



International Diploma in Risk Management

Core Module Three: Risk Decisions

Module aims

To provide a critical overview of how risk information and knowledge are created and used to support risk problem structuring in support of tactical risk decision making, and to identify factors affecting the quality of risk decision making within organisations.

Module learning outcomes

By the end of the module students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast methods used to generate risk information and risk knowledge.
2. Examine how decision maker characteristics may impact risk decision making within the organisation.
3. Explain the role of technology in support of the risk information and knowledge creation process.
4. Identify how technology may support risk problem solving and the risk decision making process.
5. Identify the steps in the problem solving process and evaluate the role of risk information and risk knowledge in support of organisational risk decisions.
6. Understand concepts related to problem solving and decision making: distinguish the main organisational risk decisions in contemporary organisations.

Module syllabus

Unit One: Decision making, an introduction. This first unit introduces students to decision theory and decision making strategies.

Unit Two: Decision makers, risk thinking and decision making. Recognising that people make non-routine risk decisions, students will explore decision makers' predispositions (personality, background, gender, values, attitudes, beliefs, education and experience) and their impact on the risk management process, risk decisions and behaviour.

Unit Three: Risk problem structuring and the creation of risk information and knowledge. In this unit students focus in detail on risk identification, estimation, evaluation and analysis generally. Both quantitative and qualitative methods and techniques are explored and explained.

Unit Four: Using technology to support risk decision making. Unit Four builds upon the previous unit and identifies how technology (specifically databases, spreadsheets, decision support and business intelligence software, and specific risk decision software) can enable the risk management process.

Unit Five: Critical risk thinking and improved risk decision making. The final unit focuses on the outputs of the risk management process and sub-processes. In this session, students will consider the challenges of communicating risk information to a range of organisational stakeholders for a variety of purposes.