International Student Seminar for Global Citizenship and Peace 2027
Call for Speakers

We're delighted to annouce the theme for the International Student Seminar for Global Citizenship and Peace, as **'Disaster Management'** hosted by Hiroshima University Japan from 4th-12th August 2027

The deadline for expressions of interest from speakers is 31st January 2027.

We would be pleased to hear from academic staff/faculty from INU member institutions who may like to contribute as Workshop Speaker under multidisciplinary topics relating to Disaster Management:

A. POLITICS
International Relations & Political Studies
Law, Human Rights

B. ECONOMICS
Disaster Economics
Development Economics & Economic Vulnerability

C. SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY
Climate Science, Geography & Environment
Engineering, Infrastructure & Urban Planning
Technology, Data & System

D. SOCIAL
Public Health & Medicine
Community Resilience, Risk Literacy and Education

Full details on the seminar theme and guidance on the areas we'd like to address through the workshop are outlined in more detail below

Workshop speakers will be required to:

- Attend fully and actively participate in the range of activities scheduled as part of International Student Seminar for Global Citizenship & Peace 4th-12th August 2027 (Please include 1-2 days travel time either side of these dates)
- To deliver an interactive, dynamic and engaging workshop with groups of students from around the world.
- To act as a Group Facilitator for the group work sessions

- To attend and support their group at the UN General Assembly Simulation
- Prepare and record an asynchronous lecture on their topic in advance to give the students a grounding in the subject (Approx. 20 minutes)
- Provide an accessible reading list for students on the theme

Expressions of interest should be sent to the INU Coordinator (INU@kingston.ac.uk) with the following supporting information:

- Name / Position / Department / University / Research or teaching interests
- Proposed title of the workshop
- 300 word summary of the workshop
- List of open sources (max 10) which could form part of the reading list to support the workshop

The deadline for expressions of interest is 31st January 2027.

About the International Student Seminar

The International Student Seminar for Global Citizenship and Peace is a unique immersive program which is usually hosted by Hiroshima University in Japan. The seminar welcomes students from around the world from INU member universities and is structured around the 6th August commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The 9 day program, with a different theme each year, includes lectures, case studies and small group discussions. The program also offers field trips to local attractions and cultural learning experiences, and culminates in a United Nations role play where groups of students represent different countries.

The INU Student Seminar features:

- Lectures and workshops with academic experts and guest speakers from around the world;
- Interactive seminars that encourage stimulating discussion and learning;
- A role-play of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- Japanese culture
- A truly international student body

The program also includes attendance of Peace Memorial events to commemorate 6th August atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Seminar theme 2027:

The UN 2026 Sustainable Development Goals Report stated that, over the last few decades, direct disaster-related economic losses exacerbated by climate change have reached more than US$110 billion per year, and the number of people affected by disasters has doubled, reaching

approximately 123 million people annually. Furthermore, when further impacts are included, the estimate significantly jumped, with the annual cost exceeding US$2.3 trillion (UN Statistics, 2026) The impact is even more devastating for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). LDCs have experienced nearly 70% of deaths from climate-related disasters over the last 50 years (WMO, 2020). UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction highlights that disasters impact the economies of the poorest countries 10 times worse than the economies of the richest countries, as a share of their GDP (UNDRR, 2022). Similarly, the World Meteorological Organisation reported that between 1970 and 2021, weather, climate, and water-related disasters caused more than 2 million deaths and approximately US$4.3 trillion in economic losses, with more than 90% of reported deaths occurring in developing countries (WMO, 2023)

Despite this age of technological advancement, our technology solutions remain limited. Although the number of countries reporting multi-hazard early-warning systems almost tripled in recent decades (from 55 in 2015 to 128 in 2026), 62 countries assessed their systems as limited to moderate in effectiveness, indicating ongoing gaps in coverage and accessibility (UNDRR, 2026).
This makes disaster management crucial to global resilience. It is not merely an emergency-response issue, but one that requires a multidisciplinary perspective. It involves political, economic, social, and technological solutions, as repeated disasters can reduce incomes, increase debt, damage infrastructure, and undermine long-term development.

Countries facing disasters do not have identical levels of emergency-response capacity or adequate financial resources to handle disasters. Moreover, disasters frequently exceed the capacity of a single institution or country, requiring multilateral coordination.

A. POLITICS

International Relations & Political Studies
Description:
This workshop examines disaster management as a challenge of international governance and collective action. It explores how states and non-state actors can coordinate their responsibilities and resources across the disaster cycle.
Questions to address:

- How the United Nations and regional organisations coordinate international disaster-management efforts.
- How states can share responsibilities, resources, expertise, and information during major disasters.
- The challenges of coordinating national governments with humanitarian organisations and other international actors.
- How international cooperation can strengthen preparedness and long-term disaster resilience.

Law, Human Rights
Description:
This workshop examines the legal and human-rights dimensions of disaster management. It considers how governments can exercise emergency powers while protecting the rights and

dignity of affected populations. It also addresses questions of accountability, humanitarian access, displacement, and the ethical allocation of limited resources during disasters.

Questions to address:

- How human rights should be protected during emergency response and recovery.
- How emergency powers can be exercised while maintaining legal accountability.
- The protection of displaced people and other vulnerable groups during disasters.
- Ethical challenges arising when governments must allocate limited resources during emergencies.

B. ECONOMICS

Disaster Economics

Description:

This workshop examines disaster management through an economic lens and explores how economic resilience can reduce the broader consequences of disasters. It addresses disaster-risk reduction. It also looks at indirect and long-term consequences for employment, productivity, supply chains, public finances, and economic growth.

Questions to address:

- How disasters affect national economic growth, employment, and productivity.
- How disruptions to businesses and supply chains can create wider economic consequences.
- How disaster losses can affect household income, livelihoods, and consumption.
- Ho• How economic resilience can reduce the long-term impact of disasters.
- How public–private partnerships, business, and MSMEs can support disaster preparedness and response.

Development Economics & Economic Vulnerability

Description:

This workshop examines the relationship between development and disaster vulnerability (poverty, inequality). Includes how the discussion considers how development policies can reduce vulnerability while strengthening long-term resilience. how international financing can support resilience while maintaining sustainable development and fiscal stability.

Questions to address:

- How poverty and inequality influence vulnerability to disasters.
- Why countries and communities with different levels of development experience different disaster impacts.
- How development planning can incorporate disaster-risk reduction.
- How disaster resilience can support more inclusive and sustainable development.

C. SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY

Climate Science, Geography & Environment

Description:

This workshop examines the scientific and environmental foundations of disaster risk. It

examines how scientific knowledge, environmental management, and climate adaptation can contribute to disaster-risk reduction.

Question to address:

- How climate and environmental conditions influence different types of disaster risk.
- How hazard, exposure, and vulnerability interact to create disaster risk.
- How environmental degradation and land-use change can increase disaster vulnerability.
- How climate adaptation and ecosystem-based approaches can contribute to disaster-risk reduction.

Engineering, Infrastructure & Urban Planning

Description:

This workshop examines how the built environment can either reduce or increase disaster risk. Infrastructure, building standards, urban planning, transportation, water systems, and critical facilities shape communities' ability to withstand and recover from disasters. The discussion considers how resilient design and planning can reduce vulnerability before disasters and improve reconstruction afterwards.

Questions to address:

- How resilient infrastructure can reduce damage and maintain essential services during disasters.
- How building standards and urban planning can reduce exposure and vulnerability.
- How critical infrastructure such as hospitals, transport, water, and energy systems can be protected.
- How reconstruction can improve infrastructure resilience rather than replace damaged assets.

Technology, Data & System

Description:

This workshop examines how technology and data can improve disaster-risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and response. Technologies such as satellite systems, GIS, artificial intelligence, sensors, and communication networks can provide critical information before and during disasters. The discussion also considers whether communities can access, understand, and act upon the information produced by these technologies.

Questions to address:

- How data and risk mapping can improve disaster-risk assessment and decision-making.
- How early-warning systems can provide timely information to communities at risk.
- How technologies such as satellites, GIS, and artificial intelligence can support disaster management.
- How digital inequality, misinformation, and limited access can affect the effectiveness of disaster technologies.

D. SOCIAL

Public Health & Medicine

Description:

This workshop examines disaster management from the perspective of public health and

health-system resilience. Disasters can increase health needs while simultaneously disrupting hospitals, healthcare workers, medical supplies, sanitation systems, and essential health services. The discussion explores how health systems can prepare for, respond to, and recover from different types of disasters.

Questions to address:

- How health systems can maintain essential services during disasters.
- How emergency medicine and public health systems can respond to large-scale health needs.
- How disease outbreaks, sanitation, nutrition, and mental health should be addressed after disasters.
- How health workers, hospitals, and medical supply chains can be protected and prepared.
- How ethical principles such a justice, equity and respect for dignity can guide triage and the allocation of scarce health resources during disasters.

Community Resilience, Risk Literacy and Education

Description:

This workshop examines how social structures and community conditions shape disaster vulnerability and resilience. The discussion emphasises community participation, local knowledge, and social cohesion as important components of effective disaster management. Communities need not only access to accurate information but also the ability to understand risks, recognise warnings, and know how to respond.

Questions to address:

- How social inequality affects vulnerability to disasters.
- How local and indigenous knowledge can contribute to disaster preparedness and resilience.
- How social cohesion and community networks can support recovery after disasters.
- How education can develop long-term disaster preparedness and risk awareness.

This is an indicative list and we're open to proposals from a broad range of perspectives and approaches.

For further information, please visit: https://www.inunis.net/studentseminar/