



# BENFIELD GROUP

For Immediate Release

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## **BENFIELD GREIG HAZARD RESEARCH CENTRE LAUNCHES NATURAL HAZARDS CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR RE/INSURANCE MARKET**

Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre (BGHRC), University College London, has launched a new, one year Certificate course – **Natural Hazards for Insurers** – aimed at insurance and reinsurance professionals.

As accelerating global warming increases the prospect of more widespread and more damaging natural catastrophes, an understanding of the hazards that cause them becomes crucial to those in the insurance and reinsurance markets, that seek to limit their exposure to this growing threat. In response to this developing need, BGHRC has introduced this part time course, starting in September 2002.

The content of the course will be tailored for maximum relevance to the market, with a focus on those hazards – windstorm, flood and quake – responsible for the bulk of catastrophe-related losses. It will also address other hazards, including landslides, subsidence, and volcanic action, and geotechnical issues such as radioactive waste disposal, contaminated land, ground water rise and dam safety. The emphasis of the course will be on developing an improved understanding of natural hazards through consideration of the nature of available data, what it can tell us, and current limitations, as well as innovative cutting edge research.

The course will comprise two taught modules and one independent project module, successful completion of which will result in post-graduate certification. Disruption to busy schedules will be limited by flexible teaching hours that have been designed to fit alongside the working day. Each module will be 8 weeks long and timetabled to run consecutively during September - October, February - March and May - June, avoiding the end-of-year renewal period.

**Natural Hazards for Insurers** has been developed in consultation with the *Under 35s* reinsurance group and other experienced market professionals. Establishment of the course is supported by a number of insurance and risk-related insurance bodies, and CII accreditation is currently being sought.

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Commenting, Professor Bill McGuire, Course Director and Director of UCL's Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre said: "In an increasingly risky world it is becoming clear that there can be no competitive advantage for insurers and others in the financial services sector, without greatly improved knowledge and understanding of natural hazards and the threats they pose. Our course has been developed to answer this need and we anticipate considerable interest from insurance and reinsurance specialists."

For further information and an application form for the certificate course, contact Professor Bill McGuire (Course Director) Tel: 020 7679 3449, e-mail [w.mcguire@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:w.mcguire@ucl.ac.uk), or visit [www.bghrc.com](http://www.bghrc.com)

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### Course Statistics

<b>Venue</b>	University College London
<b>Duration</b>	One year – part time
<b>Who should take the course?</b>	Insurance and reinsurance employees, brokers, underwriters, risk managers, actuaries
<b>Entry Requirement</b>	A degree <i>or</i> 3 years financial services industry experience
<b>Places</b>	20
<b>Fee</b>	£3,000



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## **Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre**

The Centre is sponsored by Benfield Greig, part of Benfield Group plc, one of the world's leading independent reinsurance intermediaries ([www.benfieldgroup.com](http://www.benfieldgroup.com)). Headquartered in the UK, it provides a range of specialist reinsurance, insurance and risk advisory services to a global customer base.

With over forty researchers and practitioners, Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre is Europe's leading multidisciplinary academic hazard research centre. Launched in June 1997 as the Greig Fester Centre for Hazard Research, the Centre was renamed two years later following a merger between Greig Fester and Benfield Ellinger.

The BGHRC comprises three groups: Geological Hazards, Meteorological & Space Hazards, and Disaster Studies and Management. Meteorological Hazard work is concentrated in the Department of Space and Climate Physics and based at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Surrey, while the Geological Hazards and Disaster Studies and Management groups are lodged within the Department of Geological Sciences on the main UCL campus in central London. University College London is one of the world's leading universities and, along with Oxford and Cambridge, one of the UK's top three multi-faculty teaching and research institutions.