

## The Master of Arts in Humanitarian Assistance (MAHA)

is a one-year joint degree offered by the **Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy** and the **Fletcher School at Tufts University**. The program is targeted at mid-career professionals with field experience in humanitarian assistance. The program offers an academic setting where professionals can develop their knowledge and skills in the areas of nutrition, food policy, and development as they relate to humanitarian action in famines, complex emergencies, and natural disasters.

The **Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy** has achieved international recognition for its cross-disciplinary training of professionals in programs such as human nutrition and nutritional epidemiology, applied nutrition and food policy, and humanitarian assistance.

The **Fletcher School** is devoted exclusively to graduate study in international affairs and educates professionals for careers in conflict negotiation, human rights, development, international law, global business, and humanitarian assistance.



# Curriculum and Requirements

The MAHA consists of two semesters of academic work, totaling eight courses and one thesis. Students are expected to complete three mandatory courses, three core electives selected from a specialized list of courses offered at the Friedman School and the Fletcher School, and two courses of their own choosing. The thesis typically draws on students' previous field experience, to which theoretical and analytical skills acquired in the program are applied. In addition, students must pass a short online course on research ethics, and those whose native language is English must pass a foreign language examination.

Students are assigned academic and thesis advisers who oversee the student's progress, advise on course selection, provide guidance on thesis writing, and ensure that degree requirements are met.

## Mandatory Courses

Students must take these three courses:

- NUTR 223: Seminar in Humanitarian Issues
- NUTR 229: Humanitarian Action in Complex Emergencies
- NUTR 308: Nutrition in Complex Emergencies

## Core Electives

Students must take three of the following courses offered by either the Friedman School or the Fletcher School (courses may change each year):

- NUTR 201: Fundamentals of Nutrition Science
- NUTR 302: Daily Risks and Crisis Events: How People and Planners Cope with Vulnerability
- NUTR 324: Humanitarian Studies in the Field
- DHP P222-1: Development Aid, Policies and Challenges (1/2 credit)
- DHP P222-2: Development Aid and the Tools of the Trade (1/2 credit)
- ILO L210: International Human Rights Law
- ILO L214: Transitional Justice
- DHP P216: International Humanitarian Policy and Public Health
- DHP D232: Gender, Culture and Conflict in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies
- DHP D221: Seminar on International Mediation (Lottery Registration)
- DHP D236: Global Migration and Displacement
- DHP D231: Human Rights Protection of Civilians During Situations of Armed Conflict
- DHP D235: Field Research Methods in Humanitarian Settings



## Admission to the MAHA

Candidates must hold an undergraduate degree, have significant field experience in humanitarian assistance, be committed to furthering their humanitarian assistance career, and have proven English proficiency. Candidates may be required to conduct a telephone interview.

## Tuition and Financial Aid

Tuition is set each year and reviewed annually, but students can expect to spend about \$26,000 on tuition plus \$16,000 on living expenses and fees. Financial aid and limited scholarships are available. For more information, see the financial aid procedures of the Friedman School.

## Governance and Administration

This program is offered jointly by the Friedman and the Fletcher schools. It is administered academically by a joint MAHA committee comprised of faculty from each school. Students are selected for admission by this committee, subject to review and approval by the Admissions Committee of each school. Administration, management, and financial control of the program are provided by the Friedman School.



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

Gerald J. and Dorothy R.  
Friedman School of Nutrition  
Science and Policy



**Feinstein**  
International Center

## Contact Information

For information about the MAHA program, please contact the Feinstein International Center:

Telephone: 1-617-627-3423 Fax: 1-617-627-3428 Email: [maha@tufts.edu](mailto:maha@tufts.edu)

For information on registration or the application process, please contact the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy:

Telephone: 1-617-636-3777 Fax: 1-617-636-3600

Email: [nutritionadmissions@tufts.edu](mailto:nutritionadmissions@tufts.edu)