

**GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA  
DEFENCE UNIVERSITY**

(MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF UNIVERSITIES)

**CURRICULUM**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DISASTER RISK  
REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), established under the Sir John Kotelawala Defence Academy Act No: 68 of 1981 and subsequent amendments is a UGC approved Degree awarding Defence University in Sri Lanka.

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

## INTRODUCTION

1. In 2015, an MoU was devised in recognition of the common ethos and objectives shared by University of York and General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, in applied research, teaching and engagement in disaster risk reduction and development. With this MoU, both Universities share a commitment to increase the direct, positive and practical linkages between theory, policy and practice through their teaching and applied research, as well as a commitment to build capacity within state, civil society and private sector actors in these fields. In comply with this requirement; Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit University of York and Department of Social Sciences KDU facilitate the development of a globally relevant MSc programme in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development at KDU focusing on the South Asian Region.

**Name:** MSc in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development (DRRD)

**Duration:** 2 Years (24 months)

**Orientation:** Multidisciplinary

**Focus:** Academic, Policy and Practice

**Audience:** Individuals that are working with disaster and development issues in Sri Lanka / individuals who wish to enter into the field of disaster and development / students from South Asia region.

**Methodology:** Research-led / Participatory/ Practice-led

**The Idea:** Sri Lanka is often subjected to natural and man-made disaster. It also has expertise of people-owned development processes. Over the years, people have developed their own knowledge systems to effectively deal with disasters and uneven development issues. This proposed MSc programme is an opportunity to establish a research-led teaching and learning process to train existing and future academics; policy makers and practitioners work and lead the field of disasters and development in line with developed systems in the world.

2. The proposed MSc will train disaster, development and humanitarian workers to engage at policy and practice levels to promote disaster risk reduction mechanisms, strategies, programmes and policies that lead to sustainable development. This MSc is

designed to be compliant with the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF). The level of qualification of MSc (DRRD) is, Level 10 with 60 credits.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- a. To establish a Sri Lankan and South Asian community that actively contributes and leads the changing nature of DRRD.
- b. To improve the employability and career progression of graduates in the field of disaster and development.
- c. To offer a link from theory to practice with actual opportunities for teaching and learning in field sites.
- d. To connect disaster and development sectors to establish a field of study that establishes more effective and efficient policy and practice.
- e. To assist governing groups of the country to alleviate disaster issues in prompt manner by improving human resources.

## **INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

3. On successful completion of the MSc (DRRD), the students will be able to;
  - a. Demonstrate critical awareness of current issues in the area of disaster risk reduction and development
  - b. Apply techniques relevant to disaster risk reduction and development
  - c. Deal with complex issues related to disasters systematically and creatively
  - d. Make sound judgments on the subject area of disaster risk reduction and development and communicate these decisions clearly to specialist and non-specialist groups
  - e. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems related to disaster risk reduction and development
  - f. Plan and implement tasks related to disaster risk reduction and development at professional manner.

## **PROGRESSION OF THE COURSE**

4. Completion of SLQF level 10 meets the entry requirement to an MPhil degree in the same field of specialization. Early exit from this level is possible provided that the candidate

has completed 25 credits in course work. In such a situation, the qualification awarded shall be Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant field, which is at SLQF level 8

To achieve the key objectives of the MSc (DRRD), the following modules will be established within the MSc programme (Annex A & Annex B).

### **BY LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

5. The MSc (DRRD) will be abided by the By-Laws and Regulations pertaining to Master Degree programmes offered by the KDU.

### **PROSPECTS**

6. Officers of the Tri forces will be benefited with the successful completion of a MSc in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development degree at KDU in following ways,

a. Upon retirement, officers in the Tri services will be in a position to apply for a quality employment in a higher managerial/ executive position in a private or public sector.

b. MSc in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development qualification from KDU will enable those who employed in various appointments in the discipline to perform with confidence.

c. MSc in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development qualification from the KDU will be motivating factors for them to carry out their further studies towards Mphil/PhDs in the same discipline.

d. Above will enable them to become qualified officers with better carrier opportunities after retirement.

**ANNEX -A**

**COURSE SYLLABUS OF MSc IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
AND DEVELOPMENT**

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester</b>
DRRD 5113	Disaster and Development	3	1
DRRD 5123	Geology and Natural Disasters	3	1
DRRD 5134	Models of Disaster Risk Reduction – 1	4	1
DRRD 5143	Geo-informatics for Disaster Management	3	1
DRRD 5214	Models of Disaster Risk Reduction – 2	4	2
DRRD 5223	Project Management	3	2
DRRD 5231	Communication in Disasters	1	2
DRRD 5243	Monitoring and Evaluation	3	2
DRRD 5253	Geo-informatics Application	3	2
DRRD 6314	Research Methods	4	3
DRRD 6323	Communities in Disaster	3	3
DRRD 6333	Climate Change	3	3
DRRD 6343	Urban and Rural Disasters	3	3
DRRD 6415	Field Practicum	5	4
	Research and Dissertation	15	4
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>60</b>	

## DIVISION OF SUBJECTS AND CREDITS FOR EACH SEMESTER

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Total Credits per Semester</b>
01	Disaster and Development	3	13
	Geology and Natural Disasters	3	
	Models of Disaster Risk Reduction – 1	4	
	Geo-informatics for Disaster Management	3	
02	Models of Disaster Risk Reduction – 2	4	14
	Project Management	3	
	Communication in Disasters	1	
	Monitoring and Evaluation	3	
	Geo-informatics Application	3	
03	Research Methods	4	13
	Communities in Disaster	3	
	Climate Change	3	
	Urban and Rural Disasters	3	
04	Field Practicum	5	20
	Research and Dissertation	15	
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>60</b>	

**Subject coding**

DRRD	MSc in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development
First Digit	Year
Second Digit	Semester
Third Digit	Module Number
Fourth Digit	Number of Credits