



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY



University of Stellenbosch – Stellenbosch, South Africa

MASTERS OF PHILOSOPHY IN DISASTER RISK SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Rapid population growth, poverty and environmental pressures are increasing disaster risk in South and Southern Africa. Drought, flash-floods and fires are common, along with 'small disasters' in informal and low-cost housing settlements. These erode developmental gains and have a devastating impact on municipalities and households.

This MPhil program will be launching in February 2015. Building on the Honours DRS module, this course aims to consolidate a broad-based theoretical understanding of disaster risk, including the interplay between hazard and vulnerability factors. Through the use of case studies, it places disaster risk within rural and urban contexts, at regional scale and also with respect to its transboundary considerations. It aims at building strategic analytic and management capabilities across sectors, including critical risk reduction processes and practices.

Specific learning outcomes for this course are:

- Competence in understanding and analyzing disaster occurrences, patterns and trends in urban and rural contexts relevant to southern Africa
- Analytic and strategic planning competencies in addressing priority disaster risks
- Knowledge of critical ethical principles that guide responsible disaster risk management policy and practice
- Knowledge of DRR strategies and implications for implementation

Specific admission requirements:

- BA Honours or a BSc Honours who completed the existing honours module in Disaster Risk Studies (DRS) at Stellenbosch University.
- Students who have not completed the DRS honours module or students holding comparable qualifications from other universities will be considered.

Programme structure:

This one-year programme provides students with an integrated understanding of disaster risk and its implications for sustainable development in Africa, as well as competencies in risk assessment and risk reduction. It combines taught modules with a compulsory research thesis.

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