AMENDED ZIMCHE APPROVED REGULATIONS FOR MScDRM ALIGNED TO MBKS WITH A COURSE SYNOPSIS 2020

ZIMBABWE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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MSc DRM PRESENTATION FORMAT FOR THE MINIMUM BODIES OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

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Name of Programme	*Master of Science Degree in Disaster Risk Management (MScDRM)*
Duration	*1½ years(18 months)*
Minimum Credit Load	*306*
Maximum Credit Load	*360*
Maximum MBK/S Credit Load	*234*
ZNQF Level	*9*

Entry Requirements :	Tick
Normal Entry: *An Honours Degree in the following areas of study: Disaster Management, Development Studies, Geography, Biology, Environmental Studies, Agriculture, Social Sciences or any relevant degree with a strong geography background, with degree class 2.2 or better.*	√
Special Entry: *Applicants without an Honours Degree or with passes lower than 2.2 may be considered for the programme if they have at least two years relevant experience. Must have passes in 'O' Level English and Mathematics.*	√
Mature Entry: *Applicants should be 25years and above and have passed Ordinary Level English and Mathematics. Two or more years of working experience in a related field is a must*	√
Other (indicate) *(N/A)*	

LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the programme students should be able to:
1. *Utilize skills gained in a wide range of sectors that are affected by disasters which will enhance their employability*
2. *Demonstrate knowledge and new approaches to risk management and humanitarian action which will enhance their performance in the ever-changing operational environment of disaster risk*
3. *Demonstrate knowledge and skills to take up higher-level responsibilities as they critically evaluate and apply key elements of disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, including the ability to*

conduct assessments of hazards, risks, vulnerability and capacity.
4. *Demonstrate knowledge on approaches that are used locally, regionally and internationally to reduce and manage hazard risk*
5. *Demonstrate knowledge and skills to develop model used in the field of disaster.*
6. *Pursue PhD studies.*

Determination of Results

Award of Degree

In order to be awarded the degree, students must pass, or be credited with all modules designated as core (8 courses), plus 4 other modules (making a total of 12 modules), and the dissertation, giving a minimum of 306 credits.

Calculation of Final Mark

The final mark shall be **an aggregate of credits from twelve (12) taught modules (including all core courses)** plus the Dissertation. The twelve taught modules shall include eight core modules and the four elective modules which give the student the greater final mark. The taught modules shall carry a weighting of 60% and the dissertation 40% of the programme.

Notification of Results and Award of Degree

Refer to General Regulations.

Programme Assessment (Describe and indicate percentage [%])	
Coursework	*This carries a minimum weighting of **40%** (Assignments 15% and presentation 15% and fieldwork 10%)*
By thesis	*Coursework not exceeding 25%. The Board of Examiners shall examine the candidate orally, exceptionally, if an oral examination is impracticable, a written examination. The Board of Examiners may require further examination through written papers, on subjects relevant thereto.*
Written Examinations	*A final examination is written with a minimum weighting of **60%**.*
Other	*The taught courses will carry a weighting of 60% of the programme while the dissertation carries a weighting of 40%. The Departmental Board of Examiners shall agree upon the final grade to be given for every module that a student has taken, or been credited with. The final grade in the module shall be based on the marks obtained in the final examination and on course work and the thesis assessed.*

Basis of Allocating Credits		
Activity	**Time in Hours**	**Credits**
Contact Time/Time on task	**48**	**4.8**
Lectures	24	2.4
Tutorials	12	1.2

Field Visits	4	0.4
Laboratory Work	4	0.4
Workshops	4	0.4
Work Integrated Learning (WIL)/Industrial Attachment/Clinical Practice/Teaching Practice etc.		
Scheduled Assessment Time	**48**	**4.8**
Final written examinations	3	0.3
In-class tests	3	0.3
Online Testing and Examinations	22	2.2
Seminar Presentations	20	2.0
Independent Study Time	**84**	**8.4**
Preparation for scheduled sessions	40	4.0
Reading	13	1.3
Written assignments	13	1.3
Revision Work	18	1.8
Maximum Credits for the 80% Courses /Modules Threshold	**180**	**18**

	Summary of Modules arranged in logical sequence and allocation of Notional Hours and Credits			
Module Name		**Core**	**Credits**	**Notional Hrs**
Level One				
Semester 1				
MDR501:Disaster and Development Theories and Approaches		Y	18	180
MDR502:Humanitarian Response Planning and Management			18	180
MDR503:Disaster Risk Management and Livelihood Security		Y	18	180
MDR504:Disaster Risk Assessment		Y	18	180
MDR505:Public Health Disaster		Y	18	180
MDR 506:Conflict Management and Transformation			18	180
Semester 2				
MDR507: Project Monitoring and Evaluation			18	180
MDR508: Disaster Research Methods and Techniques		Y	18	180
MDR509: Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response		Y	18	180
MDR510: Climate Change, Disaster and Development		Y	18	180
MDR511; Geo-Information in Disasters		Y	18	180
MDR512: Disaster Risk Management Policy			18	180
Level Two				
	Semester 1			
MDR600: Dissertation		Y	90	900

MODULE SYNOPSES (For all the 80% Modules Threshold. **NB:** Synopses are very central in that these are summaries of the key concepts to be taught in each module.	
MODULE	**SYNOPSIS**
MDR501: Disaster and Development Theories and Approaches	*This module addresses various issues to do with the conceptualization of disasters and the evolution of this conceptualization over the years. The module looks at how the concept of disaster has been seen and defined differently through four distinct stages. These are disaster as an act of God, disaster as an act of nature, disaster as intersection of society and nature and disaster as avoidable human creation and prism highlighting societal injustice. It also looks at development theories and how they are related to disasters, and the disaster risk management approaches such links spawn. Students will also critically examine the scenarios resulting from the intersection of disasters and development, as well as how development relates to sustainability issues. The critical issue is the need to understand how different conceptions of disasters and development give rise to consequentially different DRR and development approaches and strategies.*
MDR502: Humanitarian Response Planning and Management	*This module focuses in the rationale, strategies and outcomes of humanitarian response planning and management. Humanitarian aid is material and logistic assistance to people in need. It is usually short-term help until the long-term help by government and other institutions replaces it. Among the people in need belong homeless, refugees, victims of natural disasters, wars and famines. The module examines the primary purpose of humanitarian aid to save lives, reduce suffering and respect to human dignity. Humanitarian aid is material or logistical assistance provided for humanitarian purposes, typically in response to humanitarian crises including natural disasters and human-made disaster. The primary objective of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. It may therefore be distinguished from development aid, which seeks to address the underlying socioeconomic factors which may have led to a crisis or emergency. The module is expected to equip students with understanding of the complex and dynamic nature of humanitarian aid across different contexts and timeframes.*
DMR503:Disaster Risk Management and Livelihood Security	*This module focuses on key community survival components: food and livelihoods. Focus is on what happens to food and livelihoods (assets, strategies and outcomes) in the event of a hazard. It also examines issues and strategies around how to protect food production, processing and preservation systems against the negative impacts of hazard events. Other issues that the module helps examine include: What are the typical livelihood strategies that at risk people adopt in the face of both rapid and slow onset hazards? In what ways are food and livelihood portfolios modified by hazards and disasters? How do communities and households cope with hazards? What are the policy and institutional arrangements around food and livelihood security in disasters? The module takes a predominantly Zimbabwean focus.*
DMR504: Disaster Risk Assessment	*Risk assessment and analysis consist of a systematic, logical set of actions used to identify hazards, assess risk, and implement controls to mitigate high-risk conditions. Effective risk management requires information about both the magnitude of the risk faced (risk assessment) and on how much importance society places on the reduction of that risk (risk evaluation).Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) is a participatory investigative process designed to assess the risks that people face in their locality, their vulnerability to those risks, and the capacities they possess to cope with a hazard and recover from it when it strikes. In sum, VCA helps people to prepare for hazards, to prevent them from turning into disasters and to mitigate their effects. Carrying out risk assessment is the first step in preparing a disaster resilience strategy. A comprehensive risk assessment not only evaluates the magnitude and likelihood of potential losses but also provides full understanding of the causes and impact of those losses. On the other hand, capacity assessment focuses on the skills, knowledge, material, equipment, assets, etc, that communities possess, that enable them to absorb the disruptive effects of hazard events.*

	Risk assessments should also be undertaken for business continuity management.
DMR505: Public Health Disaster	*This module covers how to analyze specific disasters and how to plan, design and deliver public health in different disasters and contexts. It also aims at providing sufficient knowledge for the students to plan for the public health response to disasters and to understand how to deliver primary, secondary as well as preventive services, using different modalities in order to mitigate public health problems in disaster situations. It emphasizes how to analyze the effects of the disaster, using different methods including needs assessments and how to, analyze plan an adequate public health response. The course builds on empirical experience from a number of disasters. Case studies and interactive exercises will be used as part of teaching the content highlighting the challenges of the resources scarce context, including problems related to security and ethics. The module focuses on the capability of the public health and health care systems, communities, and individuals, to prevent, protect against, quickly respond to, and recover from health emergencies, particularly those whose scale, timing, or unpredictability threatens to overwhelm routine capabilities*
MDR 506:Conflict Management and Transformation	*Conflict is interpreted as being part of hazards/disasters. The module focuses on eliminating and/or reducing conflict, which when unchecked, can lead to serious disruption of key sectors and ultimately livelihoods and human security. The course explores locally available, relevant, acceptable and applicable ways and strategies for 'connecting' people together, even at the height of polarization and bickering. It equips the typical humanitarian worker with skills on handling conflict situations with tact, thereby engaging in critical self-examination on how his/her actions can fan or reduce conflict.*
MDR 507: Project Monitoring and Evaluation	*This module focuses on equipping students with skills and methodologies in tracking project results/outcomes against preset objectives. It also examines the hierarchy of objectives and the typical log frame as bases for monitoring and evaluation. Emphasis is on formulating clear and SMART objectives for effective M&E. The different types and levels of evaluation are analyzed, and these are linked to real life examples of M&E, particularly with regard to Disaster Management and Development projects. Current trends and issues in M&E are analyzed, including use of stories of significant change.*
DMR508: Disaster Research Methods and Techniques	*This module covers how to undertake the typical research process, with particular emphasis on hazard/disaster issues. It includes an analysis of the application of key research tools and methods in attempting to seek practical answers/explanations to development scenarios. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are covered. This should guide students in preparing for their fieldwork for dissertations*
DMR509: Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response	*This module covers issues to do with enhancing community and country level preparedness in dealing with hazard events. Special focus is on the evolution of events/phenomena from hazards to disasters, and how to address such evolution. The idea is to equip students with skills, knowledge and the right attitude to dealing with disaster situations. It also stimulates students to be critical in exploring strategies for community recovery in a post-disaster situation, and how to ensure people 'bounce forward' rather than 'bounce back', as has been the long standing view in disaster management for some time. This module also looks at business continuity management: how businesses are affected by disasters and how businesses can be protected from hazard events.*
MDR510: Climate Change, Disaster and Development	*This module is being offered against the background of sudden increase in intensity, frequency and magnitude of weather related hazards and disasters worldwide and its differential impacts on different ecological and geographical regions. Key focus is on Climate Change as one of the major risk drivers globally - how the effects of climate change are configuring the hazard and disaster risk context. Climate and environmental justice are also examined to greater detail, incorporating North-South relationships in ecological politics. Mitigation and adaptation strategies and options are examined. Insights on possibilities for 'climate' and 'disaster-proofing' development projects are examined in this module.*
MDR511:Geo-Information in	*Geo-information technology offers an opportunity to support disaster management: industrial accidents, road collisions, complex emergencies, earthquakes, fires, floods and*

Disasters	*similar catastrophes. Access to needed information, facilitation of the interoperability of emergency services, and provision of high-quality care to the public are a number of the key requirements. Such requirements pose significant challenges for data management, discovery, translation, integration, visualization and communication based on the semantics of the heterogeneous (geo-) information sources with differences in many aspects: scale/resolution, dimension (2D or 3D), classification and attribute schemes, temporal aspects (up-to-date-ness, history, predictions of the future), spatial reference system used, etc. The module provides a broad overview of the (geo-information) technology, software, systems needed, used and to be developed for disaster management (GIS, Remote Sensing, GPRS, etc). The module provokes a wide discussion on systems and requirements for use of geo-information under time and stress constraints and unfamiliar situations, environments and circumstances. Also critical in this module is the focus on Disaster Management Information Systems. This looks at all information and data generation for preparedness, response and recovery.*
MDR 512: Disaster Risk Management Policy	*This module examines key policy issues in disaster risk management and development. It looks at the various statutory, legal and institutional guidelines/principles that govern disaster risk management/reduction, obligations and responsibilities of various actors (state, private sector, civil society, academicians, researchers, etc) in their web of interactions around disaster risk management and/or reduction. It also analyzes outcomes of DRM policies in specific countries/regions on the individual, household, community, national, regional and international levels. The international policy environment is also covered, where there is need to look at the ideation and implementation and policing of major DRM strategies/frameworks.*
MDR 513: Earth Science and Natural Disasters	*The Earth science and natural disasters module focuses on the geologic, hydrologic and atmospheric processes that impact the human environment in catastrophic ways. The natural disasters section focuses on how earth processes can concentrate energy that can have devastating blows to humans, their structures and the environment. Topics covered include, energy cycles, plate tectonics, and focused studies on hazards such as: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tsunamis, flooding, landslides and climate change. The main thrust is to enhance students' understanding of the complex and largely inevitable interaction between the science of the earth and the development and/or evolution of disasters.*
MDR 514: Business Continuity Planning	*Business continuity planning is the way an organization can prepare for and aid in disaster recovery. It is an arrangement agreed upon in advance by management and key personnel of the steps that will be taken to help the organization recover should any type of disaster occur. These programmes prepare for multiple problems. Detailed plans are created that clearly outline the actions that an organization or particular members of an organization will take to help recover/restore any of its critical operations that may have been either completely or partially interrupted during or after (occurring within a specified period of time) a disaster or other extended disruption in accessibility to operational functions. In order to be fully effective at disaster recovery, these plans are recommended to be regularly practiced as well as outlined. A Business Continuity Plan or BCP is how an organization guards against future disasters that could endanger its long-term health or the accomplishment of its primary mission. BCPs take into account disasters that can occur on multiple geographic levels-local, regional, and national-disasters like fires, earthquakes, or pandemic illness. BCPs should be live and evolving strategies that are adjusted for any potential disasters that would require recovery; it should include everything from technological viruses to terrorist attacks. The ultimate goal is to help expedite the recovery of an organization's critical functions and manpower following these types of disasters. This sort of advanced planning can help an organization minimize the amount of loss and downtime it will sustain while simultaneously creating its best and fastest chance to recover after a disaster.*

MDR600: Dissertation	*Students shall be expected to carry out an original research on a topic of their choice concerning pertinent issues in disaster risk management the whole of their second year. The dissertation shall be based on informed and advanced skills of research and report writing which include development of a research problem, formulation of research objectives, research methodology, data analysis, conclusions and recommendations. The candidate shall be required to make his/her viva voce presentation of the Dissertation to the Departmental Panel of Examiners. The viva voce examination will constitute 15% of the dissertation weight in determining the candidate's final grade.*

The End