

# M.A. in Humanitarian Action

University of Malta • Department of International Relations



Due to problems such as global warming and state failure, humanitarian crises are on the increase around the world. As a result, humanitarian action – closely related to multilateral diplomacy, development cooperation and peace building – has taken on a new importance. At the same time, the humanitarian field is under scrutiny as never before, with heightened demands of efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and professionalization. Since 2012, the University of Malta offers you a key to this ever-changing field, combining academic higher education and professional competences with its **Masters Programme in Humanitarian Action**.



This multidisciplinary course provides high-quality academic education and professional competences for individuals working in, or aspiring to work in, humanitarian agencies, multilateral aid institutions, NGOs and private foundations, government agencies, large corporations with in-house development/outreach work, and think tanks/research centres focusing on humanitarian and development cooperation. Applicants from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply with particular emphasis on experienced professionals and recent graduates.



The Masters programme approaches humanitarian and development action from both a practical and an analytical perspective. Students develop the necessary knowledge and skills to critically analyse humanitarian action, and work effectively in the humanitarian and development field.



## What will I study?

- The variety of humanitarian and more long-term responses to crises across the globe
- How such responses are shaped and what consequences they have
- The institutional and legal framework for humanitarian action
- Management and humanitarian action
- Medical and public health aspects of humanitarian action
- Anthropology and humanitarian action
- Media and humanitarian action
- Applied ethics in humanitarian action
- Human security, forced migration and humanitarian action



“The Master of Arts in Humanitarian Action programme has been a massive learning curve to me, as it helped me grow professionally. The programme has equipped me with extensive knowledge of the complexities of humanitarian crises and intervention, and gave me a broader understanding of the past experiences of migrants who seek asylum in Malta.”

### James Naudi

Asylum Determination Officer,  
Malta

## How will I benefit?

MHA students benefit from an all-round, multi-disciplinary education, mixing theory and practice in all courses. Students are encouraged to undertake a placement while writing their MA dissertations, further blending thinking and action. This holistic approach equips students with the required knowledge and skills to work in complex humanitarian settings when entering employment.

## How long is the course?

- The programme of a total of 90 ECTS credits can be followed full-time or part-time.
- The full-time programme extends over 3 semesters. Teaching is concentrated in semesters 1 and 2; the 3rd semester is devoted to completing an M.A. dissertation.

- Part-time variant extends over six semesters.

## What language is the course taught in?

All teaching is in English delivered by teaching staff that combines in-house experts and experienced guest lecturers from Malta and abroad.

## How do I apply?

- Be in possession of a first degree, second class or equivalent, in any subject considered to be relevant by the Faculty Admissions Committee.
- Overseas applicants should have an internationally recognised English Language Proficiency Certificate at the required level.

