



University of Ghana – Accra, Ghana

UNDERGRADUATE MODULES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The University of Ghana offers two course modules on Disaster Risk Reduction at the undergraduate level. These are offered to fourth and final year undergraduate students.

These comprise:

1) Theories and Analytical Methods for Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (First semester)

The course introduces students to the Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) approach. It examines the concepts of environmental health and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the relationships between them. Students who fully participate in this course will gain a better understanding of the risk environment in Ghana and in Africa, more broadly. The module provides a strong foundation for those wishing to work or study further in the risk reduction field.

Key content areas:

- Concepts of IDRR (DRR, disaster events, vulnerability and resilience, livelihoods, etc)
- The global context, including the Hyogo Framework for Action and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- Risk accumulation processes
- Methods and tools for assessing urban vulnerability
- Ghana's disaster profile
- The institutional framework for DRR in Ghana

2) Policies & Strategies for Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (Second semester)

This module builds on the first semester course. It focuses on DRR and DRR-related policy and programme interventions undertaken by public and private actors in Ghana. The module has a strong practical component. Students will have the opportunity to visit a deprived community in Accra to experience first-hand examples of community initiatives aimed at reducing risk. Students will gain a better understanding of the connections between theory and practice, enabling them to design and implement independent research projects on DRR in a community of their choice.

Key content areas:

- Ghana's disaster profile of hazard (types, patterns and trends)
- Storm water and flood vulnerability in urban Ghana
- Seismic vulnerability in Ghana, known and projected risks
- Environmental health and disaster risk in Ghana
- Fires in informal settlements in urban areas

Specific admission requirements:

Based on the general requirements for pursuing an undergraduate degree programme in Geography and Resource Development at the University of Ghana.

Assessment & examination:

70% of students' mark for the module comprises course work and examination, 30% class and field assignments.

Contact details:

Point person and contact details: Jacob Songsore,
Department of Geography and Resource Development,
University of Ghana,
Legon,
Accra,
Ghana
Tel: 233 (0) 243 668 629
E-mail: songsore@ug.edu.gh