

Third semester manual  
Joint Master's Programme in  
International Humanitarian Action

Fordham University,  
New York

**Regional specialisation**  
Semester 3

*version November 2022*



The Institute of International  
Humanitarian Affairs  
[www.fordham.edu/iha](http://www.fordham.edu/iha)



**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY**  
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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## 1. Third semester regional training learning outcomes

In conformity with the learning outcomes set out by the NOHA network, by the end of the regional training, the student:

- Has a critical understanding of the humanitarian principles and standards and the problematic nature of the dilemmas involved.
- Has demonstrated the ability to formulate adequate and ethically sound recommendations for humanitarian action grounded in the humanitarian principles and values, translating these in innovative, practical terms to policies, strategies and programme management.
- Takes responsibility for specifying clear ethical standards informed by the humanitarian principles, values and professional codes of conduct.
- Applies innovatively and strategically correct the humanitarian principles and standards to dilemmas in complex and insecure contexts.
- Has highly specialised knowledge and a critical understanding of humanitarian concepts and theories.
- Has innovative expertise on a particular current theme in humanitarian action with an interdisciplinary understanding in terms of its political, legal, anthropological, public health and management aspects."
- Has specialised skills to conceptualise, interpret and critically analyse complex humanitarian crises and interventions on the basis of a variety of sources, generating new interdisciplinary expertise to help solve complex humanitarian problems.
- Has demonstrated the ability to position one's own research findings in the broader context of
- humanitarian action.
- Has developed an open attitude towards acquiring new knowledge and understanding about professional and academic developments in humanitarian action."
- Has specialised problem-solving skills to promote the best and safest response in humanitarian emergency contexts in terms of personal and social implications and foreseeable harm by humanitarian interventions.
- Acts firmly and appropriately in insecure situations according to the security rules, taking into account advice from security sources and other stakeholders.
- Has demonstrated a range of coaching and management skills to carefully assess the relevant factors for decision making in terms of operative context, possible effects and risks and the best way for successful implementation of strategic decisions.
- Has demonstrated the ability to act on decisions made.
- Has adopted a reflective practice analysing personal learning goals and ways to achieve them.
- Stimulates the involvement and development of team members and partners to achieve a successful humanitarian project.
- Has highly specialised knowledge of the diversity of actors and stakeholders, their interaction and competition, and a thorough understanding of the importance of coordination between different levels in the humanitarian system.
- Has demonstrated the ability to listen to beneficiaries and stakeholders and taking into account their considerations, communicate humanitarian expertise and research findings in a structured, intelligible way to specialists and non-specialists in a multi-cultural humanitarian setting.
- Has the ability to cultivate relations of sensitive respect in terms of cultural and gender diversity and to cooperate in a quest for mutual benefit or compromise."

- Involves partners and team members in different levels of decision-making and acts responsible and accountable concerning own decisions.
- Actively contributes to team building, a balanced distribution of work, and fostering a good atmosphere and cohesion in group projects in an effort to achieve the common goal.
- Has highly specialised knowledge and critical understanding of the impact of various humanitarian action interventions on the needs and rights of crisis-affected people and their interaction with interests of relevant actors in a certain professional regional context.
- Specialised problem-solving skills combining interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the range of needs and capabilities of crisis-affected people in a certain regional context toward relevant, evidence-based solutions for effective response.
- Learns from past experiences, identifies opportunities to overcome humanitarian dilemmas and proposes new work methods for increased efficiency, effectiveness and stakeholder accountability in complex and unpredictable humanitarian environments.

## 2. Overview of semester offered to NOHA student

Semester Three/2023-2024

August-December 2023

During their stay at Fordham University, NOHA students will be able to take up to four courses offered by the Institute of International Affairs and other departments under the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. **The courses offered vary semester by semester, and we cannot guarantee that any particular course will be offered during students' Third Semester.** List of courses beyond the Core MSHS will be illustrative and will depend on the number of students who register and semester offered. Please check our [website](#) for examples of interdisciplinary courses offered under our ***Human Rights, Communities and Capacity Building, and Livelihoods and Institutions*** tracks. We encourage you to reach out to Executive Director, Brendan Cahill ([brcahill@fordham.edu](mailto:brcahill@fordham.edu)), to inquire about course selections for the Fall 2023.

Students attending Fordham can choose one of the following options\*:

- Students can take 3 courses worth 3 US credits (approximately 6 ECTS) each and 1 independent study program (which could be either research or an internship) worth 1 US credit each (approximately 2 ECTS), amounting to a total of 10 US credits and approximately equivalent to 20 ECTS. An independent study includes research and a final paper that the student will complete under the supervision of a Fordham University faculty member on a topic selected by the student and approved by the faculty member. Research and internships can be based in New York or be virtual. The IIHA may help students, when possible, to find an internship in New York, but the students themselves are ultimately responsible for securing the internship.

\*Not all options may be applicable to all students depending on national requirements at their NOHA home university. Please check with the director of your NOHA home university, which option(s) are available for you.





## **Master of Science in Humanitarian Studies**

Fordham University's Master's program in Humanitarian Studies focuses on humanitarian assistance across a range of relevant disciplines. Building on the theoretical examination of key humanitarian issues cultivated in the undergraduate program, the MS program develops practical field skills and offers unique experiential learning opportunities in New York and overseas. The MS draws approximately half of the courses from existing programs taught by full-time faculty or IIHA full-time instructional staff, and half of the coursework being newly-created and taught by field experts and practitioners or policymakers. This careful design ensures that students receive significant exposure to the field's foundational theories and key concepts, alongside learning that is of a more applied nature and in some cases, experientially-based.

The Master of Science in Humanitarian Studies is designed for recent college graduates seeking early career opportunities with humanitarian organizations. Courses concentrate on introducing students to the technical skill sets and thematic knowledge necessary for contributing meaningfully to humanitarian operations. The multidisciplinary training and professional experience gained through the program will make graduates competitive candidates for a wide range of positions within humanitarian organizations. They will also be in a prime position for eventual promotion to mid level management positions, as these posts increasingly require advanced degrees in addition to work experience.

Therefore, the program seeks to fulfill the following **objectives**:

- 1) To prepare graduates to address humanitarian challenges, using appropriate methodologies, and apply their knowledge to inform the delivery and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance.
- 2) To fulfill a growing demand for early career humanitarian professionals who possess an in-depth knowledge of a specific region and/or thematic area as well as a mastery of specific competencies and skills, including evaluation frameworks, project accounting and budget analysis, human resource management, and information management and development strategies
- 3) To provide graduates a deep comprehension of the skill sets necessary for early career positions in humanitarian organizations and how those skills reflect the principles of humanitarian action and translate to higher managerial roles.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information regarding the MSHS.

#### 4. Contact information

**Executive Director:** Name: Brendan Cahill  
Email: [brcahill@fordham.edu](mailto:brcahill@fordham.edu)  
Phone: +1 718 817 5694

**Office Location:** Canisius Hall  
Fordham University  
2546 Belmont Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10458 USA

#### 5. Application

Once students receive confirmation by NOHA administration, applicants must complete the [MSHS online application](#) as non-matriculated students and submit transcripts from all university studies, following the instructions in the online application. All transcripts should be original documents submitted directly from your school to the Office of International and Study Abroad Programs. Instructions to apply will be provided directly to accepted students.

Applicants must submit proof of their English language proficiency and must meet the following qualifications:

TOEFL iBT: 90+  
TOEFL PBT: 575+  
IELTS: 7.0+  
PTE-A (Pearson Test of English-Academic): 62+  
CAE (Cambridge English Advanced): 67+

Applicants will be interviewed by the Humanitarian Studies Program Director and the Helen Hamlyn Senior Fellow of the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs.

Students who have been nominated by their home institution to study at Fordham for the Fall semester or academic year (August - May), must apply by March 1st. Students who have been nominated by their home institution to study at Fordham for the Spring semester, must apply by October 1st.





## 6.3 Information Management

**Module coordinator:** Name: Professor Joshua Weber

**Venue & hours:** TBD

**Type:**

### 1.1.4. General course description

This course will introduce students to the principles and strategies behind the effective flow of information in a humanitarian setting. Gathering and managing information is crucial in order to understand the cause of the emergency, identify impacted populations, and determine crisis- afflicted geographical locations. The aim of this course is for students to understand the components of a successful information management network within a humanitarian intervention and identify how information can contribute to future preparedness.

### 1.1.5. Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify key components of a strong information management network;
- 2) Determine the appropriate use of various information management tools;
- 3) Evaluate the use of new technology to gather and disseminate information within a humanitarian setting.

### 1.1.6. Assessment methods and criteria

Students will complete two mid- term exams, one news reports with analysis, and one final group project. They will be assessed according to the rubric traits and indicators listed below and assignments will align with course objectives as follows:

- 1) Mid- term exams 1
- 2) Midterm exam 2
- 3) News reports & analysis
- 4) Final group project on developing a strategy for information management in a humanitarian setting



### **Access to Education During Crisis and Conflict**

This course will provide students with an introduction to the growing field of education in emergencies. With as many as 40 million children living in countries affected by crisis and conflict it has become increasingly important for humanitarian practitioners to understand the complexities of planning and implementing educational programming in these settings. Building on the theoretical frameworks covered in the core courses, students will evaluate the relationships between education, international development and humanitarian aid through the use of theoretic texts and case studies from around the world.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the phases of humanitarian action in order to understand strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR). Emphasis will be placed on the multifaceted nature of disasters and complex emergencies and the need for community participation as well as local, regional and international coordination. You will be introduced and encouraged to critique DRR guidelines as well as recognize the sources of recognized best practices.

### **Gender Integration in Humanitarian Action**

This course will introduce students to the myriad ways in which gender impacts the experience of both the humanitarian crisis and subsequent intervention. You will explore the legal, political, cultural and economic frameworks that contribute to gender inequality as well as those that provide support for vulnerable groups. Emphasis will be placed on the tension between international guidelines/norms, program implementation, and unanticipated consequences of gender programming.

### **Urban Disasters and Displacement**

This course will provide an overview of global urbanization trends and explore the challenges created by urban disasters, particularly in areas with a high number of displaced and unregistered populations. The course will analyze the current humanitarian response within these urban settings, while discussing existing best practices and potential opportunities to increase the resilience and sustainability of affected communities in both formal and informal urban settlements.

### **International Responses to Migration**

This course provides you with an enhanced awareness and understanding of the complex interaction between migration and humanitarian interventions from the point of view of migrant communities, national authorities, and international humanitarian agencies. As the forced migration phenomena continues to accelerate, the motivations and determinants of action that shape local and global responses will be examined. You will be encouraged to critique the influence and motivations of mass and social media on the understanding of the economic, political, legal, and cultural factors of migration.

## **8. Academic Facilities**

-[Fordham Libraries](#)

-[Career Services](#)

-[Resources at Fordham](#)

## 9. Practical information

### 9.1 Accommodation

The students will be responsible for securing and paying for their accommodation for the duration of their stay in New York. It is important to note, however, that some neighborhoods may be more convenient to the Bronx campus. Students should be in direct contact with the Executive Director of the Institute for advice regarding housing options at [brcahill@fordham.edu](mailto:brcahill@fordham.edu).

### 9.2 Living costs

The students will be responsible for covering their own living costs for the duration of their stay in New York. Please note that Fordham University does not provide one-semester on-campus housing contracts.

The following information has been provided by the Office of International Services:

Off-Campus housing costs: Students who will seek off-campus housing must expect to pay at least the equivalent of three months rent to move in (first month, security deposit, and fee). In the Bronx, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment ranges from \$500 to \$750, less if you intend to share. Manhattan rents for a studio range from \$1500 to \$2000. If you plan to live off-campus, you should bring extra money for food, rent, and transportation to sustain you while you look for an apartment. Please note that recently, a few students looking for housing in midtown Manhattan have been obliged to pay a full year of rent upfront, in lieu of a U.S. lease co-signer.

Housing in apartments is difficult to find and rents are high. Before moving into an apartment, a security deposit equaling one month's rent is required. An additional fee of one month is paid to an agent if one is used. Most students try to find roommates to share apartments. At the Rose Hill campus, listings are available at the Office of Residential Life. At the Lincoln Center campus, listings are posted on the Bulletin Board outside of Lowenstein Room 408.

The Office of International Services will be happy to provide letters of recommendation for you for landlords.

#### House Search

The web-links below could come in handy as you do your own apartment search:

- [www.villagevoice.com](http://www.villagevoice.com) is a popular free newspaper released every Wednesday. It has listings for all 5 boroughs of the city. You can access their classified listings from their web page.
- [www.abodo.com/](http://www.abodo.com/) is another apartment search engine which allows users to view pictures, maps, rental data, and contact property owners.

○  
You can access these ads before your arrival, and have a sense of prices in different neighborhoods. One-to-World prepares a booklet, The International Student's Survival Guide to Living in New York City, which also provides housing resources. You should receive one of these books with your I-20. For more information please visit [https://www.fordham.edu/info/21324/new\\_arrival\\_information](https://www.fordham.edu/info/21324/new_arrival_information)

### **9.3 IIHA**

The Institute considers their NOHA students as part of their own program and community; we encourage all students to use the Institute as their base while in New York. The Institute will provide a space for students to study, to cook and share meals, as well as provide recommendations on housing.

### **9.4 Visas**

Students are responsible for securing visas for their stay in the United States. For visa-related information, please contact Fordham's Office of International Students at [oisnewstudent@fordham.edu](mailto:oisnewstudent@fordham.edu) and visit their [website](#).

### **9.5 Useful Links**

- [Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs](#)
- [Office of International Services](#)
- [Graduate School of Arts and Sciences](#)

### **9.6 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

The academic year is divided into two semesters and for some courses, a summer session.

GSAS **202-202** Academic Calendar:

New Student Orientation: TBD

Fall Semester: September 1st - 7BD

Spring Semester: January 1th - TBD

[Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Academic Calendar](#)

### **9.7 Fees**

For incoming NOHA students, payment of the GSAS fee of \$509 will apply (technology fee, general fee, health insurance fee [additional \$1,221 mandatory for students taking 6 credits or more] and international services fee).

NOHA students coming to Fordham University are expected to make NOHA their "third party biller." In other words, after the university has waived all student's "Fordham Tuition Fees," the student will have to update his/her third party biller information, following the instructions we will send, to make sure NOHA receives all remaining bills such as the international student fee, and other fees mentioned above.