Master's Degree in Climate, Energy and Humanitarian Action

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE MA IN CLIMATE, ENERGY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION?

The Master in Climate, Energy and Humanitarian Action (MCEHA), jointly developed by UNITAR and Loughborough University, addresses the urgent and interconnected global challenges of climate change, sustainable energy, and humanitarian crises.

As climate-related disasters and energy crises intensify, humanitarian and development professionals must be equipped with expertise, adaptability, and strategic vision. This interdisciplinary programme provides a comprehensive understanding of climate science, energy policy, and humanitarian action, ensuring graduates are prepared to design and implement sustainable, conflict-sensitive interventions that minimise risk and enhance resilience.

WHEN DOES THE PROGRAMME START?

The next intake for the programme begins on **29 September 2025**. To be considered, please submit your application by 25 August 2025. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis, and places are limited, early submission is highly recommended to secure your place.

WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

- Gain advanced technical skills in climate change modelling, GIS, and sustainable energy planning.
- Engage with world-leading academics and practitioners from UNITAR and Loughborough University.
- Study 100% online, part-time, from anywhere in the world.
- Acquire the knowledge to design climate-resilient, sustainable, and humanitarian interventions.
- Develop practical expertise through applied research, case studies, and global best practices.
- Access international networks in sustainable development, energy, and humanitarian sectors.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Professionals in humanitarian, development, energy, or sustainability fields.
- Graduates in social sciences, geography, environmental studies, international relations, politics, business, or related disciplines.
- Individuals seeking to work in sustainable development, energy transitions, humanitarian response, or climate change mitigation.
- Those aiming to work with governments, NGOs, or international organisations responding to global environmental and humanitarian challenges.

Note: A reliable internet connection and a computer with video conferencing capabilities are essential for this fully online programme.

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WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- **Mastered Advanced Technical Skills:** Expertise in industry-standard tools and software such as GIS, climate change modelling, and sustainable development frameworks.
- **Developed Collaborative Abilities:** Experience in teamwork, critical analysis, and problem-solving.
- **Completed Real-World Research:** Engaged in practical projects tackling global sustainability and humanitarian challenges.
- **Built Interdisciplinary Competencies:** A versatile skill set applicable across multiple sectors.
- **Gained Insights from Experts:** Knowledge from leading academics and practitioners in sustainable development, energy, and humanitarian fields.

COURSE DETAILS

WHAT IS THE MODE OF DELIVERY?

- **Fully Online, Part-Time:** Designed to accommodate working professionals.
- **Global Collaboration:** Co-developed and co-taught by UNITAR and Loughborough University.
- **Applied and Practical Focus:** Through real-world case studies, applied research, and technical training.
- **Access to Global Experts:** Including Loughborough's STEER Centre and UNITAR's international network.
- **Technical Expertise Development:** Including GIS, climate modelling, sustainable energy planning, and policy analysis.

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME?

The MCEHA is awarded upon completion of 180 UK credits (90 ECTS). The programme offers two flexible study pathways: a **2-Year Track or a 3-Year Track**.

CURRICULUM

All taught modules, except for the dissertation, are worth 15 UK credits (7.5 ECTS), while the dissertation carries 60 UK credits (30 ECTS).

YEAR 1

Semester 1

- **Humanitarian, Development and Climate Policy:** This module aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the complex interrelationships between humanitarian action, development strategies, and climate policies. It emphasizes the importance of integrated approaches to address the multidimensional challenges posed by climate change, conflicts, and development needs.

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CURRICULUM

- **Climate Futures:** The aim of this module is to develop an understanding of alternative climate pathways, to use data and tools to define probable climate futures (with a focus on the UK over the 21st century), and to rehearse strategies for communicating future change.

Semester 2

- **Re-thinking Peacekeeping:** The aim of this module is to critically examine the evolving roles and structures of global peacekeeping, security, humanitarian aid, and development. Students will explore contemporary challenges, theoretical frameworks, and policy orientations that shape the international response to conflicts and crises.

- **Economic Modelling and Policy for Sustainable Development:** The aim of this research-led module is to understand policy options and their economic impacts on sustainable development, with a focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and adaptation in the energy sector. Students will gain hands-on experience with OSeMOSYS, a powerful open-source energy modelling tool, developed as part of the Climate Compatible Growth programme within STEER – the Loughborough Centre for Sustainable Transitions: Energy, Environment and Resilience.

YEAR 2

Semester 1

- **Humanitarian Energy:** The aim of this module is to develop an understanding of the critical concepts and practical challenges related to providing sustainable energy in humanitarian settings, with a particular focus on United Nations frameworks and UNITAR's initiatives.

- **Mapping and Modelling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The aim of this research-led module is to understand how the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate to each other and to model their interactions, with a special focus on the quantitative analysis of Climate, Land, Energy, and Water systems (CLEWs). Students will work with the CLEWs modelling framework, developed as part of the Climate Compatible Growth programme within STEER – the Loughborough Centre for Sustainable Transitions: Energy, Environment and Resilience.

Semester 2

- **Co-management for Radically Inclusive Project Planning:** The aim of this module is to develop an understanding of co-creation and co-management approaches for inclusive project planning and implementation. The focus will be on integrating knowledge systems in the context of the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace).

- **Research Design and Practice:** The aims of this module are to consolidate students' experiences of undertaking research in both the social science and humanities traditions, and to equip them with the appropriate intellectual and practical methodological, writing and reflexive skills to successfully undertake an independent and original piece of critical research on an issue of relevance to their programme.

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CURRICULUM

- **Dissertation (Semester 2 - or Year 3 if completing in 3 years):** The principal aim of this module is to produce an original, critical piece of research specific to the programme on which a student is registered. An original analysis of data is expected, which may use primary data or secondary data or a combination of the two. with appropriate contextualisation in the relevant literature, progressive research methodologies and skills in data analysis, interpretation and writing-up.

FEES AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE TUITION FEE FOR THE PROGRAMME?

Tuition Fees for 2025–26, apply to courses starting in October 2025 or January 2026.

- **UK Students:** £12,500 per annum.
- **International Students:** £25,500 per annum.

Tuition Fees for 2026–27, apply to courses starting in October 2026 or January 2027.

- **UK Students:** £12,900 Full-time degree per annum.
- **International Students:** £26,300 Full-time degree per annum.

Note: Fees are reviewed annually and are likely to increase to take into account inflationary pressures. Scholarships and bursaries are available, including:

- 10% tuition discount for Loughborough University alumni
- 20% tuition discount for excellence scholarships

For more information about the Tuition Fees, Financial support and Scholarships please visit Loughborough's MA webpage or consult directly: Fee Status & Payment in advance or instalments.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

To be considered, please submit your application by the deadline. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis, and places are limited, early submission is highly recommended to secure your place.

- 2025 Application Deadline: **25 August 2025**.
- 2025 Programme start: **29 September 2025**.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications are submitted through Loughborough University's online application portal.

- Need help? Contact the programme coordinator at: elearning.ptp@unitar.org or at ssh.pgt.admin@mailbox.lboro.ac.uk

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APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

To apply for the master's programme applicants must meet the following criteria:

- A 2:2 honours degree with a minimum of 55% (or equivalent international qualification) in a relevant discipline, including social sciences, geography, international relations, politics, business, or management.
- Relevant professional experience may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicants must meet the minimum English language requirements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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