The number, intensity, and impact of diverse forms of crises, emergencies, conflicts, and disasters are increasing. During the past ten years alone, an estimated 1.5 billion people have been affected by some form of disaster, complex or conflict-related event.

This new and innovative multidisciplinary programme examines the role of global (i.e., national, regional, and international) law, policy, and practice across the spectrum of possible conflicts, ‘man-made’ and ‘natural’ disasters. It further considers significant crises not escalating to the scale of conflict or disaster, as well as complex emergencies. The programme will reflect current and changing global priorities such as the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; UN Climate Change Conference 2015; UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015; and the World Humanitarian Summit 2016.

There are a number of overarching themes and questions, including: the relationship between different legal regimes; the role law does and should have in responding to crises, conflicts, or disasters; the relationship between law and non-legal disciplines; humanitarianism, sustainability, resilience, disaster risk reduction, and disaster management.
Syllabus

The School of Law is collaborating with a number of other schools for the delivery of this programme, including: Archaeology, Geography, and Environmental Science; Agriculture, Policy and Development; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; Politics, Economics and International Relations; Humanities; Biological Sciences; and International Capital Market Association.

Planned Law modules include:

- Foundational Concepts, Principles, and Actors
- Human Rights Law, Policy, and Practice
- Public International Law
- International Refugee Law
- International Law and the Regulation of Armed Conflict
- Disaster Management
- Morality and Governance
- Conflict and Disaster Case Studies
- International Criminal Justice and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding
- Climate Change Disasters
- Technologies and Weaponry
- Research project
- Professional placement

Non-law modules are expected to include such topics as:

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Preparing for Floods
- Food Security and Development
- Governance, Accountability and Development
- Gender and Development
- Contemporary Diplomacy
- Conflict in the Middle East
- Building Peace after Civil War
- Conflict and Violence in Twentieth Century Africa

Employability

The programme is expected to appeal especially to law and non-law graduates who are early to mid-career professionals working in roles dealing with different types of crises, conflicts and/or disasters, particularly those drawn from governmental, intergovernmental, private/corporate/insurance, civil society/non-governmental sectors wishing to broaden and deepen their existing areas of expertise. It will be suitable too for recent graduates, those on career breaks, and career changers.

In recognition of the inherently multidimensional nature of issues addressed by the programme, multidisciplinarity is embedded within a number of modules as well as the programme as a whole. A variety of teaching, learning and assessment methods, together with the opportunity for professional mentoring and placements, will be used to develop core employability skills. It is also hoped to include a practical dimension to the programme.

Postgraduate research opportunities

There are also opportunities for students to undertake postgraduate research for the award of PhD on issues covered by the programme as well as on disaster law more generally. For further details see the School of Law’s website (www.reading.ac.uk/law - postgraduate research). We welcome informal enquiries which should be addressed to the Director of Postgraduate Research at law@reading.ac.uk.

The University of Reading School of Law

The University of Reading, School of Law is a leading UK Law School with a world class reputation. The Law School has a dynamic and international learning environment, our teaching is supported by first class research, with renowned experts across the main fields of national, European and international law. We provide active career development and co-curricular opportunities including a series of guest lectures by visiting practitioners and academics. We are rated among the top law schools in the UK across a number of rankings for students satisfaction, offering state-of-the-art learning facilities and resources, great pastoral support and a thriving student community.

Scholarships available

For more details visit www.reading.ac.uk/law