

MA in Humanitarian Assistance & Crisis Management

Welcome Letter 2024/2025

DEAR INCOMING STUDENT:

Congratulations on your acceptance and a warm welcome to the SIT Graduate Institute program Master of Arts in Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Management! I look forward to meeting all of you soon and guiding you through your year-long experience with SIT Graduate Institute. I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you some important information about the program and to answer some of your questions regarding what to expect.

YOUR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FACULTY

My name is Bayan Abdulhaq. I have been the academic director for the Jordan: Refugees, Health, and Humanitarian Action program since 2013. I am a Jordanian national and I hold a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Kings College London KCL/University of London. Additionally, I have an MSc in Pharmaceutical Analysis and Quality Control from the same university and a BSc in Pharmacy from the University of Jordan. I have taught at the Faculty of Pharmacy at University of Jordan and Petra University and worked as a community pharmacist and medical affairs manager for pharmaceutical industry. My research interests are focused on pharmaceutical psychiatry and refugee health and wellbeing.

As the program chair, my role is to coordinate all administrative and academic aspects of the program and to facilitate your learning in collaboration with a network of faculty and staff in Jordan, Morocco, and the US to ensure that you have outstanding learning opportunities and cultural experiences.

On behalf of the staff and our program partners - our "SIT family" - I look forward to receiving and working with each of you during the coming year. To learn more about other SIT faculty and staff for this program, visit the [program webpage](#).

GET TO KNOW YOUR COHORTMATES

Because of privacy laws, SIT is unable to share personal information about future students with other future students. However, we will soon ask a member of your cohort to set up a Facebook page or What's App group so that you all can start to get to know each other and if desired, consider possible housing and roommate scenarios as well. Please note that it is not intended to duplicate or replace official information and is for personal purposes only.

ACADEMIC AND GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

This global humanitarian assistance master's has been conceived to build on SIT's expertise in experiential-based learning and hands-on training in global settings to provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to lead principled, effective, and innovative humanitarian action. Although, your base studies will be in the classroom, you will learn directly from practice-based activities and projects relating to humanitarian assistance and crisis management in aid and beneficiary communities. In this respect, it is important to emphasize that to make the most out of the experiential learning opportunities throughout the whole program, you need to be engaged and actively involved in your learning, through reflective practice, analysis, and synthesis of your experiences on the individual and group levels.

Furthermore, the program provides a comparative approach to models of relief administration and crisis management which will enhance critical analysis skills and understanding of the role and impact of the political, legal, social, and economic contexts relating to humanitarian aid.

Finally, it is crucial to point to the importance of investing in the global nature of the program to hone your cultural competence and collaborative relationships so you become critical enablers who can work across different cultural and social contexts. This is crucially important to developing a career in the field of humanitarian relief and crisis management. To this end, you must be flexible, open-minded, and willing to challenge your comfort zones, and adopt some new habits that may seem inconvenient, but which will enable you to better interact with and respect local realities.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

To enable you to make the most of your time with SIT, we strongly advise you to begin now to monitor local and international media coverage of the countries and regions of your program. To get started you can access the recommended – but, not required – readings below. You can find most of them online, or at your local library.

RELIEFWEB: [Informing Humanitarians Worldwide](#)

THE SPHERE HANDBOOK: [The Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response](#)

UNHCR: [The UN Refugee Agency](#)

UNRWA: [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMANITARIAN WORLD: [About the Book](#)

In closing, I know that you are making a huge investment of time and money to pursue your master's degree. To that end, I want to emphasize that my colleagues and I are very excited to begin collaborating with you and supporting your professional development journey.

I wish you all the best as you prepare for this exciting learning experience, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,



Bayan Abdulhaq