

Online
diploma
course

Professional online diploma course in Humanitarian Diplomacy

Course length: 12 weeks online, approximately 7-10 hours of study time per week

Course fee: 990 euros per participant

Award received: Diploma issued by DiploFoundation and IFRC

Audience: Red Cross and Red Crescent National Society governance and senior management, branch leaders and managers, volunteers and staff

Red Cross and Red Crescent National staff and volunteers



Overview

The Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Network of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in partnership with DiploFoundation, is proud to offer a professional online diploma course in humanitarian diplomacy. Leading international experts with extensive experience in humanitarian diplomacy guide participants through the course content and facilitate discussions, drawing on their own practical insights and the professional experience of course participants.

DIPLO

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 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
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About the course

In line with Action 2 of *Strategy 2020*, the IFRC commits to “pursue humanitarian diplomacy to prevent and reduce vulnerability in a globalized world.” Humanitarian diplomacy aims to mobilize public and governmental support and resources for humanitarian operations and programs, and to facilitate effective partnerships for responding to the needs of vulnerable people. It is a field with many players, including governments, international organisations, NGOs, the private sector, and individuals. This online course will extend the knowledge base and develop the practical skills of current and future practitioners in humanitarian diplomacy and policy.

Learning objectives

On completion of this 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
- analyse the role of advocacy and persuasion in humanitarian diplomacy
- organize a humanitarian diplomacy alliance
- plan a persuasion campaign, taking into consideration the application of fundamental humanitarian principles
- explain how to shape or influence negotiations through obtaining and using an evidence-based approach
- describe how different humanitarian diplomacy contexts influence negotiation outcomes
- analyse case studies of humanitarian diplomacy, identifying goals, actors, methods, challenges and implementation.

Course topics – Modules 1 to 8

Orientation to online learning

Introduction to the online classroom and course tools for communication and interaction.

Module 1 – Introduction to humanitarian diplomacy

How diplomacy is understood in the context of humanitarian diplomacy, and the IFRC humanitarian diplomacy policy. The evolution, relevance, framework, and current practice of humanitarian diplomacy.

Module 2 – Humanitarian diplomacy toolkit

Cognitive tools to help humanitarian diplomats engage in debate, persuade decision-makers, negotiate, and find creative solutions for policy discussions leading to compromises acceptable to all negotiating parties.

Module 3 – Humanitarian diplomacy actors

The evolution of the RCRC Movement and the role and function of its components. The Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law. Other actors including national governments, international organizations, NGOs, private entities, and individuals. Alliances and partnerships to influence decision-making.

Module 4 – How humanitarian diplomacy is performed: persuasion and advocacy

Introduction to persuasion and related concepts. The audience for persuasion and planning a persuasion campaign.

Module 5 – Persuasion and advocacy: Practical skills

Understanding the context and situation for persuasion. Practical skills and techniques for private and public speaking and writing as persuasion and advocacy tools.

Module 6 – How humanitarian diplomacy is performed: negotiations

Negotiation techniques and steps in the process. Negotiation in the multilateral, regional, and national contexts, and in crisis situations. Obtaining and using an evidence base to maximize impact.

Module 7 – Humanitarian diplomacy beyond negotiation

Humanitarian diplomacy to ensure implementation of negotiated outcomes, examined through case studies.

Module 8 – Other practical skills in humanitarian diplomacy

Introduction to protocol, document drafting, working with the media, public speaking, social media, and monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian diplomacy activities.

Course methodology and course assessment

This 12-week course is conducted entirely online and consists of two phases: an interactive online course lasting eight weeks, immediately followed by a four-week research phase. **Participation in the course requires approximately seven to ten hours of study time per week.**

During the online course phase, reading materials and tools for interaction 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. Lecturers and other participants read and respond to these entries, creating interaction based on the module text. During the week, participants complete additional online activities including quizzes and group tasks. At the end of the week, participants, lecturers, 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.

You can learn more about the requirements and process of studying online on DiploFoundation's website at <http://www.diplomacy.edu/courses/learning>

Course faculty

Course faculty draws on leading practitioners from around the world. During each course session the lead resource people listed here will be joined by selected guest lecturers.



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 non-governmental organisations 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.



Tore Svenning joined the Norwegian Red Cross in 1985, following some years of volunteering, and has been posted in Sudan, Geneva, Jordan, Cyprus, Kuwait, Israel, Moscow and Budapest. From an operational track, he shifted to humanitarian diplomacy just after the Federation obtained observer status in the United Nations General Assembly in 1994. He worked in external relations in the Secretariat, supporting the New York Office and developing relations with institutions like the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Geneva based UN agencies as well as the local diplomatic community. His training was in theoretical economics and history.

Practical information

Entry requirements

Applicants must have:

- an undergraduate university degree or at least two years of professional experience in humanitarian or development work.
- adequate knowledge of English to undertake postgraduate-level studies (including reading academic texts, discussing complex concepts with other course participants, and writing academic essays).
- regular access to the Internet (dial-up connection is sufficient, although broadband is preferable).
- Sufficient time for online study, which requires 7 to 10 hours per week.

Up to 30 qualified participants will be selected to participate in each course. Candidates from developing countries and those working in the humanitarian diplomacy field will receive priority.

Bursaries

IFRC and DiploFoundation are working together to expand the number of bursaries on offer in partnership with donors to sponsor qualified participants in need of financial support. At the moment, a limited number of partial bursaries are available to selected candidates from developing countries who work or volunteer with their local RCRC National Society. Applicants should indicate if they are requesting a bursary on the course application form.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted online via the DiploFoundation website:

<http://www.diplomacy.edu/courses/humanitarian>

The application deadline for each course session is indicated on the website.

Please contact admissions@diplomacy.edu in case of questions.

The IFRC Learning Network also offers online learning opportunities in the areas of Global Health, Disaster Management and Leadership Development.

For more information on these programs including our online Learning Platform please visit us online at www.ifrc.org/learning