

Figure 1: Overall Programme Credits' Distribution at a Glance

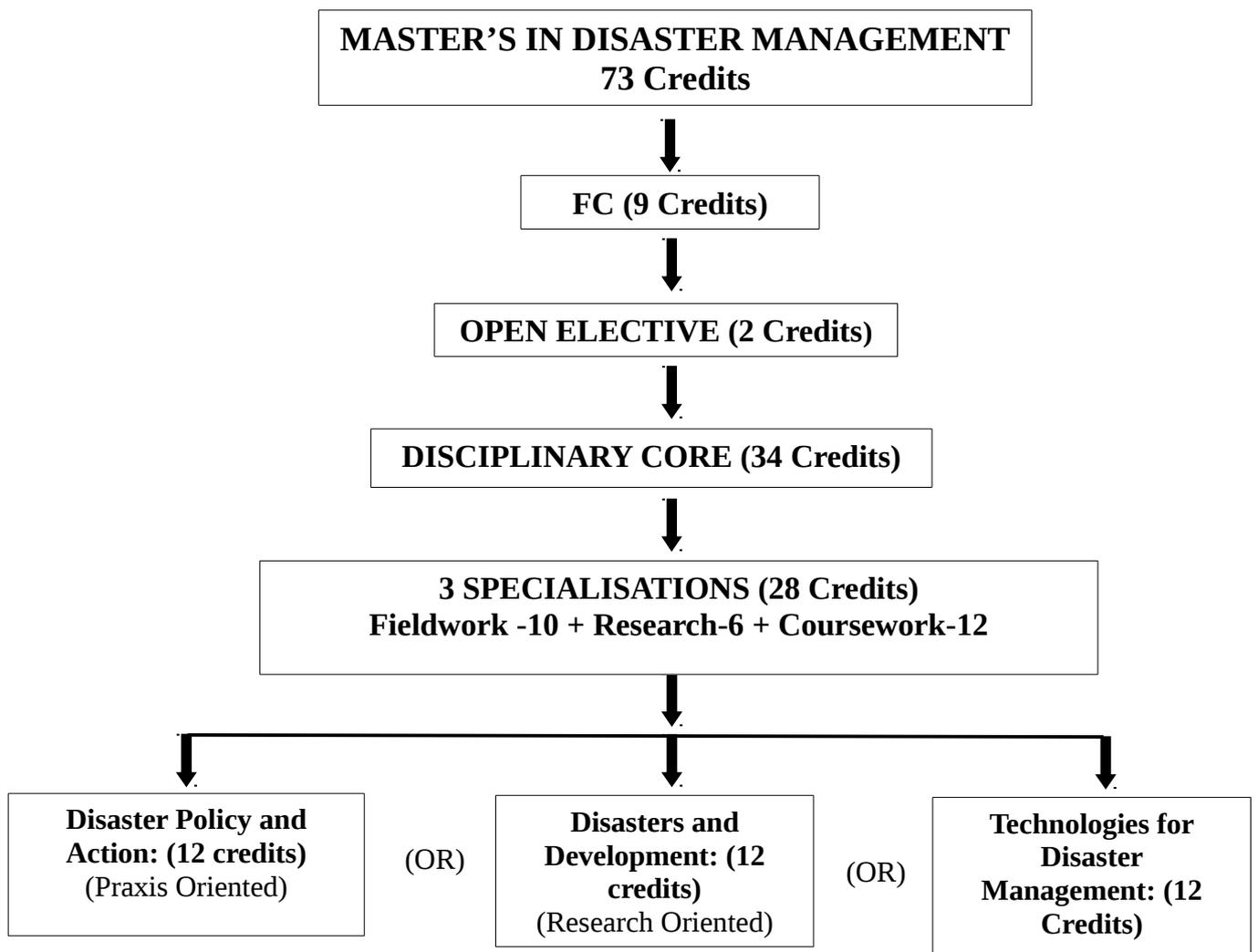
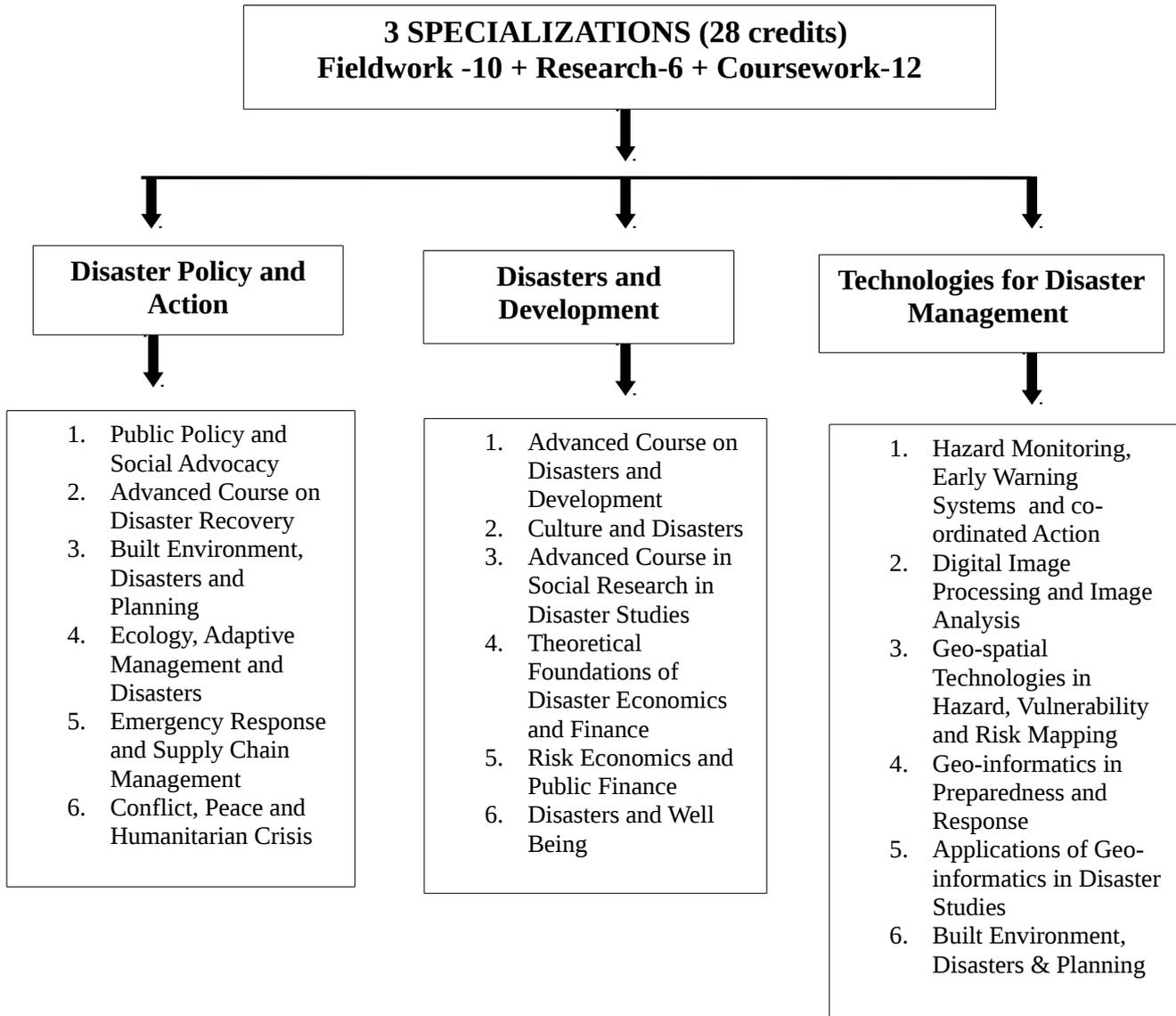


Figure 2: At a glance view of the 3 specialisations



Objectives of the Masters' Programme in Disaster Management

- To create a cadre of professionals with multidisciplinary knowledge, well being, skills and perspective related to disasters.
- To enable a broader understanding of disasters as related to issues of development and environmental sustainability with an analysis of current debates around these areas
- To enable a critical reflection around disasters and their intersection with science and technology in prediction, mitigation and response.
- To create a cadre of professionals with an ability to engage in vulnerability analysis and participate in governance and policy processes for disaster risk reduction and resilience building at various levels.
- To cultivate appropriate values, engage in research and enhance the knowledge base in disaster studies

Credit distribution (See Figure 1): The programme will have 73 credits with common first year.

Common First Year: All students at TISS complete 9 credits of Foundation courses. In addition, students enrolled in Masters Programme in Disaster Management will have 34 credits of core courses (known as disciplinary courses in UGC parlance). Students will select one of the 3 specialisations.

The Specialisations: Deepening the focus

Each specialisation (of 28 credits) will have:

12 credits course work+ 6 credits Research+ 10 credits Fieldwork/Internship. (See figure 1)

SPECIALISATION: DISASTER POLICY AND ACTION (15 seats)

The specialisation on Disaster Policy and Action anchored by the Centre for Disaster Management will enhance knowledge, capacities and skills, and perspective on disaster management. While enabling an understanding of disasters from the vantage point of “science and technology” and “state and governance” the Centre will also foster a critical and reflective appreciation of current debates in disaster management within the framework of social and environmental justice, state and civil society dynamics, development, conflict and displacement, and globalisation. Power differentials and unequal access to resources and information have serious implications for disaster response and humanitarian aid. Ineffective disaster response may be more likely to be caused by asymmetric power relationships, rather than lack of local coping capacities. Public participation would increase the success of disaster policy and its implementation as it seeks to embrace inclusiveness, shifting away from a top down approach.

The specialisation will help students re-visit the idea of relief from a rights based perspective and critically examine the various “management” dimensions such as compensation policies, relief distribution logistics, delivery mechanisms etc. The specialisation will engage with various issues related to Community Based Disaster Management including exploration of the rhetoric and sustainability of community initiatives in actual practice, demonstrating/ connecting with innovative approaches and models.

Disaster risk reduction provides the conceptual framework of elements to be considered, with the possibilities to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks in society, by interlinking pre-disaster measures, to an effective management, of disasters as and when they occur. Practices of hazard vulnerability assessment in this context assume high significance as only through an inclusive framework of assessment, one that captures diverse elements of vulnerability at various levels, can society move from a reactive to proactive paradigm.

Working towards developing capacities for advancing disaster risk reduction strategies through government and civil society spaces engaging in policy advocacy and action would be the broader thrust of this specialization. Students would learn how to adhere to the ideals of environmental conservation and sustainable development and how to overcome challenges on ground.

Disaster management as an emerging field draws incumbents from multiple disciplines and professions such as public health, mental health, logistics and supply chain management, habitat planning, finance, economics, law, public policy and administration, structural engineering, meteorology, GIS and RS, anthropology, sociology, psychology, social psychology, conflict and peace studies.

SPECIALISATION: DISASTERS AND DEVELOPMENT (10 seats)

The Centre for Disasters and Development positions its academic work within the larger geo-political context and focuses on research that examines how large questions of development, often shaped by dominant forces within developed countries impinge upon and influence the way financial support both in the form of aid and loans by multi-lateral institutions (such as the World Bank, ADB or even the UN) have long term implications for many of the countries. How is development conceived or imagined? What forms of development are privileged over others? The rich diversity of people and their ways of living are often ignored by growth oriented, neo-liberal views of development. Natural hazards, conflicts, depletion of natural resources and forced migration are experienced as disasters by many communities.

Moving beyond the immediate “management” of a disaster event to developing a deeper understanding of how complex factors and development decisions create vulnerabilities is regarded as critical. The curriculum of this specialisation would encourage students to engage with vulnerability, marginalisation and poverty and examine social theories of risk and uncertainty and create space for deeper analysis, preparing students for careers in research, in particular with an interdisciplinary orientation. Moving towards a specialisation with the same nomenclature, the primary orientation of which would be to use and develop analytical.

What gets counted as disasters and what gets ignored? By whom and with what intent? What is the role played by the media? How do local communities negotiate their everyday challenges of access to resources-land and forests, livelihoods, food security, housing, water contamination, waste and pollution? Conflicts are certainly viewed as disasters within the framework of the JTSDS and has been taught as a concentration. Deepening the understanding- within this thematic specialisation questions such as -how is violence understood ? Is there an economic imperative that is driving the rising inequality and conflict? How are complex emergencies understood withn disaster studies?

Are there fundamental issues with the way governance is conceived and the administrative mechanisms put in place to deal with both causes and responses to disasters? The specialisation will support the integration of an understanding of disasters and development and build and learn from the past experiences with local, national and international institutions from critical theoretical perspectives. It will reflect significant evolution in teaching and learning, particularly with regard to advances in understanding of challenges in developing sustainable alternatives with a focus on social and environmental justice which remain core values of the Masters curriculum.

Besides, using a cultural and anthropological lens, myths, realities, and cultural representations of disasters will be explored in this specialisation recognising that the perception of disasters in different societies is diverse.

In engaging with governance aspects, the significance of global governance in terms of international institutions in disaster management such as UNDMT, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNCHR, WFP, WHO, ICRC, IFRC, IOM, OCHA etc. cannot be overlooked. From an international political economy perspective, disaster aid is a complicated geo-political process. The curriculum will critically engage with issues of transnational governance and the politics of disaster relief and humanitarian aid. Secularisation, militarisation, privatisation of risk are concerns that the specialisation would seek to emphasize. These currently do not find a place in the broader framework of disaster management but certainly need greater attention from scholars.

It is expected that the work of this centre, its faculty members and students would inspire and encourage research in areas that enable a shift in disaster discourse beyond the current event centric one. It is expected that students opting for this specialisation would belong to disciplines such as sociology, anthropology,

economics, political science, environmental geography, architecture and so on.

SPECIALISATION: TECHNOLOGIES FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT (15 seats)

Science and technology has contributed immensely to understand the mechanism and estimation of natural hazards of atmospheric, geological, hydrological, and biological origins. The study, the experiments, and observations of floods, severe storms, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, and their impacts on humankind has certainly provided rich insights. Advancement in sciences is now enabling scientists capture social vulnerabilities and modelling or scenario building which help understand and thus mitigate impacts of disasters and address planning processes. Similarly combining innovative methods and tools of GIS and remote sensing, mapping and assessing can help to identify the impact of complex disasters more accurately and quickly.

The ability of communities to enhance scientific knowledge through ground truthing, contributing to co-production of knowledge and collaboration is significant in democratising knowledge . This specialisation will enhance the capacities of students to work with this perspective on society and science and technology. The TISS believes that scientists must interface with communities and bring science to people and also engage with people's science, validating it or challenging it, as the case may be.

The scientific and technological disciplines which are involved in disaster management include basic and engineering sciences, natural, social and human sciences. They relate to the hazard environment (i.e., hydrology, geology, geophysics, seismology, volcanology, meteorology, and biology), to the built environment (i.e., engineering, architecture, and materials). It is acknowledged that developing a suitable warning system, disaster preparedness and management of disasters through application of technology tools including information technology is important for this specialisation. The specialisation will offer opportunities to dwell deeper into arenas such as Early warning systems, Civil design safety, IT & Communication Systems security, Environmental monitoring instrumentation, Mechanical and Electrical systems safety, Search and Rescue Technology, Industrial safety engineering, and so on.

LIST OF COURSES	
	Core Courses
MDM1	Disasters, Hazards and Extreme Events
MDM2	Disasters, Vulnerability and Risk
MDM3	Ecosystems and Habitat
MDM4	Policy, Institutions, Governance and Disaster Management
MDM5	Research Methodology I
MDM6	Introduction to Remote Sensing and GIS
MDM7	Disasters and Development
MDM8	Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning
MDM9	Emergency Response and Management
MDM10	Disaster Recovery
MDM11	Research Methodology II
MDM12	Introduction to Conflict
MDM13	Introduction to Public Health and Mental Health in Disasters
MDM14	Economics of Disasters and Disaster Finance
MDM15	Introduction to Technologies for Disaster Management
MDM16	Transboundary Governance and Humanitarian Action
MDM17	Project Management in Disaster Context
	Specialisation Courses
	Specialisation on Disaster Policy and Action
MDM18	Public Policy and Social Advocacy
MDM19	Advanced Course in Disaster Recovery (Elective for other 2 specialisations)
MDM20	Built Environment, Disasters and Planning (Elective for other 2 specialisations)
MDM21	Ecology, Adaptive Management and Disasters
MDM22	Emergency Response and Supply Chain Management
MDM23	Conflict, Peace and Humanitarian Crisis (Elective – Students from all 3 specialisations may opt)

	Specialisation: Disasters and Development
MDM24	Advanced course on Disasters and Development
MDM25	Cultural and Disasters
MDM26	Advanced Course in Social Research in Disaster Studies
MDM27	Theoretical Foundations of Disaster Economics and Finance
MDM28	Risk Economics and Public Finance
MDM29	Disasters and Well being
	Specialisation: Technologies for Disaster Management
MDM30	Choose one from any other Specializations - MDM 20: Built Environment, Disasters and Planning
MDM31	Hazard Monitoring, Early Warning Systems (EWS) and co-ordinated action
MDM32	Digital Image Processing and Spatial Analysis
MDM33	Geospatial Technologies in Hazard, Vulnerability, and Risk Mapping
MDM34	Geoinformatics in Preparedness and Response
MDM35	Applications of Geoinformatics in Disaster Studies
	Fieldwork/Internship/Research Dissertation (aligned to specialisation)
MDM36	Fieldwork (may be common)
MDM37	Internship I
MDM38	Internship II
MDM39	Research Dissertation
	Block Placement (Optional and Non-Evaluated)
Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)	Elective Foundation – Ethics of Intervention in Disaster Management
	Open Elective – GIS for Social Sciences