



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# Master of Natural Hazards

Frequently Asked Questions



10 May 2003 Eruption of Anatahan Volcano, Mariana Islands. Photo by A. Sauter

ANU COLLEGE OF ASIA & THE PACIFIC  
ANU COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL & MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES  
CRAWFORD SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & GOVERNMENT

CRICOS #00120C



Prayers at the Balakot Mosque, Pakistan after the destruction of the Mw 7.6 earthquake on 8 October 2005 (photo by Jason A. Lonon)

## FAQ's

- **Can I do the program part time?**

Yes. Many of our students take the program part time. The recommended part time program involves two classes per semester for 2 yrs, but could be tailored otherwise to your personal circumstances. In the first semester, the two classes (HGE08001 and EMSC8706) are co-taught with roughly 6-8 lecture hours per week for 3-4 weeks, then both courses morph into separate (online) reading courses for the remainder of the semester with periodic group meetings. The second semester courses (HGE08002 and EMSC8707) will run completely separately (as would be normal at the ANU) and roughly 3-4 lecture/practical hours per week for each class.

- **I work full time. How many contact hours per week are expected?**

In the first semester, the two classes (HGE08001 and EMSC8706) are co-taught with roughly 6-8 lecture hours per week for 3-4 weeks, then both courses morph into separate (online) reading courses for the remainder of the semester with periodic group meetings. The second semester courses (HGE08002 and EMSC8707) will run completely separately (as would be normal at the ANU) and roughly 3-4 lecture/practical hours per week for each class. Similar flexible arrangements, such as holding of intensive class sessions for the first three weeks and on-line reading and discussion activities for the remainder of the semester, can be arranged for HGE08002.

- **I live in a foreign country. What are the options for distance learning?**

As a significant part of our program is available on the ANU distance education system (Wattle), the program can be taken pseudo-distance. By this, we mean that you would need to be in Canberra for 2-6 weeks per semester. Also, your electives would have to be carefully chosen as only some are offered as distance or intensive learning.

- **I cannot afford Canberra housing ...**

There is a new initiative within The ANU that pairs students with faculty members for housing. This type of accommodation is at a reduced rate. See more at <http://accom.anu.edu.au/>

- **At what time of year can I start the program?**

The program can be started in either the first or second semester beginning end of February or the end of July, respectively.

- **I'm afraid of physical science classes (and/or laboratory practicals) ...**

The physical science classes are meant to provide you with an understanding of the factors involved in the mechanisms of the hazards, with emphasis on qualitative understanding. No prior knowledge is required. You will be taught everything you need to know. The laboratories and fieldtrips are designed to be fun and worked on in groups. You will be able to answer questions such as: Why do landslides occur on this side of the road and not that side?, Why does the damage from some earthquakes spread throughout a large geographic region, whereas others are only felt locally?, Why do some volcanoes have explosive eruptions, whereas others flow?

- **I'm afraid of social science classes ...**

The social science classes are meant to provide you with an understanding of the factors involved in the human dimension of the disaster. Whatever introductory course that you might have taken in the past on social sciences will suffice. The courses will walk you through the different disciplinary/theoretical and practical/pragmatic concerns on disaster loss reduction and hazard impact management at the international, national and local scales.

- **Where can I find out more?**

Visit <http://naturalhazards.anu.edu.au/master> or email [natural.hazards@anu.edu.au](mailto:natural.hazards@anu.edu.au)