

# DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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## GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERS

### Lecturer and Director of the Graduate Program

DAVID ETKIN

#### Professor Emeritus

WALTER PENZ

#### Professors

QIUMING CHENG  
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#### Associate Professors

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 MARY ANN JENKINS  
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 WALTER PERCHAL  
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#### Adjunct Professors

CONSTADINOS ARMENAKIS  
 JASON LEVY  
 IOAN NISTOR  
 KUMARASWAMY PONNAMBALAM

The Master of Arts in Disaster & Emergency Management is a unique program developed in response to the growing recognition of the urgent need for graduate level education in this new and important field. Business, industry, government and non-profit sectors increasingly recognize the necessity of having better educated planners and policy makers at senior levels who can bring to bear a sophisticated analytical perspective informed by current research.

The program is designed to give students the knowledge and skills to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from local, national and international disasters and emergencies. It draws on a wide range of disciplines, approaches and methodologies to help students appreciate the complexity of perspective and approach in the field. The innovative curriculum emphasizes an experiential learning approach offering opportunities to interact with professionals in the field and use state-of-the-art disaster and emergency management software. Courses are broadly organized around five conceptual areas: public safety and security, environmental issues and disaster management, business continuity management, technology and disaster management, and risk and social vulnerability.

The program is intended for those with an academic background or work experience in emergency and disaster management as well as those aspiring to become disaster and emergency management professionals. It is designed to build on a student's existing foundational knowledge to develop the leadership skills and knowledge needed for mid to senior level emergency managers. For applicants with nonstandard qualifications, opportunities exist to acquire this foundational knowledge before beginning the program.

## MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, candidates must have completed:

1. an honours undergraduate degree program in emergency management or equivalent (typically a four-year full-time program) from an accredited postsecondary institution with a minimum grade point average of B+ in the final two years of study.

**OR,**

2. an honours undergraduate degree program or equivalent (typically a four-year full-time program) from an accredited postsecondary institution with a minimum grade point average of B+ in the final two years of study with at least one of the following:

- certificate in the area of emergency management from a recognized university or a recognized professional granting body, with a minimum grade point average of B+;
- completion of a post-graduate college certificate in emergency management with a minimum grade point average of A from a recognized college program;
- completion of the following core undergraduate courses in emergency management offered by York University with a grade of no less than B+ in any course: Atkinson/Administration Studies 3700 3.0: Fundamentals of Emergency Management; Atkinson/Administration Studies 3701 3.0: Emergency Management: Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment; and Atkinson/Administration Studies 3702 3.0: Emergency Management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, Recovery or the equivalent;

- d) successful completion of a comprehensive exam on emergency management fundamentals administered by the Graduate Program in Disaster & Emergency Management;
- e) extensive experience in the emergency management field as assessed by the graduate admissions committee of the Disaster & Emergency Management program.

In exceptional circumstances, the graduate program admissions committee may recommend applicants to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for admission on condition that they complete specified courses in emergency management at the undergraduate level.

Proof of language proficiency is required for applicants who do not meet one of the following criteria:

1. their first language is English; OR,
2. they have completed at least two years of full-time study at an accredited university in a country (or institution) where English is the official language of instruction.

A minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper based) or 250 (computer based) or YELT score of Band 1 or equivalent is required.

Applicants must submit a statement of intent outlining their interests and career goals in relation to a proposed area of study (approximately 500 words), two letters of recommendation and a résumé.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### MA Degree by Major Research Paper

The program is offered on a full-time and part-time basis. The recommended time to completion is two years for full-time students and four years for part-time students.

#### 1. Courses

Students must successfully complete 24 course credits including the following:

- a) Core required courses: 12 credits

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5010 3.0: Advanced Disaster and Emergency Management**

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5020 3.0: Natural Disasters: An Unnatural Phenomenon/Same as Environmental Studies 6401 3.0**

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5030 3.0: Social and Behavioural Dimensions of Disasters**

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5040 3.0: Contemporary Issues in Disaster Studies/Management**

- b) Six additional credits in research methods:

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5050 6.0: Research Methods in Disaster and Emergency Management**

or

In consultation with the student's supervisor, an alternative six credits research methods from other graduate programs in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

- c) Six additional credits selected in consultation with the student's advisor from appropriate graduate courses offered across the university based on student's field of specialization including the following listed below. Normally these courses are from one of five broadly defined areas of study.

#### 2. Major Research Paper

Candidates for the Masters of Arts in Disaster & Emergency Management are required to write a major research paper on an approved topic. Topics can either be a critical evaluation and

synthesis of the current state of knowledge and research within a defined area of study or may focus on a specific research topic in depth. Papers must comprise original material of a scholarly nature, demonstrate that the student is capable of independent research and critical analysis and be of publishable quality. The major research paper should be between 80-100 pages. The paper will be supervised by a full member of the graduate program and graded on a pass/fail basis by a committee composed of the student's general faculty advisor, supervisor and one other faculty member who has not been involved in the major research paper process.

## COURSES

### CORE COURSES

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5010 3.0: Advanced Disaster and Emergency Management.** Examines and explores the applications of advanced methods and technologies in disaster and emergency management. Students study disaster and emergency management decision and planning methods and models, decision support systems, information systems and disaster databases, geographic information systems, remote sensing, various disaster and emergency management software and their applications.

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5020 3.0: Natural Disasters: An Unnatural Phenomenon.** This course examines natural disasters from an interdisciplinary point of view, particularly considering why there seems to be more natural disasters, and how and why decisions made by people create vulnerable communities.

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5030: 3.0 Social and Behavioural Dimensions of Disasters.** This course explores social and behavioural dimensions of human interactions before, during and after emergencies and disasters, including behavioural myths and realities; linkages between individuals, families, groups, organizations, community social systems and various levels of government; social vulnerability and the disproportionate impact of disasters upon various societal groups, *etc.*

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5040 3.0 Contemporary Issues in Disaster Studies/Management.** This course focuses on recent and current disasters that have taken place anywhere in the world. Using these disasters as case studies, students critically analyze various aspects of disaster management including assessment of the impacts of disasters using state-of-the-art technology, such as GIS and remote sensing techniques.

### RESEARCH METHODS COURSE

**Disaster & Emergency Studies 5050 6.0 Research Methods in Disaster and Emergency Management.** This course is an advanced and subject-specific course on how to do quality research in disaster and emergency management. Students are provided with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of various qualitative and quantitative research methods and their applications. Students also develop skills in analyzing disaster and emergency management research. Using examples and case studies, this course also examines the particular problems and issues of conducting research in disaster and emergency management.

*There are no prerequisites for this course.*

### SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES:

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Environmental Studies 5068 3.0: Global Justice and Humanitarian Internationalism/Integrated with the undergraduate course Environmental Studies 4312 3.0**

**Environmental Studies 6147 3.0: Humanitarian Crises**  
**Political Science 6225 3.0: Critical Security Studies**  
**Political Science 6220 3.0: Contemporary Security Studies:**  
**Regional Security and Conflict Management**

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**Environmental Studies 5123 3.0: Environment and Behaviour/**  
*Same as Environmental Studies 4123 3.0*  
**Environmental Studies 6156 3.0: Critical Theory of International**  
**Development**  
**Environmental Studies 6175 3.0: Global Environmental Politics**  
**Communication & Culture 6120 3.0: Culture and the**  
**Environment**

## BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT

**Environmental Studies 6156 3.0: Critical Theory of International**  
**Development**  
**Disaster & Emergency Management 6300 3.0: Fundamentals of**  
**Logistics Management**  
**Disaster & Emergency Management 6362 3.0: Global Logistics**  
**and Operations Management**

## TECHNOLOGY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**Earth & Space Science 5420 3.0: Advanced Geospatial**  
**Information Technology**  
**Geography 5050 3.0: Geographical Information Systems and**  
**Spatial Analysis**  
**Geography 5015 3.0: Remote Sensing and Image Processing for**  
**Geographical Analysis and Environmental Monitoring**

## RISKS AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

**Environmental Studies 5068 3.0: Global Justice and**  
**Humanitarian Internationalism/Same as Environmental Studies**  
**4312 3.0**  
**Environmental Studies 5124 3.0: Development Studies**  
**Environmental Studies 6137 3.0: Women, Development and**  
**Globalization**  
**Environmental Studies 6147 3.0: Humanitarian Crises**  
**Environmental Studies 6156 3.0: Critical Theory of International**  
**Development**  
**Human Resources Management 6800 3.0: Global Mindsets and**  
**People Management**  
**Sociology 6310 3.0: Environmental Sociology**  
**Sociology 6315 3.0: Cultural Politics of Environment and**  
**Development II: Environmental Issues**