



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

Public Health Response in Disasters, 20 credits

Hälsoinsatser vid katastrofer, 20 hp

This course syllabus is valid from autumn 2013.

Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:

Autumn2013 , [Autumn2015](#) , [Autumn2017](#) , [Spring2018](#) , [Spring2020](#) , [Spring2021](#) , [Spring2022](#) , [Autumn2022](#)

Course code	2QA236
Course name	Public Health Response in Disasters
Credits	20 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Public Health in Disasters
Level	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Grading scale	Fail (F), fail (Fx), sufficient (E), satisfactory (D), good (C), very good (B) or excellent (A)
Department	Department of Global Public Health
Decided by	Board of Higher Education
Decision date	2014-06-23
Course syllabus valid from	Autumn 2013

Specific entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree or a professional degree equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits. And proficiency in English equivalent to English B/English 6.

Objectives

The aims of the course are to provide competencies, to adequately prioritize, plan, implement and monitor public health interventions in disaster relief, based on needs and risks.

Module 1

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- explain how different health determinants influence vulnerability and a society's ability to cope with disasters.
- define various types of disasters and describe how they can be prevented, as well as how their negative influence on the public health can be mitigated.

Skills and abilities

- in a multistage process explain and plan how data and information about health risks and health needs can be sought, analysed and assessed in disasters.

Judgement and approach

- evaluate how various types of disasters influence public health.

Module 2.

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- explain principles of and handling of mass-casualty situations
- explain the principles of evaluation of health actions at disaster actions.

Skills and abilities

- plan for epidemiological surveillance in disasters situations.

Judgement and approach

- relate to disaster response systems, their potentials and weaknesses.
- argue for different strategies intended to meet the public health needs of the disaster.
- argue for the most important components for control of infectious diseases.

Content

The course is divided in two modules:

Pre-disaster and Disaster Situations - Global Perspective, 8 hp The current part of the course brings up established definitions of various types of disasters and strategies to prevent and mitigate damage effects of these. Further the module covers health-related needs at various types of emergency situations and methods for analysis and assessment of health state, the epidemiological profile and health-related needs at disasters.

In this part, lectures and individual reading is included, where the student as examination assignment will make a risk analysis and proposal give proposal on measures that mitigate these risks. **Public Health Response in Disasters, 12 hp** The part of the course follows after assessments of health-related needs in a disaster. Important fields are: Priorities and organisation of health actions, epidemiological supervision and control of infectious diseases. Specific strategies for mass-casualty situations and industrial disasters are highlighted. The module is completed with methods and principles of evaluation of health actions.

Teaching methods

Interactive lectures. Web-based assignments in groups and individual, simulation exercises and discussion seminars.

Examination

The two modules will be examined individually In each module, compulsory parts are also included, where active participation is required.

Module 1.

The examination consists of a written assignment.

Module 2.

The examination consists of two written assignments. One of these assignments will be presented in the student group at a compulsory seminar. This examination includes a "peer learning-part" where the students review and give feedback on each other's work.

Student who has not passed the regular examination has a right to participate at further five examinations.

The student will receive a final grade for the whole course (A-F). The final grade is an appraisal of the results in the different examinations. In order to pass the course, the student must obtain at least grade E in all examinations. In order to get a higher grade, at least two examinations require the higher grade and the third examination must not be graded less than two grades below. To pass the course, one must obtain at least grade E in all examinations. To obtain a higher grade, this grade in at least two examinations is required and not more than two grades lower on the third and the fourth examination.

Transitional provisions

After each course there will be at least 6 occasions for examination within a two-year period.

Other directives

Course evaluation will be carried out according to the guidelines that are established by the Board of education. The course will be given in English. The course may not be included in a higher education qualification at the same time with the overview and passed course, whose contents completely or partly corresponds to the course content.

Literature and other teaching aids

Part 1

Required reading

Global Health : an introductory textbook

Lindstrand, Ann

Lund : Studentlitteratur, 2006 - 327 s.

ISBN:91-44-02198-4 LIBRIS-ID:9987549

[Library search](#)

Public health guide in emergencies

John Hopkins School of Public Health, International federation of Red Cross red Crescent Societies, 2008

Recommended reading

Handbook IMCI Integrated management of childhood illness

Geneva : World Health Organization, 2005 - 163 s.

LIBRIS-ID:11929400

URL: [Länk](#)

Rapid health assessment in refugee or displaced populations

Médecins Sans Frontières, 2006

Refugee health : an approach to emergency situations

London : MacMillan, 1997 - 380 s.

ISBN:0-333-72210-8 LIBRIS-ID:8283641

[Library search](#)

Schreeb, Johan von

Needs assessment for international humanitarian health assistance in disasters

Stockholm : 2007 - 95 s.

ISBN:978-91-7357-375-7 LIBRIS-ID:10599321

URL: [Online](#)

[Library search](#)

WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children

WHO/Unicef, Geneva, 2009

Part 2

Required reading

Beck, Tony

Evaluating humanitarian action using the OECD-DAC criteria An ALNAP guide for humanitarian agencies

ALNAP, Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance, 2006

Connolly, M. A.

Communicable disease control in emergencies : a field manual

Geneva : World Health Organization, c2005. - vii, 295 p.

ISBN:92-4-154616-6 LIBRIS-ID:10160940

[Library search](#)

Handbook for emergencies, 3d edition

UNHCR© United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, 2007

Public health guide in emergencies

John Hopkins School of Public Health, International federation of Red Cross red Crescent Societies, 2008

The Sphere handbook, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response

The Sphere project, 2011

Checchi, Gayer, Freeman Grais and Mills

Public health in crisis- affected populations A practical guide for decision-makers

Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI , HPN, 2007

Recommended reading

Clinical guidelines: Diagnosis and treatment manual for curative programmes in hospitals and dispenseries:

Médecins sans Frontières, 2010

Essential drugs: Practical guidelines

Médecins sans Frontières, 2011

Manual for the health care of children in humanitarian emergencies:

WHO, Geneva, 2008

Medical response to major incidents and disasters : a practical guide for all medical staff

Lennquist, Sten

Heidelberg : Springer, c2012. - xxiv, 412 p.

ISBN:978-3-642-21894-1 (alk. paper) LIBRIS-ID:13597503

[Library search](#)

Pocket book of Hospital care for children: Guidelines for the management of common illnesses with limited resources

WHO, Geneva, 2005

Pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and newborn care: A guide for essential practice

WHO, 2003

Rapid health assessment in refugee or displaced populations

Médecins Sans Frontières, 2006

Refugee health : an approach to emergency situations

London : MacMillan, 1997 - 380 s.

ISBN:0-333-72210-8 LIBRIS-ID:8283641

[Library search](#)

WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children

WHO/Unicef, Geneva, 2009

Young, Helen; Jaspars, Susanne

The meaning and measurement of acute malnutrition in emergencies: a primer for decision-makers

Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI , HPN, 2006

Articles and lecture presentations, which will be provided during the course.