This online course in humanitarian diplomacy is offered by the Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Network of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in partnership with DiploFoundation.

The rapid expansion of the number of humanitarian actors in recent years, working for or with governments at all levels and often in complex situations, makes humanitarian diplomacy increasingly important.

Humanitarian diplomacy aims to mobilize public and governmental support and resources for humanitarian operations and programmes, and to facilitate effective partnerships for responding to the needs of vulnerable people. Humanitarian diplomacy includes advocacy, negotiation, communication, formal agreements, and other measures. It is a field with many players, including governments, international organizations, NGOs, the private sector, and individuals.

Enabling Action 2 of Strategy 2020 commits the IFRC to “pursue humanitarian diplomacy to prevent and reduce vulnerability in a globalized world”.

The online course will extend the knowledge base and develop practical skills of current and future practitioners in humanitarian diplomacy and policy.

To achieve its objectives, the online course will:

- Familiarize participants with basic definitions, concepts, actors, and institutions in the field of humanitarian diplomacy
- Introduce participants to international humanitarian law, the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and National Societies’ role as an auxiliary to government
- Hone the advocacy and negotiation skills of participants
- Facilitate an international exchange of experiences and knowledge in a safe and supportive online class environment
- Develop the research skills of participants, and increase their understanding of national and regional humanitarian diplomacy activities.

By the end of this online course, participants should be able to:

- Explain clearly the concept of humanitarian diplomacy and provide examples of humanitarian diplomacy in action
- List and categorize the main actors in the field of humanitarian diplomacy and describe their roles
- Describe the interplay between relevant international law, including international humanitarian law, and humanitarian diplomacy

1 Strategy 2020 is the IFRC’s collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade.
Analyze the role of advocacy and persuasion in humanitarian diplomacy
Organize a humanitarian diplomacy alliance
Plan a persuasion campaign, taking into consideration the application of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
Explain how to shape or influence negotiations through an evidence-based approach
Describe how different humanitarian diplomacy contexts influence negotiation outcomes
Analyze case studies of humanitarian diplomacy, identifying goals, actors, methods, challenges, and implementation.

**Structure and methodology**

The Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Network has developed partnerships with academic institutions on humanitarian diplomacy, management and capacity building, disaster management and global health. This 12-week online course in humanitarian diplomacy is conducted entirely online, making the Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Network environment accessible through web-based techniques developed by DiploFoundation. The course consists of two phases: an interactive online course lasting eight weeks, immediately followed by a four-week research phase.

During the course, reading materials and tools are provided through an online classroom. The course is based on a collaborative approach to learning, involving a high level of interaction. Each week, participants read an assigned module text, adding questions and comments as hypertext entries. Tutors and other participants read and respond to these entries, creating interaction based on the module text. During the week, participants complete additional online activities (e.g. further discussion via blogs or forums, quizzes, group tasks, simulations, or short assignments). At the end of the week, participants, tutors, and guest experts meet online in a chat room to discuss the week’s topic.

During the research phase, participants will apply their knowledge to analysing a humanitarian diplomacy action or activity. Working individually or in small groups, participants will select a topic relevant to their work, country or region, and prepare a short research paper as the final assignment for the course. Each participant will have individual support and feedback from a tutor throughout this phase.

**Participation in the online course requires approximately seven to ten hours of study time per week.** You can learn more about the requirements and process for studying online on DiploFoundation’s website at [http://www.diplomacy.edu/courses/learning/about](http://www.diplomacy.edu/courses/learning/about)

Participants who complete the course successfully will receive a diploma issued by DiploFoundation and the IFRC.
Module 0 – Orientation to online learning: During this short module, participants will be introduced to the online classroom and tools for communication and interaction that they will use during the course. Participants will also be guided through practice exercises and will have the chance to ask questions and request assistance as needed.

Module 1 – An introduction to humanitarian diplomacy: This module looks at how diplomacy is understood within various definitions of humanitarian diplomacy, making use of the IFRC humanitarian diplomacy policy and its four signposts for action. How has humanitarian diplomacy evolved, and what is the current situation? Why is it relevant today? Who practices humanitarian diplomacy? What is the profile of a humanitarian diplomacy practitioner? How can humanitarian space be preserved? How can humanitarian diplomacy sustain long term development?

Module 2 – Humanitarian diplomacy toolkit: This is a cognitive toolkit, or a set of thinking tools, to help the humanitarian diplomat navigate through vast amounts of information and fast-changing policy contexts. The toolkit does not contain ready-made solutions. Practically speaking, this cognitive toolkit will help humanitarian diplomats to engage in debate, argue in favour of their positions, persuade interlocutors, and find creative solutions for overcoming stalemates in policy discussions, eventually reaching compromises acceptable to all negotiating parties.

Module 3 – Who are the humanitarian diplomacy actors? This module surveys the evolution of the Movement and introduces the main characteristics, role, and function of the IFRC and National Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It briefly covers the 1949 Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law. It also introduces the role of other actors, including national governments, international organizations, private entities, and individuals. The module looks at how decisions are made, at national, international, and global levels.

Module 4 – How humanitarian diplomacy is performed – persuasion and advocacy: This module explains the functions and audience for persuasion. It looks at different contexts for persuasion (national, international, local, crisis) and differentiates between public persuasion (similar to advocacy and public diplomacy) and private persuasion. The module guides participants through the organization of a humanitarian diplomacy alliance.

Module 5 – How humanitarian diplomacy is performed – persuasion and advocacy (practical skills): This module focuses on skills such as framing devices as a practical technique for persuasion, spin tricks in persuasion, use of the media (including social media), speaking, and writing. It guides participants through the steps of organizing a persuasion campaign (main phases and approaches) at different levels.

Module 6 – How humanitarian diplomacy is performed – negotiations: This module introduces types of negotiations in humanitarian diplomacy, in the multilateral, regional, and national contexts, as well as in crisis situations. It covers influencing negotiations through decision-shaping (if the humanitarian player does not have a decision-making role) and the evidence base – how to obtain it and maximise its impact.

Module 7 – Humanitarian diplomacy beyond negotiation: Through examination of case studies, this module looks at using humanitarian diplomacy to ensure implementation of a negotiated outcome.

Module 8 – Other practical skills in humanitarian diplomacy: Many practical skills are relevant to humanitarian diplomacy, including protocol, drafting, media training, public speaking, and use of social media. The module also covers resource mobilization, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting and quality assurance.
**Who can apply?**
- Red Cross and Red Crescent National Society governance, senior management, volunteers, and staff
- IFRC and ICRC staff
- Other professionals who need to employ humanitarian diplomacy techniques.

Please note that this course is quite demanding in terms of time and commitment; requiring 7 to 10 hours of study time per week. Before you apply, please consider carefully whether you can commit the necessary time in order to complete the course successfully. Where appropriate, please make sure you obtain the endorsement of your line manager to attend this course.

**Language of instruction**
The language of instruction is English.

**Annual timetable**
The course starts in February and September each year.

**Fees**
€950 per participant, due upon acceptance into the programme.

A limited number of partial bursaries will be available to selected candidates from developing countries who work or volunteer with their local Red Cross National Society. Please indicate if you are requesting a bursary in your motivation letter.

**Qualification received**
Successful completion of this online course will result in a diploma issued by DiploFoundation and the IFRC. This qualification will also be recognised with Red Cross Red Crescent credits, awarded under the IFRC Learning Passport as determined by the Learning Reference and Standards Committee.

**Prerequisites**
Applicants must have:
- an undergraduate university degree; or at least two years of work experience in the field of humanitarian or development field;
- sufficient knowledge of the English language to undertake postgraduate-level studies (including reading academic texts, discussing complex concepts with other course participants, and writing academic essays); and
- use of a computer with unrestricted access to the Internet (please contact us for more details if you are in doubt about your level of access).

**Selection process**
DiploFoundation and the IFRC will select up to 25 qualified participants to attend each course. Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries, and those currently working in the humanitarian diplomacy field. Selected applicants will be notified after the application deadline.

**How to apply**
Please visit DiploFoundation’s website at [www.diplomacy.edu/Courses/Humanitarian](http://www.diplomacy.edu/Courses/Humanitarian) to read more about this course and how to apply online. In case of enquiries, please contact us at: admissions@diplomacy.edu

To learn more on courses offered by the Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Network, please visit: [www.ifrc.org/learning](http://www.ifrc.org/learning)

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**Faculty for the course**
Course faculty draws on leading policy makers and practitioners from around the world. The lead resource person is:

**Mr Christopher Lamb**
Christopher Lamb is Special Adviser to the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC. He also has advisory responsibilities with many National Societies, business groups and universities. As Special Adviser on International Relations for the IFRC until his retirement in June 2010, he was responsible for the diplomatic positioning of the IFRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the international community, including the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies as well as with major international NGOs and other entities. He coordinated the development of IFRC positions in various humanitarian and political fields, supporting the work of National Societies in these respects through the development of the IFRC’s policy on humanitarian diplomacy. Before joining IFRC in 2000, he was an Australian diplomat and Ambassador to Myanmar, Serbia, Romania, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, after serving in several multilateral posts and as a foreign ministry legal adviser.