

Master's-level
short course

Professional postgraduate course in Humanitarian Shelter Coordination

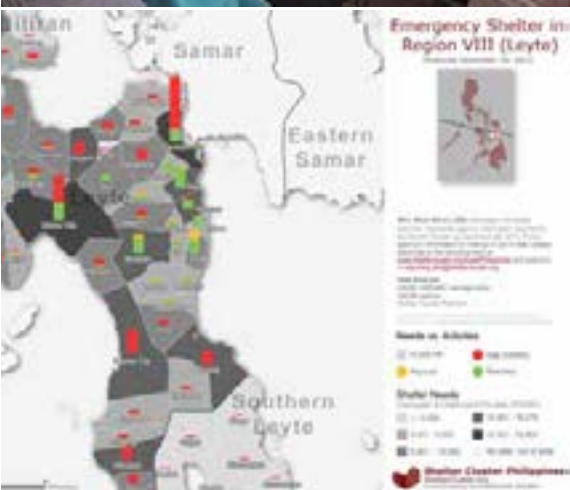
Course length: 5 weeks online followed by 6 days in Geneva, Switzerland

Course fee: 1,975 CHF per participant

Mode of delivery: Blended learning: online and face-to-face

Award received: Certified master's-level credit-rated course (10 Level M credits- CATS equivalent 5 ECTS- European credits)

Audience: Humanitarian professionals with experience in emergency response with particular focus in shelter and settlements interested in inter-agency humanitarian coordination



Overview

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in partnership with the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom, are proud to offer an affordable and professional postgraduate course in humanitarian shelter coordination. The course faculty is comprised of leading experts from around the humanitarian and shelter world. They present practical and evidence-based insight into the course content, thus providing students with case studies drawn from major humanitarian emergencies. The course is accredited by Oxford Brookes University.

In partnership with

**OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY**

+C IFRC

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

About the course

This course aims to equip participants with the skills required to coordinate a shelter response in a humanitarian crisis caused by disaster, conflict, or a combination of both. It will provide participants with an overview of the humanitarian reform process and the transformative agenda, the inter-agency cluster approach, the role of the Shelter Cluster, and the principles and practice of humanitarian shelter coordination. This course covers the following topics that will be delivered through the online and face-to-face components:

- The Humanitarian Reform process and the Transformative Agenda
- The cluster approach and the Shelter Cluster
- The Global Shelter Cluster methodology for shelter coordination at the country level
- Fundamentals of shelter response programming and minimum standards
- Inter-agency disaster response appeal and financing mechanisms
- Inter-agency coordinated assessments
- Information management
- Inter-agency shelter response and advocacy strategies
- Leadership and coordination skills
- Inter-cluster coordination
- Core cluster functions

Learning Objectives

Overall Objective: At the end of the course, students will be equipped with analytical, strategic, and practical knowledge of shelter coordination policies, methods, tools, and procedures in the humanitarian response system and are prepared to apply these in the context of a humanitarian crisis.

Participants will...

1. Demonstrate a depth of knowledge of the main foundations, principles, processes, and complexities of humanitarian shelter coordination.
2. Develop an inter-agency shelter response and advocacy strategy using current humanitarian shelter and settlements standards, principles, and approaches.
3. Effectively participate in shelter coordination teams at the country level, utilizing the most current knowledge, tools, and good practices at the forefront of the discipline.
4. Apply leadership and coordination skills effectively and appropriately to a professional standard for different audiences in the field of humanitarian practice.

Course details – online and face-to-face components

This course is a blend of theory and practical learning which will equip participants with skills and competencies in humanitarian shelter coordination. Participants are introduced to sector-specific information and given practical opportunities to apply the theory in scenarios that are the basis of the assessments. The scenario takes the form of a challenging simulation, which allows participants to experience working at the center of the coordination activities during a humanitarian response.

The course has two phases:

1. First Phase - Tutored distance learning

This will take place during a period of five weeks. Participants will study through the online Red Cross Red Crescent e-learning platform. This first phase deals with most of the theoretical basis of the course.

2. Second phase - A 6-day face-to-face workshop

This is delivered by specialists working in the sector and guest speakers with experience of coordination in practice at the field level. Participants engage in a combination of individual and group activities. The face-to-face workshop is based on a scenario that simulates the deployment to and coordination of an evolving emergency.

“Overall, the training was great! Sufficient materials, interesting topics, and a variety of useful exercises to apply our new knowledge.”

Course methodology

The factual knowledge and understanding in phase 1 (the 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 judgment and analytical skills to develop an inter-agency shelter response strategy, using current humanitarian shelter and settlements standards, principles, and approaches. They are asked to synthesize a response to a likely scenario based on their knowledge and understanding.

Participants 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 discussions, 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 exam
- 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

This course is taught by a prestigious group of professionals with proven experience and active participation in the field of international cooperation and shelter coordination responses in recent emergencies.

The course also includes presenters and resource persons from leading humanitarian shelter agencies, including from the United Nations, international non-governmental organizations, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Course Directors:

Pablo Medina - *Coordinator* (IFRC), Global Shelter Cluster

Neil Bauman - *Global Focal Point for Information Management* (IFRC), Global Shelter Cluster

Angel Pascual - *Global Focal Point for Coordination*, (UNHCR) Global Shelter Cluster

Mamen Carmen Sancha - *Senior Roving Coordinator* (UNHCR), Global Shelter Cluster

“Having the online module prior to the practical component provides a good introduction and basis on which to prepare (for) the residential component!”

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, non-governmental organizations, and governments, particularly agencies or institutions actively involved in the inter-agency shelter cluster at global or country level. The course is also open to individuals seeking to advance their understanding of and expertise in the field of inter-agency humanitarian coordination.

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 program.

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 level of English. Among other things, this statement must confirm that the applicant's job has involved working substantially through in the English language.

3

How to apply

Applications must be submitted online at the Global Shelter Cluster website via [this link](#). Once you have submitted the application form, please send your CV to shelter.settlements@ifrc.org. Applications without CVs will not be considered.

Any additional inquiries can be addressed by emailing shelter.settlements@ifrc.org.

The IFRC Learning Education and Training (LET) Hub also offers a range of other Certified Professional Training opportunities in shelter and settlements humanitarian responses, global health, disaster management, humanitarian diplomacy, social and voluntary sector leadership, and migration.

For more information on these and other LET Hub programs, including our flagship Learning Platform program which contains hundreds of short, free, self-directed courses supporting the development of basic skills and competencies, please visit [this link](#).

"The HSCT was a great opportunity to deepen my knowledge of coordination and shelter and settlements principles. I loved meeting colleagues from around the world!"