

# MA Risk, Security and Politics

*Explore risk and resilience in a political context, focusing on the use of risk in governing populations and how uncertainty plays a critical role in modern society.*

## Introduction

The MA in Risk, Security and Politics explores the concepts of risk and resilience by focusing on their political resonance and revealing how risk can be used as a political tool to govern societies across the globe. It also examines the ways in which uncertainty contributes to the make-up of contemporary society.

This interdisciplinary course is an ideal choice if you have a social science or geography background, and it is equally accessible to those who previously studied in the arts and humanities. It develops the essential skills and knowledge needed to make a critical analysis of risk as a tool of government in tackling a range of global challenges from climate change, displacement and disasters to geopolitics, security and terrorism.

You will study taught modules in subjects that include the understanding, managing and preventing of risk, the social dimensions of risk, and the latest skills and techniques involved in working with geographic information.

The core programme is delivered by a team of subject specialists in the Department of Geography. You can also tailor the course to your interests with the option to choose approved modules from the School of Government and International Affairs and Sociology Department.



## Course Timetable

| Term 1<br>October to December                                    | Term 2<br>January to March                            | Term 3<br>April to June                              | Summer<br>June to August                             |
|--|---|--|--|
| Understanding Risk (30 credits)                                  | Risk Frontiers (15 credits)                           | Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits) | Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits) |
| Research Methods for Global Challenges (15 credits)              | Social Dimensions of Risk and Resilience (15 credits) | Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits)     |  |
| Option 1: Social Policy and Society (30 credits)                 | Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)  |  |  |
| Option 2: The Politics of Global Europe (30 credits)             |   |  |  |
| Option 3: International Politics of the Middle East (30 credits) |   |  |  |
| Option 4: The Politics of East Asia (30 credits)                 |   |  |  |

# List of Modules

You will take the following modules which, together, add up to 180 credits:

## **Understanding Risk (30 credits) (Term 1)**

Provides an overview of the key theories and concepts that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of risk involving human action and environmental events. You will learn the basic concepts and terms used to describe and communicate risk, as well as studying interventions involved in managing, preventing or mitigating against risk to populations, and building an understanding of the determinants of risk and its social inequalities.

## **Research Methods for Global Challenges (15 credits) (Term 1)**

The module will provide advanced training in the use of research skills and techniques, with the aim of developing a range of transferable skills relevant to researching sustainable futures amid global challenges.

## **Risk Frontiers (15 credits) (Term 2)**

Is delivered by the Institute of Hazard and Risk Research. This module looks at current risk research and provides training in the generic skills of interpreting, criticising and collating the emerging research. What you learn will help meet the demands of the risk industry and associated areas such as disaster reduction, security, development and humanitarian relief.

## **Social Dimensions of Risk and Resilience (15 credits) (Term 2)**

This module considers issues relating to locations and timings, along with the key physical characteristics, of a variety of hazards. It offers both theoretical and practical training in how to understand and quantify such dimensions of hazards.

## **Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits) (Term 3)**

This module develops practical skills of leadership, engagement and dissemination relevant to creating sustainable futures.

## **Dissertation or Vocational dissertation (60 credits) (Terms 2, 3 and summer)**

The dissertation allows students to design and execute an extended piece of research on a particular problem, challenge, or issue at the intersection of climate change and risk. The vocational dissertation option is based on working with a non-academic partner.

*Plus 30 credits from one of:*

### **Social Policy and Society (30 credits) (Terms 1 and 2)**

Sociology Dept

### **The Politics of Global Europe (30 credits) (Terms 1 and 2)**

School of Govt and International Affairs

### **International Politics of the Middle East (30 credits) (Terms 1 and 2)**

School of Govt and International Affairs

### **The Politics of East Asia (30 credits) (Terms 1 and 2)**

School of Govt and International Affairs



## **Contact**

For more information please visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/pfxvhm5>

Find out about our Open Days and Virtual Tours visit:  
[www.dur.ac.uk/visit-us/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/visit-us/)

For general enquiries visit:  
[www.dur.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-contact-us/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-contact-us/)

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