergencies and Disasters Module

Provides contextual background on how events and processes can lead to humanitarian crisis through exploration of the interplay of geopolitical, macroeconomic, demographic, cultural, social, legal, and financial conditions.

Research Methods Courses

Intended to lay the foundations for qualitative case-based and quantitative empirical analysis in humanitarian services. Students are exposed to a variety of approaches to research design. They are helped to develop their own research projects and to evaluate the products of qualitative case-based and quantitative empirical research.

Master Thesis

A hands-on project-based study conducted in collaboration with sponsoring humanitarian organizations that are actively involved in humanitarian relief efforts in diverse theaters. Working on real projects, small student teams gain practical insight and hone their methodological and managerial skills.



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Admission

Applications are welcome from individuals with at least three years of relevant work experience and a Bachelor degree or an equivalent professional diploma awarded by a recognized institution in the area of logistics, humanitarian aid, public service, or non-profit management,

In special cases, candidates age 25 or more, although lacking the above mentioned pre-university qualifications (school-leaving certificate), may be admitted if their training and work experience, proved by a dossier enclosed with their application, is deemed to be sufficient and relevant.

Admission decisions are based on interview and application.

Please visit our website for online application.

Sponsoring institution

The Masters of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management is hosted by the University of Lugano in Switzerland.

Faculty descriptions can be found on our website www.humanitarianlogistics.ch.



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Degree

MAS HLM

Masters of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management

Fees

CHF 15,000.

Fees do not include books, travel, and accommodations.

For more information Please contact:

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