



MSC CRISIS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Managing and directing international humanitarian disaster relief in the field has been my career goal for a long time. I developed my passion for humanitarian

work during my undergraduate studies in rescue engineering at the Technical University of Cologne, after having completed my paramedic training and establishing a school paramedic service. These experiences motivated me to enrol in the Crisis and Disaster Management course at the University of Portsmouth. The postgraduate course stands out for its practically oriented teaching method, as it includes site visits and is taught by experts with extensive field experience. Another of its key features is international focus, both in terms of course content and class composition. I greatly value sharing information with my fellow students that is associated with the diversity of our backgrounds. The course will end with a final practical assessment during the SIMEX Series (<http://www.simexseries.org>), the UK's largest annual international disaster response exercise, involving more than 40 key organisations and over 2,000 participants.

The Crisis and Disaster Management course is enabling me to develop the skills to deal with complex issues and be able to apply disaster management strategies in multidisciplinary scenarios. The course's core units, such as Emergency Management & Planning and Disaster Management Techniques, accord perfectly with my future career objectives. Humanitarian Emergency Response & Recovery, an optional module, is particularly suited to my goals. Furthermore, by taking the programmes' opportunity to complete a voluntary work placement with an NGO, I will gain important practical experience.

Portsmouth, my new home on the south coast of England, is the UK's only island city. Since everything one needs is within walking distance, it is also the perfect student city. The train to London takes only 90 minutes and regular ferries connect to France and Spain. The Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, a strong maritime heritage, a diverse nightlife and the hovercraft port are just some of the city's interesting highlights.

Finally, my life will forever be changed by the people I have met here. With all this in mind, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany, but especially the Anglo-German Club Hamburg for their support, for their support, which has allowed me to gain this valuable experience of studying abroad.

Wilko Dirks, Ihlw
(currently University of Portsmouth)