


GADRI Membership Application Form

 <p>CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA</p>	
Name of Institute:	Charles Darwin University
Address:	Ellengowan Drive, Darwin, Northern Territory 0810, Australia
Contact:	Dr. Akhilesh Surjan
Title:	Associate Professor / Research and Theme Leader-HEDM Program
Institute web address:	https://www.cdu.edu.au/study/humanitarian-emergency-disaster-management
Institute webpage URL: https://www.cdu.edu.au/	
<p>Institute Outline:</p> <p>The Humanitarian, Emergency and Disaster Management Studies (HEDM) program at the Charles Darwin University (CDU) delivers advanced, globally competitive knowledge and practical skills to students from a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds. The program is situated at the door-step of the Asia-Pacific, the most disaster-prone region in the world.</p> <p>Through our degree programs and research, students learn how to approach disaster, emergency and community risks holistically. Teaching is informed by CDU's strong relationships with nationally and internationally respected industry and research partners. Interactive lectures are delivered by some of the world's leading experts in the discipline. Most of the courses are available in-campus and online.</p> <p>HEDM offers an interdisciplinary research program that deals with human dimensions of natural hazards, disaster and environmental risks and climate change adaptation. The potential research supervisors are world-class scholars in their field of research. Higher Degree by Research (HDR) at the Charles Darwin University covers the degrees of Masters by Research (MRes) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). HDR students engage in a supervised</p>	

research project that demonstrates their ability to make a contribution to knowledge in a chosen field of study.

Research Interests (areas of research disciplines, number of faculty members, etc.):

Our programs often geographically focus on Australia and the Asia-Pacific, which are severely affected by disasters due to hazards ranging from hydrological, meteorological, climatological, geological, biological and technological (man-made). As a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) student, one can choose from a wide range of topics to research, including cross-cutting themes of social-economical-political dimensions of risk, vulnerabilities and capacities of different communities, regions, cultures and governance systems; traditional and Indigenous knowledge; participatory approaches and role of media, advocacy and communication, to name a few.

Prospective students and collaborators are encouraged to discuss their specific area of interest or topic of inquiry. Some of our ongoing research interests are listed below and we are always open to discuss new research ideas:

- Australian disaster management policy reform
- COVID-19: Linking emergency services and health epidemics
- Disaster risk governance and decentralization in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region
- Humanitarian, emergency and disaster risk management ecosystems
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience in human settlements
- Crisis and disaster communication strategy in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region
- Enhancing disaster policy and decision making
- Governing early warning systems
- Public health emergencies and linkages with emergency and disaster management
- Role of volunteers and non-government organizations in disaster risk reduction
- Governing climate change adaptation in urban / rural settings as well as agriculture and livestock sectors
- Institutional and governance dimension of managing risk, natural hazards and climate extreme events including floods, droughts and heat waves.
- Long-term observation of community-based and/or community-led disaster risk management practices in Asia-Pacific region
- Seismic culture and other disaster sub-culture in Asia-Pacific region

- Social and economic dimension of natural hazards and disasters
- Social network analysis and disaster studies
- Strengthening Community Resilience to geohazards and climate hazards
- Understanding long-term recovery trends in Australia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific [at >30 years timescale]

Key CDU experts are:

- Dr. Akhilesh Surjan, Associate Professor:
<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/higher-degree-research/find-supervisor/disaster-mgmt/associate-professor-akhilesh-surjan>, Email: akhilesh.surjan@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Jonatan A. Lassa, Senior Lecturer:
<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/higher-degree-research/find-supervisor/disaster-mgmt/dr-jonatan-lassa>; Email: jonatan.lassa@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Rodney Eksteen, Lecturer:
<https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/persons/rodney-eksteen> , Email: rodney.eksteen@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Kamaljit Sangha, Associate Professor:
<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/higher-degree-research/find-supervisor/environment/associate-professor-kamaljit-k-sangha> , Email: kamaljit.sangha@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Kerstin Zander, Professor:
<https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/persons/kerstin-zander>, Email: kerstin.zander@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Matthew Abunyewah, Lecturer:
<https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/persons/matthew-abunyewah>, Email: matthew.abunyewah@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Andrew Edwards, Senior Research Fellow:
<https://www.cdu.edu.au/research-and-innovation/higher-degree-research/find-supervisor/environment/dr-andrew-edwards>, Email: andrew.edwards@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Rohan Fisher, Research Officer:
<https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/persons/rohan-fisher> , Email: rohan.fisher@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Deepika Mathur, Senior Research Fellow:
<https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/persons/deepika-mathur>, Email: deepika.mathur@cdu.edu.au
- Dr. Jeremy Russell-Smith, Professor:
<https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/persons/jeremy-russell-smith>, Email: Jeremy.Russell-Smith@cdu.edu.au

A brief description of Research Achievements and Challenges:

The HEDM program of CDU delivers comprehensive knowledge of crisis events and current frameworks and best practice in domestic and international response. Students and researchers have the capacity to synthesize and operate in both national and overseas emergency events appropriately, collaboratively, and productively.

The HEDM program specializes in current approaches to Emergency and Disaster Management in the Asia-Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand. Concepts including vulnerability, risk, resilience, disaster management, humanitarian assistance, risk governance are defined and applied to the Asia-Pacific. The specific needs of vulnerable groups in emergencies are identified, along with the different technical areas of operation required to respond to these needs, in alignment with regional compliance frameworks. Knowledge of initial and rapid needs assessment, and Post-Disaster Needs Assessment processes and tools is also gained.

Leadership in humanitarian assistance and disaster management is central to the program. The principles and structures of emergency cells and coordination mechanisms in both Australia and the region; different national frameworks for emergency and disaster management; regional agreements, and regional and international governance frameworks for emergency and disaster practice are explained. Techniques and protocols for effective leadership, communication, interrelationships, and cross-sector cooperation are built via participation in case-based scenarios. Crucial aspects of crisis leadership are analyzed through diagnostic study of black swan events in domestic and international settings.

Emergency and disaster management is situated within multiple social, political, religious, and cultural contexts. Different codes of practice and ethical considerations for humanitarian response in East and South-East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands exists. The important role of regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, Pacific Islands Forum, international non-governmental organizations, humanitarian actors and aid providers, local, provincial, and national governments is elaborated for effective coordination and appropriate response.

The HEDM program has a strong history of delivering on-the-ground scenarios in an intensive two-week format. Exercises have been delivered in partnership with industry, have involved people from diverse cultures and have been delivered across CDU's network of Northern Territory campuses.

Interdisciplinary aspects of humanitarian response and disaster relief are highlighted with in-depth case studies from Australian bushfires, floods, cyclones as well as international case studies from other parts of the world. Natural hazards and human induced disasters

often requires greater understanding of cross cutting themes and sectors such as - business continuity planning, resilience of islands and remote communities, community-based indigenous, traditional and modern knowledge on disaster risk reduction, differential disasters impacts on marginalized populations, genders, children, private sector, lifeline infrastructure and services, conflicts or climate induced forced or voluntary migration and stakeholder engagement. Critical understanding on these topics is made relevant by case-methods and problem-based learning.

Comparative advantage/contribution to GADRI Activities:

CDU's HEDM program provides a comprehensive understanding that enhances the capacity of students to use knowledge appropriately, collaboratively and productively in vulnerable regions of the world. It creates a solid foundation that enables students to translate academic developments into practical responses and translates professional experience into the academic sphere of this rapidly evolving sector. This is an in-depth and comprehensive research program encompassing uniqueness by way of (i) focus on Australia and Asia-Pacific Region; (ii) informed by practice and research; and (iii) multi-sectoral approach. CDU is actively seeking partnership with GADRI members to work productively in the areas of mutual interest.

Expected Outputs/Results: