



# DSMG20002 *Disaster Risk Reduction*

## Term 2 - 2021

Profile information current as at 23/04/2024 04:02 pm

All details in this unit profile for DSMG20002 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

## General Information

### Overview

According to the United Nations (UNISDR), there is no such thing as a 'natural' disaster, only natural hazards. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a contemporary approach that aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards in disaster situations. DRR applies an ethic of prevention and combines the principles of disaster management, disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and sustainable development. In this unit, you will learn how to reduce disaster risk through sustainable planning, building community partnerships, reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience, with a particular emphasis on risks that impact upon public health.

### Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 8*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Co-requisite DSMG20004 Building Adaptive Capacity

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

### Offerings For Term 2 - 2021

- Online

### Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

### Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

## Class and Assessment Overview

### Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Postgraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

### Class Timetable

#### [Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

#### [Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

### Assessment Overview

#### 1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

#### 3. **Presentation**

Weighting: 30%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## CQUniversity Policies

**All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).**

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from Unit Evaluation

**Feedback**

Students would appreciate greater clarification of the assessment.

**Recommendation**

Students will be offered online engagement sessions, in addition to the support offered in the discussion forums, to further clarify the assessment for 2021.

#### Feedback from Unit Evaluation

**Feedback**

Return rates for assessment marking could be improved

**Recommendation**

The feedback for the marking of one assessment item was returned late by a few days due to the ill health of the Unit Coordinator. As it wasn't possible to make arrangements to replace the Unit Coordinator, all students were informed of the delay in return for this one item and no student was disadvantaged by the late return of the assessment marking.

#### Feedback from Unit Evaluation

**Feedback**

One student identified how one learning resource was difficult to locate on the Moodle site.

**Recommendation**

All students were informed of the location of this one learning resource. With the change of the Moodle sites to the tile format in 2021 all learning resources should be easier to locate.

#### Feedback from Unit Evaluation

**Feedback**

Tutorials by experts in the field were not offered this year.

**Recommendation**

Students routinely appreciate the input of disaster management specialists into this unit. Due to the influence of COVID 19 it wasn't possible to offer this extra service in 2020. These practice-based forums will be reintroduced in 2021.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

**On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:**

1. Apply the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to disaster risks at a community level.
2. Conduct a disaster risk assessment within a community in partnership with relevant professional agencies, businesses and/or community groups.
3. Design appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies for a community.
4. Facilitate collaborative and evidence-based decision making regarding disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation.
5. Advocate for investment in disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience.

Not applicable.



## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

**There are no required textbooks.**

### IT Resources

**You will need access to the following IT resources:**

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)  
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Dale Trott** Unit Coordinator  
[d.trott@cqu.edu.au](mailto:d.trott@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 12 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 1:</b> <i>Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction</i>		<b>Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Introduction to the unit & Introduction to Assessment 1

### Week 2 - 19 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 2:</b> <i>Identifying disaster risks</i>		

### Week 3 - 26 Jul 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 2:</b> <i>Identifying disaster risks</i> (cont'd)		<b>Working Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Assessment 1 general help

### Week 4 - 02 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 2:</b> <i>Identifying disaster risks</i> (cont'd)		

### Week 5 - 09 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 3:</b> <i>Designing strategies for reducing disaster risks</i>		<b>Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Introduction to Assessment 2  <b>Assessment task 1: Disaster Risk Assessment</b> Due: Week 5 Friday (13 Aug 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

### Mid-Term Break - 16 Aug 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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**Week 6 - 23 Aug 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 3:</b> <i>Designing strategies for reducing disaster risks</i> (cont'd)		<b>Working Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Assessment 2 general help

**Week 7 - 30 Aug 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 3:</b> <i>Designing strategies for reducing disaster risks</i> (cont'd)		

**Week 8 - 06 Sep 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 4:</b> <i>From strategies to action</i>		<b>Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Introduction to Assessment 3  <b>Assessment task 2: Disaster risk reduction strategies</b> Due: Week 8 Friday (10 Sept 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

**Week 9 - 13 Sep 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 4:</b> <i>From strategies to action</i> (cont'd)		

**Week 10 - 20 Sep 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 4:</b> <i>From strategies to action</i> (cont'd)		<b>Working Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Assessment 3 general help

**Week 11 - 27 Sep 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Module 4:</b> <i>From strategies to action</i> (cont'd)		<b>Working Tutorial (Zoom):</b> Assessment 3 general help

**Week 12 - 04 Oct 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review		<b>Assessment task 3: Implementation plan (Presentation)</b> Due: Week 12 Monday (4 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

**Review/Exam Week - 11 Oct 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

**Exam Week - 18 Oct 2021**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Assessment task 1: Disaster Risk Assessment

**Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

**Task Description****Task Description**

Identify a business, agency or community-based organisation in your area that you would be able/willing to work with. Establish a partnership with the organisation and work with them to identify hazards that would impact upon the

organisation during a disaster. Assess the disaster risk for each hazard present, supporting your assessment with evidence from the literature and information from your partner organisation.

**Part A - Negotiation with partner organisation (Pass/Fail) Due Friday Week 3 11:45pm**

Negotiate with a business, agency or community-based organisation to review the natural and anthropogenic hazards with the potential to create a disaster for the organisation. Choose an organisation that you are already familiar with, for example, your current employer, or another business worked with previously, or a social/community organisation. Provide to the organisation a signed copy of the introduction letter provided in Moodle and with the assistance of the partner organisation complete a risk assessment as part of the university insurance requirements for working with a community organisation. During your negotiations, make it clear to your organisation that you are a student and that your findings in no way represent the opinion of CQUniversity. You must complete this task and have it approved by the Unit Coordinator PRIOR to commencing Part B. The signed introduction letter and completed risk assessment are to be submitted for completion of Part A of this Assessment.

**Part B - Disaster Risk Assessment (30%) Due Friday Week 5 11:45pm**

Write a short report, based on the hazards you identified. Describe the hazards. Explain the likely impacts upon the organisation and the potential to create a disaster for the chosen organisation. Prioritise the hazards for further action according to the risk assessed for each hazard.

**Length:** 1200 words (10% under- 20% over is acceptable).

As with any report, **you should use appropriate evidence to support your statements**. There is no prescribed format for this task but your report should use relevant headings and subheadings to guide the reader. A Table of Contents and Executive Summary is not required.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 5 Friday (13 Aug 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Part A Negotiation with partner organisation MUST be submitted by Friday Week 3 11:45pm

**Return Date to Students**

Week 7 Friday (3 Sept 2021)

**Weighting**

30%

**Assessment Criteria**

**Relevance (30%)**

- works with appropriate organisation
- uses relevant information from credible and reputable sources to support ideas
- report is relevant to the context under investigation
- hazards identified are realistic
- effectiveness of the response activities is evaluated

**Validity (50%)**

- evidence of collaboration with partner organisation
- depth and extent of discussion
- accuracy of risk assessment
- prioritisation based on critical thought and analysis of the risk
- depth and range of research to support risk assessment

**Organisation (10%)**

- structure and flow of information
- ideas are logically developed and presented
- coherence and clarity of expression (spelling, grammar, syntax)
- all sources attributed

**Presentation (10%)**

- style and formatting
- typographical matters (types, font, headings, etc.)
- referencing is consistent and in accordance with CQU Harvard style
- length

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

## Submission

Online

## Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to disaster risks at a community level.
- Conduct a disaster risk assessment within a community in partnership with relevant professional agencies, businesses and/or community groups.
- Facilitate collaborative and evidence-based decision making regarding disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation.

## Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## 2 Assessment task 2: Disaster risk reduction strategies

### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

### Task Description

#### Task Description

Using the hazards previously prioritised for action from assessment 1 you will be designing and developing strategies for reducing the risk these hazards present to the organisation in creating a disaster.

Write a report, addressed to your partner organisation, clearly describing a range of strategies targeting each of the top 5 prioritised disaster hazards. Provide a clear description of each strategy; explaining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and recommending the option you consider to be the best choice in terms of the organisation's capacity.

**Length:** 1500 words (10% under- 20% over is acceptable).

As with any report, **you should use appropriate evidence to support your statements**. There is no prescribed format for this task but your report should use relevant headings and subheadings to guide the reader. A Table of Contents and Executive Summary is not required.

### Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Friday (10 Sept 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

### Return Date to Students

Week 10 Friday (24 Sept 2021)

### Weighting

40%

### Assessment Criteria

#### Relevance (30%)

- works with appropriate organisation
- uses relevant information from credible and reputable sources to support ideas
- report is relevant to the context under investigation
- strategies proposed are realistic
- strengths and weaknesses of the strategies are evaluated

#### Validity (50%)

- evidence of collaboration with partner organisation
- depth and extent of discussion
- accuracy of risk assessment
- recommendations based on critical thought and analysis
- depth and range of research to support strategy development
- creativity and innovation in strategy design and development
- organisational capacity clearly considered when making recommendations

#### Organisation (10%)



- structure and flow of information
- ideas are logically developed and presented
- coherence and clarity of expression (spelling, grammar, syntax)
- all sources attributed

### **Presentation (10%)**

- style and formatting
- typographical matters (types, font, headings, etc.)
- referencing is consistent and in accordance with Harvard style
- length

### **Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

### **Submission**

Online

### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Apply the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to disaster risks at a community level.
- Design appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies for a community.
- Facilitate collaborative and evidence-based decision making regarding disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation.

### **Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## **3 Assessment task 3: Implementation plan (Presentation)**

### **Assessment Type**

Presentation

### **Task Description**

#### **Task Description**

Present your findings from your negotiations with your partner organisation, with specific focus on the implementation of your strategies as identified by your organisational partner as requiring action.

#### **Part A: Presentation (25%)**

Work with your partner organisation to develop an implementation plan for the disaster risk reduction strategies the organisational partner has selected. Prepare a presentation of this plan for the class as part of a Zoom session. If you use PowerPoint slides, handouts or other presentation materials, a copy of these should be uploaded to Moodle at least 2 days prior to the presentation date, as part of your submission for this task.

**Duration:** 20-25 minutes

#### **Part B: Participation (5%)**

Every student is expected to attend presentations made by other students. Days and times will be negotiated to suit the majority of students.

### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Monday (4 Oct 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

Days and times for presentations will be negotiated.

### **Return Date to Students**

Following certification of grades.

### **Weighting**

30%

## Assessment Criteria

### Relevance (20%)

- works with appropriate organisation
- uses relevant information from credible and reputable sources to support arguments
- presentation is relevant to audience
- arguments used are realistic
- strengths and weaknesses of the plan are presented

### Validity (40%)

- evidence of collaboration with partner organisation
- depth of discussion
- accuracy of information used
- recommendations based on critical thought and analysis
- depth and range of research to support implementation plan
- creativity and innovation in development of plan
- organisational capacity clearly considered in development of plan

### Organisation (20%)

- structure and flow of information
- ideas are logically developed and presented
- coherence and clarity of verbal expression
- all sources appropriately attributed

### Presentation (20%)

- personal appearance
- quality and standard of presentation materials
- quality of engagement with audience

### Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

### Submission

Online

### Submission Instructions

If Powerpoint or handouts are used, these should be submitted to Moodle a minimum of one week prior to presenting.

### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to disaster risks at a community level.
- Advocate for investment in disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience.

### Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

### What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

### Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

### Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

### What can you do to act with integrity?



#### Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



#### Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



#### Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem