Durham University
Department of Geography

Inspiring the extraordinary

MSc Climate, Risk and Society

Explore the risks posed by climate change and how understanding of this risk is evolving

Introduction

The MSc in Climate, Risk and Society takes a **natural science** approach to climate risk. Designed to equip you with an in-depth understanding of how human influence on climate is creating new risks, challenges and greater social vulnerability, it also teaches the necessary skills to develop effective responses to such natural and socio-political threats.

The course is likely to appeal to those with a background in natural science, social science or engineering. It explores how climate risk is defined and managed by individuals, governments and organisations, and considers the decisions they make when addressing uncertainty and the threats it poses to environments and communities across the globe.

The MSc Climate, Risk & Society provides students with an advanced understanding of anthropogenic climate change as an issue that poses new risks to society. The MSc Climate, Risk and Society course provokes students to think critically about how evolving understandings of risk, resilience and vulnerability shape efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

To further embed practice into the course, we work closely with the University's Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR). Through this, you will gain a vital insight into practitioner and academic perspectives at the forefront of risk thinking and practice. The IHRR also hosts an annual seminar series tailored specifically to students on the climate risk postgraduate programmes.

Course Timetable

Term 1 October to December	**Term 2** January to March	**Term 3** April to June	**Summer** June to August
Understanding Risk (30 credits)	Risk Frontiers (15 credits)	Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)
Environmental Data Science (30 credits)	Option 1: Climate and Environmental Change Past and Present (15 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)	
Climate Change and Society (15 credits)	Option 2: Anticipating Future Environments (15 credits)		
	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 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.

Environmental Data Science (30 credits) (Term 1)
This module will develop advanced data analysis skills such as programming, modelling and GIS, using datasets that allow advanced insight to a range of environmental processes as well as experience in a range of data sources.

Climate Change and Society (15 credits) (Term 1)
Provides an advanced understanding of human influence-based climate change as an issue that poses new risks to society, and will help you to develop tools for responding to these emerging natural and socio-political threats. You learn to think critically about how evolving understandings of risk, resilience and vulnerability shape efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Risk Frontiers (15 credits) (Term 2)
Is delivered in collaboration with the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience. 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.

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 and 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.

Contact
For more information please visit:
https://tinyurl.com/yvne54y9

Find out about our Open Days and Virtual Tours visit:
www.dur.ac.uk/visit-us/

For general enquiries visit:
www.dur.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-contact-us/

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