Humanitarian crises are on the rise globally and there is plenty of evidence pointing towards a greater intensity and scope of disasters over time. As a result, humanitarian action has taken on a new importance. At the same time, more is asked of humanitarian actors, with heightened demands for quality, accountability, and commitment to the principles of humanitarianism. Since 2011, the University of Malta has been offering a key to this rapidly-growing and ever-changing field, combining academic higher education and professional competences through its Masters in Humanitarian Action. The University of Malta is a member of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), an international association of universities that aims to enhance professionalism in humanitarian action through education & training, research & publications and projects.

The MA in Humanitarian Action touches upon a broad range of relevant themes - history, legal framework, ethics, communication, and contemporary issues among others. Most topics are addressed with a blend of lectures, practical case studies and group work. In fact, a highlight of the programme was the simulation organised to practice crisis assessment and project proposal writing for a response to a crisis. The MA programme has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the institutional and legal framework for humanitarian action. In fact, the knowledge gained has served me well in my current role covering civil protection and internal security issues.

Louisa Attard
Assistant Director - Inspirasia Foundation

Thanks to my Masters at UoM, I was able to be part of the humanitarian response in Tacloban, Philippines following Typhoon Yolanda. The MA in Humanitarian Action was a very good springboard to understanding the humanitarian system and the importance of working with affected populations. The experience also gave me the confidence to take on a job at the Inspirasia Foundation, which supports non-profits focused on health, disability, education, and disaster relief. Who knows what lies ahead? What I do know is that my decision to continue studying got me to where I am today, and it's been one exciting journey!

Mikhail Pisani
Senior Policy Officer - Perm. Rep. of Malta to the EU
What will I Study?

The M.A. in Humanitarian Action is multidisciplinary, offering insights from anthropological, health, legal, ethical, media, management, political, historical and forced migration and refugee angles. Students are encouraged to undertake a placement – in Malta or overseas – while writing their MA dissertations, further blending thinking and action. This holistic approach equips students with the required knowledge and skills to work in complex humanitarian settings when entering employment. Alumni of the Programme have gone on to occupy various positions at International Organisations such as the UNHCR and the IOM, government agencies (including diplomatic missions overseas) and NGOs and private foundations.

How long is the course?

The full-time programme extends over 3 semesters. Teaching is concentrated in semesters 1 and 2; the 3rd semester is devoted to completing an M.A. dissertation. The part-time variant extends over six semesters.

What do I need to apply?

Applicants should be in possession of a first degree, second class or equivalent, in any subject considered to be relevant by the Faculty Admissions Committee. Overseas applicants should have an internationally recognised English Language Proficiency Certificate at the required level (ex: Teofl, IELTS).