



Centre d'enseignement et de recherche
en action humanitaire de Genève
Geneva Center for education and research
in humanitarian action

Humanitarian education : issues and challenges

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Key facts

* **Major changes** in the post cold war context

→ Important impact on roles, mandates and agendas of humanitarian organisations

* Bosnia (1992/1995) and Rwanda (1994) crisis show needs for professionalization of humanitarian interventions

→ Initiatives to improve **professionalism** and **accountability** in humanitarian responses

A new humanitarian arena

- * Nature of armed conflicts leads to **a new set of challenges** → New situations of unpredictable complexity and danger
- * Greater difficulties to maintain humanitarian principles : impartiality, neutrality, independence
 - Humanitarian workers increasingly need **new skills and competencies**
- * *"We are not born a humanitarian professional, we become one"*

A need for new competencies

* In addition to technical/professional competencies:

Public health, nutrition, engineering, logistics, political science, law and others

* New knowledge/skills:

- socio-economic and political context
- cultural norms and values
- implications of the history
- basic notions on international humanitarian law
- principles for management and communication
- rules for personal and organisational security

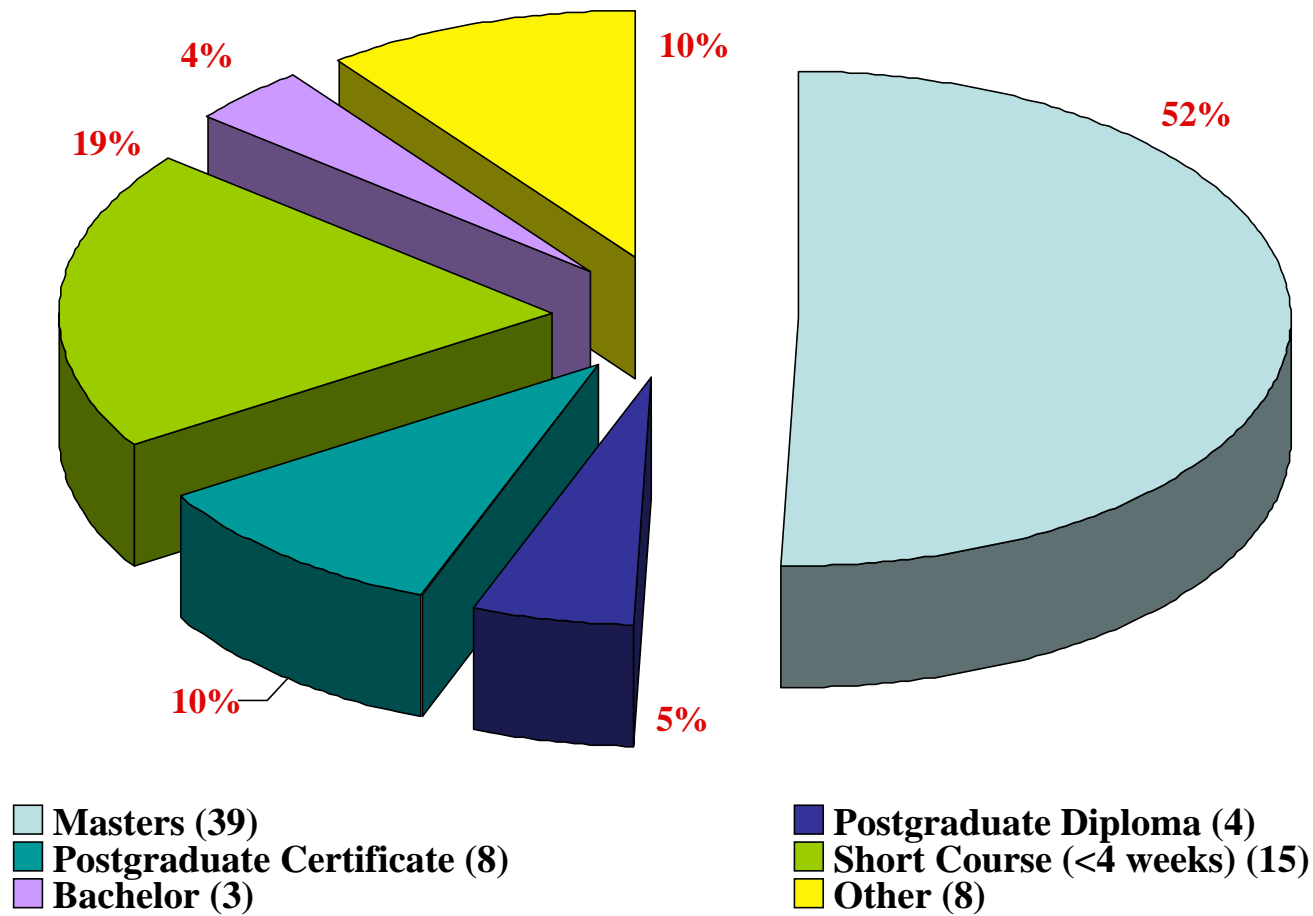
An overview of humanitarian education

- * A research process based on key words + information provided by universities
- * Criteria 1 : "interdisciplinary" → 118 programmes
- * Criteria 2 :
 - analyse determinants of crisis
 - provide tools for population needs assessment
 - formulate strategies to alleviate suffering and death

→ 77 academic programmes in 50

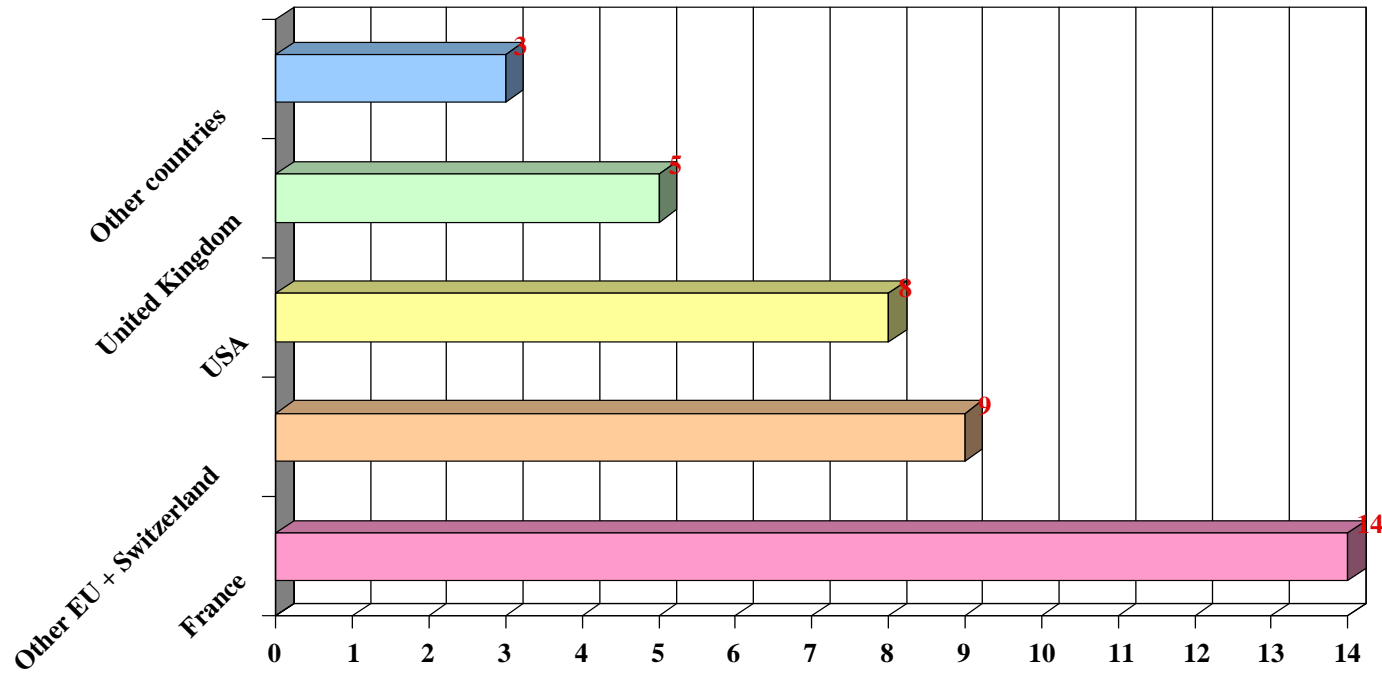
Programme per type of diploma

($n = 77$)



Humanitarian Masters per country

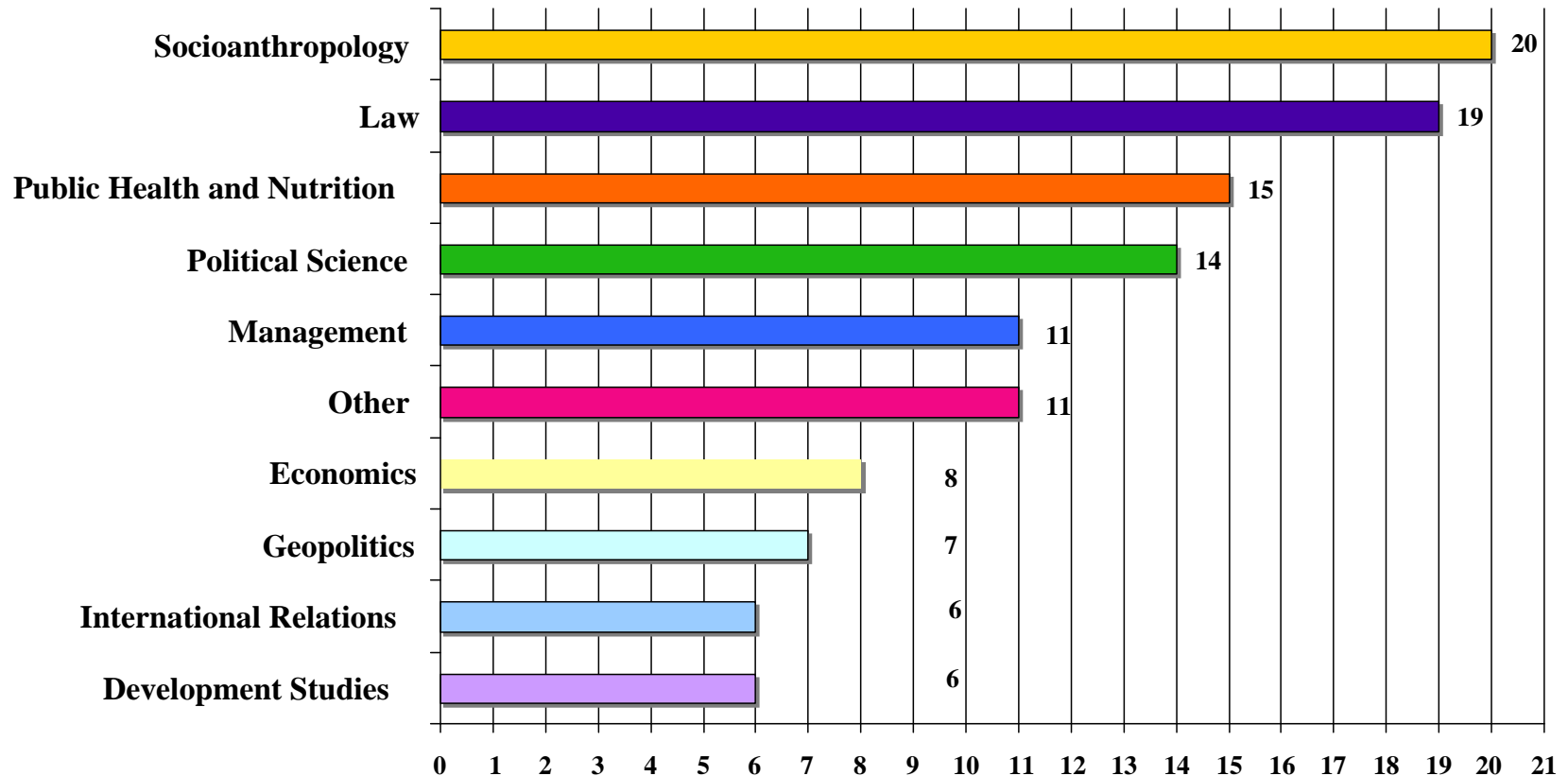
(n = 39)



Other EU : Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden

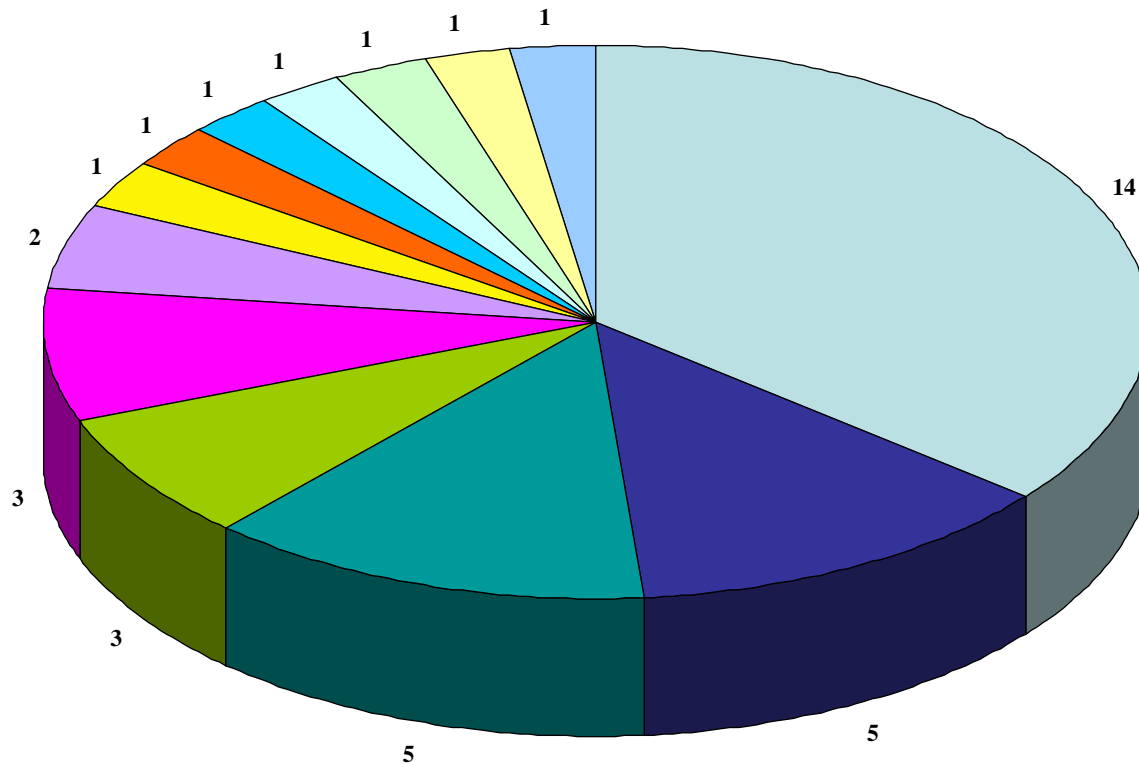
Other Countries : Canada, Israel, Nigeria

Occurrence of disciplines in curriculum and content (n = 39)



Other disciplines include: human rights, disaster management, communication, history

Institutional anchorage of Master programmes (n = 39)



Political Science (N=14)
Economics (N=3)
Agriculture (N=1)
Human Rights (N=1)
Law (N=1)

Health Sciences (N=5)
Interdisciplinary (N=3)
Continuing Education (N=1)
Journalism and communication (N=1)

Public Affairs (N=5)
Religion and/or Social Work (N=2)
Engineering (N=1)
Languages and Linguistics (N=1)

Les programmes universitaires en action humanitaire

Cette plate-forme propose des outils pour faciliter la recherche des programmes universitaire en action humanitaire. Près de 100 programmes disponibles à travers le monde vous sont proposés.



Outil de recherche des programmes

A partir des nombreuses options de recherche accédez au type de programme qui vous correspond et qui saura répondre à vos besoins. Pour cela indiquez vos critères dans la colonne de droite réservée à cet effet.



Situation géographique des programmes

Visualisez les programmes selon chaque région du monde et le nombre de programmes dispensés dans chaque pays. [Consulter la carte.](#)

Les programmes les plus consultés

- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶

Les programmes les plus récents

- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶
- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response MA ▶

Recherche d'un programme

Rechercher

Mots-clefs

Mots-clefs

- Droits fondamentaux
- Santé publique
- Populations fragilisée
- Environnement
- Economie globale
- Economie locale
- Catastrophes naturelles
- Scolarisation
- Équité des femmes

Disciplines

Niveau d'étude

Emploi du temps

Langue

Pays

Université

Durée

Année académique

Délai de candidature

THE 2010 GLOBAL SURVEY OF HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMMES: The Online Database of Programmes

- An academic research project
- A resource for humanitarian professionals
- A wealth of programme information
- A friendly search tool

The database going live on CERAH website
www.cerahgeneve.ch
 in June 2010

How is CERAH facing these needs ?

* Join centre by University of Geneva and Graduate Institute of International and Development (IHEID)

* Four types of programmes :

- A one year **Master** of Advanced Studies (MAS)
- A 12 weeks **Certificate** of Advanced Studies (CAS)
- One week **seminars** or **case studies**
- **Short training sessions** in partnership with local universities and humanitarian organisations

* Growing number and **high diversity** of candidates

CERAH Master in advanced studies



Susan Heilebrunn / MagnumPhotos

At the beginning of the 21st century the world is facing multiple crises (social, climatic, political, economic, etc) which have major impacts on the most vulnerable populations. A natural disaster, financial crisis or conflict can cause such extreme destitution amongst such groups that humanitarian assistance is needed to ensure their survival. Humanitarian crises have become very complex and each requires a specific response in constantly changing contexts.

OBJECTIVES

- To offer, within a multidisciplinary university environment, conceptual tools and methodologies for understanding and addressing contemporary humanitarian challenges.
- To encourage exchange of experience between teachers and participants and to develop the capacity for multicultural cooperation.
- To add value to contacts with international institutions and humanitarian organisations in Geneva.

PUBLIC

Professionals from humanitarian, human rights, development and social fields.

TEACHERS

Teachers are drawn from faculties of the University of Geneva and from other universities and institutes in Switzerland and Europe, international specialists, field experts, staff of international humanitarian organisations and NGOs.

CERAH also proposes a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in humanitarian action "An introduction to contemporary humanitarian challenges" over 12 weeks

UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

Humanitarian studies programme

COMPULSORY CORE PROGRAMME

Students must successfully complete 8 modules. Each module offers an interdisciplinary perspective on themes related to the field of humanitarian action (history, ethics, anthropology, sociology, law, public health, political science, etc). Teaching includes lectures, workshops, visits and debates with humanitarian organisations, methodology seminars and thematic conferences.

MODULE 1

Humanitarianism in question

Offers a multidisciplinary perspective and critique on the history, context and conceptual bases of humanitarian action. Explores the philosophical, ethical, political, cultural and legal foundations, and the main stages in the evolution of humanitarian practice.

MODULE 2

Humanitarian actors

Offers a critical and interdisciplinary perspective on the objectives, methods and actions of the main players in humanitarian action. Analyses the complex relations between key humanitarian actors.

MODULE 3

Humanitarian action and human rights

Teaches the legal background required to understand the importance and role of international law. Analyses the interactions between law and humanitarian action. Presents and discusses the legal tools for prevention of humanitarian crises.

Examines the legal tools applicable to humanitarian crises and their aftermath. Reviews the responsibilities of states and individuals with regard to international and national law.

MODULE 4

The causes of humanitarian crises

Examines geopolitical, macro-economic, demographic, social and health factors in order to place humanitarian crises in a context and identify their causes. Offers the tools required to analyse the contribution of socio-economic, political, environmental and health factors to humanitarian crises.

MODULE 5

Vulnerability, social insecurity and exclusion

Sets out to understand the consequences of social inequality, destitution and exclusion. Analyses the role of humanitarian action amongst populations on the fringes of society. Examines in detail the links between social insecurity, exclusion and human rights.

MODULE 6

Natural disasters, famine and epidemics

Identifies the characteristics of natural disasters, famine and epidemics and identifies the challenges for humanitarian intervention. Assesses the impacts of natural disasters, famine and epidemics on people, societies and economies and describes the measures for prevention of humanitarian crises.

MODULE 7

Armed conflict and humanitarian action

Presents the key factors influencing the development of armed conflict and their links to humanitarian action. Analyses the main threats to humanitarian workers in a conflict situation and discusses strategies to reduce them.

MODULE 8

Between crisis and development

Describes the tools required to understand the complexity of the transition period between crisis and development during rehabilitation, reconciliation and/or reconstruction. Examines specific questions related to post-crisis situations and describes the links between the continuum and the continuum.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students can choose amongst courses, approved by the CERAH teaching staff, offered by faculties of the University of Geneva and/or by the Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID)/The Graduate Institute

THEMATIC SEMINARS

In partnership with humanitarian organisations and certain faculties, CERAH offers seminars which examine various humanitarian themes in depth.

DISSERTATION

After successfully completing all the modules and elective courses (minimum of 50 ECTS credits), students must defend a dissertation before a jury.

CERAH students profile (n = 217)

- * 50% **female**
- * Mid-career level professional (average age at **36 years**)
- * 46% from developing countries (30% from **countries facing a crisis**)
- * 48% from OECD countries and 5% from others countries

Conclusion : birth of humanitarian studies?

- * To understand needs of humanitarian workers
- * To debate between universities and humanitarian organisations
- * To debate within academic community as NOHA
 - International conference on education in humanitarian action