Professional postgraduate course in Shelter and Settlements in Emergencies (Natural Disasters)

Overview
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at Oxford Brookes University is proud to offer an affordable professional postgraduate course in Shelter and Settlements in Emergencies (Natural Disasters). The course faculty is comprised of leading experts from around the humanitarian and shelter world presenting practical insight into the course content thus providing students with case studies drawn from major humanitarian emergencies. The course is accredited by Oxford Brookes University.
About the course

This course aims to equip participants with the skills required to plan a shelter response in a humanitarian crisis after natural disasters. It will provide participants with an overview of shelter and settlement in emergencies, their relevance in humanitarian programmes and an understanding of the principles and practice of the humanitarian shelter response. This course covers the following topics that will be delivered through the online and face-to-face components:

- The Humanitarian Reform, the cluster approach and the shelter cluster
- IFRC mechanisms for emergency response
- Principles of shelter after disaster (emergency and recovery)
- Difference between relief and recovery, how shelter programmes bridge them
- Settlements options for displaced and non-displaced population before and after a disaster
- Needs/damages/capacities assessments for shelter and settlements programmes
- Implementation emergency shelter response: logistic, relief/distribution and technical support
- Shelter and settlements programming aspects related with settlements options, site planning, living space, design, construction and environment (shelter chapter, Sphere standards)
- Planning shelter response: drafting a plan of action, targeting and selection of beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

Learning Objectives

Overall Objective: At the end of the course, students will have acquired strategic and practical knowledge of shelter and settlements policies, methods, tools and procedures in the humanitarian response system and are prepared to practice these in a sustainable manner from relief to recovery.

1. Demonstrate a depth of knowledge of the main principles, standards, approaches, and the complexity of programming aspects in shelter and settlements in relief.
2. Analyse alternative approaches to different aspects of shelter and settlements response using current humanitarian standards and principles.
3. Synthesise an operational shelter response based on the main principles, standards, approaches, and programming aspects in shelter and settlements in relief.
4. Evaluate with critical awareness successful scenarios in implementing programmes for shelter and settlements in relief, utilizing knowledge from the forefront of the discipline.
5. Ability to apply communication skills effectively and appropriately to a professional standard for different audiences in the field of humanitarian practice.

Course methodology

The factual knowledge and understanding in phase 1 (tutored distance learning component) is brought in to context in phase 2 (face-to-face workshop) and applied to case studies and to simulations of likely situations. Participants in phase 2 are asked to use judgement and analytical skills to differentiate among diverse shelter options, to determine reasons why one or other assistance methods is likely to be successful and to develop a shelter response strategy, using current humanitarian shelter and settlements standards, principles and approaches. They are asked to synthesise a response to a likely scenario based on their knowledge and understanding.

Students will be able to engage fully with the course content and with their peers via lectures, discussion boards, group work, online and face-to-face chat question and answer sessions with the tutors and through the provision of feedback and assessment by tutors and other peers.

Course assessment

The assessment pattern reflects the course's learning outcomes and is intended to demonstrate that participants possess the skills and knowledge required in practice.

Knowledge will be tested through the completion of a piece of coursework such as oral presentations, report writing, teamwork, problem solving, data analysis and research. Coursework involves a variety of different methods of assessment, including:

- Short paper and report writing
- Individual test
- Group presentations
- Personal attendance and completion of both the online component and the face-to-face workshop.

Participants will also receive feedback and guidance throughout the course which will enable them to progress and develop their confidence and analytical skills.

Course faculty

The course is taught by a prestigious group of professionals with proven track records and active participation in the field of international cooperation including first-hand knowledge of coordination and implementation of shelter and settlements responses in recent emergencies. The course also includes presenters and resource persons from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Course Directors:

Marta Peña - Shelter Focal point for Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific regions, IFRC
Ela Serdaroglu - Shelter Lead / Global Shelter Cluster Co-lead, IFRC

“The topics during the face-to-face workshop summarised the online training and developed further knowledge gathered in the online part.”

“I thought the way in which the course built on itself throughout was very good and it followed very easy.”
Practical information on how to apply

1 Entry requirements

Applications are welcome from individuals working in the humanitarian and shelter sectors for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, United Nations agencies or Non-Governmental Organisations, or Governments, particularly agencies or institutions actively involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance through shelter and settlements responses at global or country level. The course is also open to individuals seeking to advance their understanding of and expertise in the field of shelter and settlements operations.

This course is demanding in terms of time and commitment. The estimated amount of participant effort hours to complete the course is 100 hours. Before you apply, please consider carefully whether you can commit the necessary time in order to complete the course. Where appropriate, please make sure you obtain the endorsement of your supervisor to participate in this programme.

2 English language

The language of instruction is English. Applicants whose first language is not English will be requested to provide a demonstration of competence in spoken and written English through a Certificate of Competence from the local office of the British Council or take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) demonstrating a minimum recommended score of 575. Where an applicant has not taken TOEFL, a clear statement from the employer (via their reference) will be accepted as evidence of the applicant having an appropriate standard of English Language. Among other things, this statement must confirm that the applicant’s job has involved working substantially through the medium of English.

3 How to apply

Applications must be submitted online via this link.

Any additional inquiries can be addressed by email to: shelter.settlements@ifrc.org

The IFRC Learning Education and Training (LET) Hub also offers a range of other Certified Professional Training opportunities in Humanitarian Shelter Coordination, Global Health, Disaster Management, Humanitarian Diplomacy, Social and Voluntary Sector Leadership and Migration.

For more information on these and other LET Hub programmes including our flagship Learning Platform programme which contains hundreds of short, free, self-directed courses supporting the development of basic skills and competencies, please visit us online at www.ifrc.org/learning

“Very good facilitated, good mixture of facilitators with relevant experience which has been shared. Excellent!”