

Law and Disaster Risk Reduction:

An Introduction to Disaster Law

This document gives a range of useful information for this course including general information, a course schedule, assessment information and how to get help. Ready to enrol? Take the next step at uonline.ac.nz/online-courses/law-and-disaster-risk-reduction.

General Information

Item	Description
Course Length	The course runs over nine weeks of study (with a one-week study break in the middle of the term), followed by two-week period for marking and feedback.
Course Description	<p>In this course, you'll explore the vital role that law plays in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM). You'll gain an understanding of how legal frameworks underpin effective disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. We'll guide you through a broad overview of key international and domestic instruments, clarifying the responsibilities they create and critically assessing the limitations of current models.</p> <p>Targeted at non-legal experts and lawyers not specialising in disaster law, this course offers insights into the various facets of disaster law at both international and domestic levels. It is designed to be of practical use to DRR and DRM practitioners worldwide, drawing extensively on the experiences of the LEAD Institute's research team, with a particular focus on Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific region.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>Once you've successfully completed this course, you'll be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of law and its interaction with disaster management. • Explain how domestic disaster law frameworks integrate with and are influenced by international disaster law principles and agreements. • Critically assess the use of emergency powers and the role of Human Rights in disasters. • Demonstrate an understanding of the need to address particular population requirements through disaster law, particularly those of indigenous peoples and women. • Evaluate the requirement for legal preparedness in disaster planning and disaster governance.
Learning Impact	Upon completing this course, you will have gained an understanding of how law operates across the disaster cycle and its critical role in disaster risk reduction and management (DRR and DRM). This course illustrates that disasters are socially constructed phenomena, heavily influenced by legal frameworks. With this knowledge, you can better identify where law intersects with disasters and utilise this insight to advocate for, and utilise good legal practice in the field. This understanding is vital not only for those working in disaster contexts but also for broader societal awareness, integrating good disaster law practice into daily considerations rather than isolating them within the disaster management community.

	We hope this course inspires students by recognising the fundamental impact of law on disaster preparedness and response, to continue exploring disaster law, whether through further academic pursuits or by incorporating these principles into professional practice.
Delivery	<p>This course is 100% online, which means you can log on when it suits you each week to fit learning into your life, so long as you meet the assessment deadlines.</p> <p>You will need to work through the course materials and assessments in the relevant weeks, as outlined below in the course schedule.</p>
Estimated hours per week	We estimate your engagement will be about six – seven hours a week over the nine learning weeks (excluding the one-week study break).
Qualification	<p>Short course: This is a standalone course that recognises the achievement of specific skills, experience, or knowledge.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the course, you will be issued a digital badge to recognise your learning achievements. This can take up to 2 months to be delivered after the marking and feedback period.</p>
Academic points	Being a short course, there are no specific academic points associated with this course.
Recommended prior learning	There are no prerequisites for this course – it is open to anyone who has confidence listening, reading and writing in English with an interest in learning more about disaster law.
Who is this course for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency management and volunteer staff working for disaster-management organisations, such as regional and local councils or government agencies • Policy advisors • Organisational leaders, planners and facility managers • Health, safety and wellbeing or risk management professionals • People with an interest in disaster management and emergency preparedness.
Technology Requirements	<p>We recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A laptop or desktop computer and a reliable internet connection. • A PDF reader (like Adobe Acrobat Reader DC) to download PDFs with assessment instructions. • Word processing software (like Microsoft Word or Google Docs) to complete your assignments.
How the course works	<p>You'll need to work through this course sequentially. It's divided into seven modules that run over nine weeks (excluding the one-week study break). Use the navigation block on the left to move from one module to another. Each module includes the following material:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning objectives and module introduction. • Topic content using a range of media. • Activities to apply what you've learnt and/or discuss with your peers and facilitator. • A 'temperature check' survey to seek your feedback about your experience as a learner. <p>You will gain access to the following module only if you complete content in the previous module.</p>

	Learning online doesn't mean learning alone. Our courses have been designed to enable a cohort community so you can learn and grow from each other's experience. We also have a facilitator for each course who is there to offer support as you work through your learning, in addition to our Enrolment Advice and Online Learning Support teams.
Assessment	To receive a passing grade for this course, you need to have attempted all activities and to have received an overall grade of at least 50%. For more details see the assessment schedule below.
Pricing	Domestic learners: \$281 incl. GST International learners: \$1317 incl. GST Note: GST is only applicable for learners living in New Zealand during their study.

Course schedule

Week	Module	Assessment
0-1	Getting started	
	About this course	
1	Module 1: Why law matters in disasters	
2	Module 2: The concept of disaster law	
3	Module 3: Vulnerability and human rights	
4	Module 4: Gender equity and indigenous peoples	
5	Study break	
6	Module 5: Prevention and preparedness	
7	Module 6: Response for disasters	
8	Module 7: Recovery for disasters	Assessment 1: End of course quiz
9		Assessments 2 & 3 submission

Assessment

There are 3 assessments in this course:

Assessment	Name	Weight	Due date	Feedback
1	End of course quiz	20%	Week 8	Automatic immediately after completing assessment

2	Assessment 2: Graded discussion and peer review	40%	Week 9	Grading and comment by the end of week 11
3	Assessment 3: Disaster law report	40%	Week 9	Grading and comment by the end of week 11

Your course total grade is calculated based on the weighting of each assessment. To pass the course you need a course total of over 50 (out of 100).

You may attempt each assessment up to two times. You do not need a passing grade for every single assessment, but you do need to engage with/complete all assessments.

You will find more information about each assessment, including instructions and submission links in the Tuihono UC | UC Online course (use the navigation block on the left to access the Assessment section).

How to get help

- For general help on how to use the Tuihono UC | UC Online learning environment, select Help at the top of the course screen.
- If you can't find the answer that you are looking for, please email our Learner Experience team: support@uonline.ac.nz