



**Stenden
SouthAfrica**
A campus of Stenden University*

"Unleash Your Potential"

BBA in Disaster Management

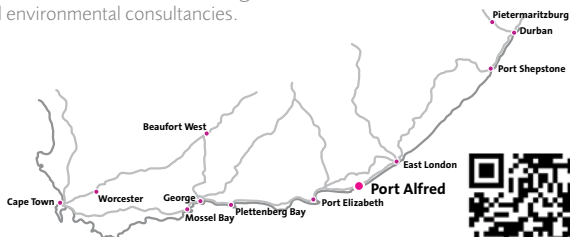


Everybody wants to live in a society where they are able to flourish and live meaningful lives. Communities all over the world are becoming increasingly more vulnerable to disasters, whether natural or man-made. Disaster Management is more than just response and relief, it is a cyclical and systematic process based on key management principles. The Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Disaster Management is the first of its kind in the world and provides students with professional and practical skills combined with a multi-disciplinary academic approach. In their third year of study students will also have an opportunity to pursue a specialisation in a specific area of Disaster Management. These could include:

- Peacebuilding and conflict resolution
- Community building and risk/vulnerability reduction
- Food security in Africa
- International protocol and diplomacy
- Climate change, severe weather, extreme events and disasters

The closely associated fields of disaster management and disaster risk reduction are growing exponentially and this qualification enables the student to extend his/her skills beyond just the immediate relief and recovery environment during industrial placement. Students will be exposed to the whole disaster management cycle, from prevention and mitigation, assessment of risk and vulnerability, and to response, relief and recovery from disaster impacts.

The range of careers depends on the motivation and drive of the student and can range from international agencies including the United Nations and the Red Cross/Red Crescent; to national, regional and local levels of governments (formal disaster management structures); universities; the security and risk management industry; emergency management; hospitals; community relief organisations; agricultural and climate-related organisations, and environmental consultancies.




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* Stenden University is a University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands. Over 10.000 students are studying and more than 800 employees are currently working at Stenden university. The university has campus sites in the Netherlands; Leeuwarden, Emmen, Groningen, Meppel and Assen; a campus in Doha (Qatar), Bangkok (Thailand), Bali (Indonesia) and Port Alfred (South Africa). The university offers 3 associate degrees, 19 bachelor programmes and 4 master programmes in the fields of (Service) Management, Education, Care, Economics and Engineering.

BBA in DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A brief synopsis

The BBA in Disaster Management was developed over more than a decade after it became clear that the field of disaster management and disaster risk reduction especially the relief/response/recovery aspect thereof, needed to be standardised and professionalised. Desktop research indicated that in 2004, there were approximately 400 000 jobs in the disaster management sector internationally. There was general consensus that training for people in the field of disaster management needs to be professionalised. Stenden decided that the best vehicle to do so would be a Bachelor of Business Administration in Disaster Management (a 4 year honours equivalent degree).

The degree is accredited by the South African Qualification Authority and the South African Council on Higher Education, under 2002/HE10/001.

The degree comes at a time when the number of disasters is increasing worldwide and with climate change, this is a trend that scientists believe will escalate. Disasters affect the poor and at-risk populations of the developing world, more so than the First World.

Course content

It is important to know that this is essentially a management degree and as such, key skills and competencies is emphasised throughout the study. Modules include:

- Disaster Management theory
- Logistics Management
- Project Management
- Strategic management
- Financial Management
- International Law
- Human Resource Management
- Quality Management
- ICT (including GIS)
- Languages (Communication skills in English, French and Spanish)
- Research methods and field research

Throughout the three years of study, Work Integrated Learning is very important and students will be exposed to various short placements in organisations within the field of disaster management. The entire curriculum is infused with a strong awareness around climate change and the effects that this will have on human populations. The link between environment and people is emphasised throughout. The last semester of year three is used to expand the research capabilities of students, as year four of study is very research-oriented. Year four entails a 10 month internship placement. During this period the students explore the real world of work and it has a strong research orientation.

Delivery of the course

The course will be delivered in modules of 10 weeks each. Four modules will be covered in each of the first three years. Year four is an industry placement with a research emphasis.

The three delivery strategies we follow at Stenden South Africa are;

1. Problem Based Learning: classes of no more than 12 students approach a "problem" as a group, assess what the group already knows (prior knowledge), define what they must research in order to "solve" the problem, collate all research in presentable knowledge products and present it to an audience.
2. Work Integrated Learning: throughout the first three years of study, students will be placed at various organisations that deal with the entire scope of the disaster management field. In year one we start with operations and escalate to supervisory tasks in year two. In year three, the student is exposed to networking, project management and general management tasks. This is done to ensure the students are prepared for the real world of work.
3. Research: in year four the student is placed in a work environment for 10 months. The key academic task of the students at this time is to do applied research in a real world setting.

EMPLOYABILITY

Graduates can work in Government Departments (Disaster Management structures), NGOs, in Agriculture and Climatology/Meteorology, the Insurance Industry, Manufacturing and Law Enforcement; Emergency Management; in national and international relief/humanitarian organisations, and in research/academic organisations.

Graduates would have the necessary skills and qualifications to apply for further studies at masters and doctoral level at the University of the Free State, North West University, and Stellenbosch University. Possibilities also exist for further study internationally.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Refer to the Stenden webpage:
<http://www.stenden.ac.za/admission>

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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