

Mc Guire, George, MSc, Geneva, Switzerland

Logic specialist at the head office of a major international humanitarian organization in Geneva; worked as a humanitarian worker in a dozen different countries over ten years

Logistiker in der Zentrale einer großen internationalen Humanitären Organisation mit Sitz in Genf, arbeitete zehn Jahre als Humanitärer Helfer in einem Dutzend Länder

Logistics - the indispensable service

Effective and efficient logistics services are indispensable for the successful implementation of health programmes. Logisticians are responsible for selecting items, sourcing suppliers, importing, exporting, transporting, storing as well as distributing health care goods and maintaining their quality all along the supply chain.

Cranfield University

Cranfield University (UK) requires a degree as entry qualification, but candidates may also be eligible with professional qualifications and work experience in the field of logistics. The one year *MSc in Logistics and Supply Chain Management* is a clearly academic and commercially oriented programme with an internationally recognised degree. During the first two terms, compulsory and elective courses, on topics such as procurement, warehousing, transport, statistics and forecasting, network design, information systems and international logistics among others are offered. Students complete a company group project and must write an individual company or research based thesis during the remaining two terms.

Although the course cannot turn graduates into logistics specialists, it offers a highly professional approach to and comprehensive overview of the different aspects of logistics and supply chain management.

CILT (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport)

The Fritz Institute has developed the Certification in Humanitarian Logistics in collaboration with major humanitarian organisations. The self-directed, distance learning course requires Internet access and an estimated 5 hours of work per week during 18 months. Individually assigned coaches assess the tasks which candidates have to complete for each of the seven units covering the humanitarian supply chain.

Bioforce

Bioforce (France) offers a very practical course with training on logistics, maintenance of vehicles and telecommunications equipment, finance and administration during the first year and a field mission during the second year.

Career opportunities

Humanitarian organisations rarely require their logistics staff to have professional qualifications. However the demand to increase professionalism, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance will increase awareness for the importance of (more) professional logistics and supply chain management.

Training institutions

www.bioforce.asso.fr (Bioforce Development Institute)

www.ciltuk.org.uk (The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK))

www.fritzinstitute.org (Fritz Institute)

www.isli.bordeaux-bs.edu (Institute Supérieur de Logistique Industrielle)

www.som.cranfield.ac.uk (Cranfield University, School of Management)

www.redr.org (RedR)