



Australian
National
University

National
Security
College

Academic program 2023



Australian Government

The National Security College is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth Government and The Australian National University.

Contents

About the College	2
Message from the Head of College	3
Master of National Security Policy	5
Message from the Vice-Chancellor	9
Message from the Crawford School Director	10
Graduate Certificate of National Security Policy	11
Course descriptions	13
NSC students	20
NSC alumni	21
NSC Head	22
NSC academic conveners	23
The NSC network	24
How to apply	29
Doctoral studies	32

About the College

Our mission

We aim to lift Australia's whole-of-nation security capabilities and foster communities of practice through executive and professional development, academic teaching and research, futures analysis, policy engagement, dialogue and outreach.

Our vision

We endeavor to develop people, ideas and networks for a secure Australian future.

Delivering on our mission

We work in four key areas to help deliver on our broader mission.

Executive and professional development

Delivering high-quality courses which are responsive to the changing needs of the national security community and that enhance participants' understanding of the national security environment and architecture, and its challenges, strategies, policy priorities, planning and leadership.

Academic education and research

Delivering a sustainable world-class graduate program in national security studies.

Policy and engagement

Fostering improved understanding and debate about Australia's national interests through public discourse on national security, and related issues; advocating creative ideas for positive policy change in Australia and internationally; and promoting NSC as a centre of excellence for national security education, research, and policy ideas.

Futures Hub

Bringing together diverse policy and subject-matter experts to consider likely and possible futures and plan for these in present-day policymaking; and building futures-thinking capacity across government.

Message from the Head of College



Welcome to our degree, a world-class offering to equip you for a career in security and policy. In the 2020s, this decade of disruption and danger, there has never been a more important time to study national security.

To meet that need, the National Security College at The Australian National University has fully redesigned the Master of National Security Policy degree. The new degree was piloted in 2021 and refined in 2022, and has been extremely well received by students and employers alike.

Like our degree, the College is unique. It fuses specialist academic knowledge with the skills of experienced policy practitioners.

The College, our own NSC, is a joint initiative between the Australian Government and the University. Our mission is about engaging minds for a secure Australia. We are entrusted by government with building the human capability to face a new era of risk and complexity.

Much of our work involves executive training, policy workshops, futures analysis and public outreach, bringing together officials and experts.

Our degree goes deeper still. It combines the academic rigour and multidisciplinary expertise of a leading research university with the real-world insights of government decision-makers. We offer a signature teaching model, with an emphasis on interactive exercises and policy work alongside established methods of research and argument.

Many of our courses are intensives, co-taught and co-designed by policy leaders. These are delivered in a compressed timeframe with assessment focused on the thinking, decision-making and communications skills that government and other employers demand. The content is contemporary and forward-looking.



Here at NSC, national security is much more than the military dimension. You will gain a dynamic sense of how politics, policy, leadership, resilience, law, diplomacy, geoeconomics, geopolitics, coercion, technology, intelligence, ethics, information, health and climate all play their part. And why history matters more than ever.

The new reality of national security is inclusive, and so are we. With this degree, we will challenge you. With the support of the renowned Crawford School of Public Policy, and in partnership with the Australian Government, we will empower you in careers that make a difference.

Professor Rory Medcalf AM
Head, National Security College
The Australian National University

Master of National Security Policy

In a disrupted world, there has never been a more critical time to understand security.

The Master of National Security Policy degree offers a world-class and policy-oriented qualification in national security, in line with the vision of the National Security College as a joint initiative between The Australian National University and the Australian Government.

Our students learn about policy analysis, policymaking and policy leadership.

Core courses provide foundations in concepts and practical policy skills, with a focus on navigating the national security landscape in Australia and the wider world.

Electives examine the horizon of present and future risks, from pandemics, foreign interference, terrorism and cyber-attacks through to Indo-Pacific geopolitics, geoeconomics, US-China tensions, information warfare, technological disruption, energy and environmental concerns. To address these challenges, students may develop a policy grounding in security-related aspects of such areas as bureaucracy, politics, ethics, history, risk-management, leadership and civil-military relations.

In recognition of the multidisciplinary and dynamic nature of contemporary national security, we also allow a wide range of electives elsewhere at ANU: our students shape their own security journey.

This Master degree offers a signature teaching model: each course integrates academic expertise from NSC, the Crawford School of Public Policy and across ANU with the insights of leading policy practitioners from Australia and internationally, drawing on NSC's trusted networks. Scenario and simulation exercises apply your knowledge to real policy challenges. This policy-oriented teaching provides our students with direct access to the world of government, enabling informed career choices. Our students become part of a supportive community of national security alumni, with opportunities to get involved in the wider public policy activities of the ANU National Security College (NSC) in Australia's capital.

This degree equips graduates for careers in government – across the full spectrum of policy departments and intelligence agencies. It also prepares students for the many other professional pathways – in academia, the private sector, international organisations, media and civil society – where it matters to understand 21st century security.

Program details

CRICOS code: 0101473

Program code: 7871 MNSEP

Units/duration: 72 Units / 1 – 1.5 years dependent on previous studies

Admission requirements

- > Bachelor degree or international equivalent with GPA 5.0/7.0; or
- > Bachelor degree or international equivalent with GPA 4.0/7.0 and a minimum of 3 years full-time equivalent work experience at ANZSCO Skill Level 1 in a field related to the program; or
- > Bachelor degree or international equivalent with GPA 4.0/7.0 and a Graduate Certificate or international equivalent with a GPA of 4.0/7.0; or
- > Graduate Diploma or international equivalent with a GPA 4.0/7.0; or
- > 48 units of courses in a postgraduate program with a GPA of 4.0/7.0; or
- > Graduate Certificate or international equivalent with a GPA of 4.0/7.0 and a minimum of 3 years full-time equivalent work experience at ANZSCO Skill Level 1 in a field related to the program; or
- > Graduate Records Examination (GRE) General test, completed no more than 5 years before the time of application, with a minimum score of 155 for Verbal Reasoning, 155 for Quantitative Reasoning and 4.0 in Analytical Writing and a minimum of 3 years full-time equivalent work experience at ANZSCO Skill Level 1 in a field related to the program; or
- > A minimum of 10 years full-time equivalent work experience at ANZSCO Skill Level 1 in a field related to the program.

Program requirements

The Master of National Security Policy requires the completion of 72 units which must consist of:

12 units from completion of the following compulsory courses:

NSPO8006 National security policymaking

NSPO8007 National security: concepts and methods

A minimum of 18 units from completion of any of the following national security policy courses:

NSPO8008 Ethical challenges for national security

NSPO8009 Cyber and emerging technologies in national security

NSPO8012 Leadership, risk and national security crisis management

NSPO8028 History for policymakers

NSPO8030 Coercion and national security

- NSPO8032 Geoeconomics and national security
- NSPO8033 Climate, the environment and national security
- NSPO8034 China, America and national security
- NSPO8035 Australia's strategic environment and future security challenges
- NSPO8036 Australian national security law: an introduction for policymakers

A minimum of 6 units from completion of any of the following 3-unit national security issues courses:

- NSPO8040 Gender and security
- NSPO8041 Borders, migration and security
- NSPO8042 Civil-military coordination
- NSPO8043 Pandemics, infectious diseases and national security
- NSPO8044 Energy security
- NSPO8045 Propaganda and information war
- NSPO8046 Terrorism and national security
- NSPO8047 How Canberra works: a guide for security policymakers
- NSPO8048 The future of intelligence
- NSPO8049 Security in the Indo-Pacific

A maximum of 6 units from the following experiential courses:

- ANIP6503 Australian National Internships Program internship A (graduate)
- POGO8140 Practice-based project
- CRWF7000 Applied policy project
- CRWF8019 Public policy and professional internship
- NSPO8037 Research project

Further contextual studies

Students can choose from approved security, strategy and policy courses:

Cyber studies

- LAWS8035 Cyber warfare law
- LAWS8077 Cyber law
- SOCY6064 Surveillance and society
- SOCY6066 Social science of the internet

Global security

- DIPL8006 Diplomacy, politics and the United Nations
- INTR8062 Humanitarianism in world politics
- INTR8065 Writing international relations
- INTR8067 U.S. security policy in the Asia Pacific
- MEAS8115 Islam in world politics

- REGN8007 Violence against women in Australia, Asia and the Pacific
STST8002 The new power politics of Asia

Public policy

- IDEC8021 The Chinese economy
INTR8017 Issues in Australian foreign policy
INTR8068 Foreign policy analysis
POGO8402 Political and institutional architecture of public policy
POGO8401 Foundations in public policy
POGO8136 Participating in public policy: citizen engagement and public talk
POGO8083 Policy advocacy
POGO8076 Corruption and anti-corruption
POGO8045 International policymaking in the shadow of the future
POGO8138 Science, technology and public policy
POGO8235 Engaging China: working with policymakers in the PRC
POGO8233 Policy tools & mixes
POGO8234 Unpacking policy capacity
POGO8231 Leading in public administration
POGO8021 Public sector ethics
POGO8062 Public sector management
REGN8052 Regulation and governance

Strategy and defence

- STST8001 Strategic studies
STST8004 Australian strategic and defence policy
STST8013 China's defence and strategic challenges
STST8021 Intelligence and security
STST8026 Nuclear strategy in the Asian century
STST8027 Insurgency & counterinsurgency in modern warfare
STST8056 Strategy and Southeast Asia: defence and security dynamics
STST8068 Asian strategy and security: history, theory, and practice

Resources and the environment

- EMDV8009 Asia Pacific environmental conflicts: causes and solutions
EMDV8079 Water politics on a modified planet
EMDV8080 International climate change policy and economics
EMDV8081 Domestic climate change policy and economics
EMDV8124 Disaster risk reduction and management
IDEC8089 Energy economics

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Since 1946, The Australian National University's mission has been to make a profound difference for Australia as it makes its way in the world.

In that spirit, the National Security College was established at ANU as a unique institution to advance the national interest – engaging minds for a secure Australia.

The College has proven itself an essential part of Australia's security and policy story.

The NSC ethos is of thinking holistically about the security of state and society to manage the challenges of a disrupted world, an approach ideally suited to the era of COVID-19 and beyond.

NSC convenes vital discussion between government, academia, industry and civil society, in a trusted and independent environment. And most importantly, the College prepares the next generation of security practitioners – thinkers and doers.

Alumni of the ANU National Security College already perform key roles in government departments and agencies, in Australia and internationally.

The skills and knowledge developed at the ANU National Security College will be vital for Australia in the uncertain years ahead.

Multidisciplinary learning is a core value of the University, and the fully redesigned Master of National Security Policy degree typifies this. We bring together leading academics and policymakers to combine insights across such diverse fields as policy, history, economics, technology and law, to generate new thinking about security for the 2020s and beyond.

Each course integrates academic expertise from the ANU National Security College, the Crawford School and across the University with the insights of leading policy practitioners from Australia, and across the globe, drawing on NSC's trusted networks.

The Master of National Security Policy degree offers a world-class and policy-oriented qualification in national security.

This degree embodies the vision of the National Security College as a joint initiative between The Australian National University and the Australian Government.

The ANU National Security College is an exceptional place to start – or advance – your career in making a difference for a secure and resilient future.

Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC FAA FRS
Vice-Chancellor & President
2011 Nobel Laureate (Physics)

Message from the Crawford School Director



Welcome to the National Security College at the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy. When you choose to study with us, you join a public policy community that is committed to creating positive impact.

At The Australian National University, we undertake transformational research and deliver world-best educational programs.

Our School and its experts have deep links to government, community, business, and international organisations, in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond. These links have been built over many years and are driven by a commitment to evidence-based advice and collaborating to address complex challenges together. This is why policymakers choose to work with us time and time again.

Through our academic programs, we work alongside policy professionals to confront the full range of policy issues. We are committed to working with you to develop your capacity to navigate the leadership challenges that shape your practice.

Our recent experiences with the global pandemic, geopolitical instability, and economic upheaval have shown us all the imperative of rethinking and broadening our understanding of public policy. When you choose to pursue study at the ANU National Security College, you gain access to new ways of thinking and broader sets of knowledge and expertise. Working in more collaborative ways and drawing from different perspectives can help in understanding and addressing the more interconnected issues that define our time.

Our degrees are for those that want to go further and think deeper, for professionals who strive to stay up to date on the latest research and analysis. They draw on interdisciplinary knowledge and diverse perspectives to provide the tools to understand and address the interconnected issues that define our times. You will join peers who will inspire you, and educators who will challenge you. And you will have an experience you can't get anywhere else.

Welcome again to the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy. We look forward to working with you, and to supporting you in your success.

Professor Janine O'Flynn

Director, Crawford School of Public Policy

Graduate Certificate of National Security Policy

The Graduate Certificate of National Security Policy offers a world-class qualification for national security professionals. This program provides an introduction to national security concepts and practical policy skills, with a focus on navigating the Australian security landscape. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the security challenges that confront countries in our region and the world and enhance their capacity to lead or contribute to policy development and security practice in government and related sectors.

Elective courses examine a wide range of present and future risks, such as pandemics, climate change, terrorism and cyber-attacks.

Students are able to utilise the Graduate Certificate program as a pathway to a Master of National Security Policy. Students may be eligible to transfer up to 24 units of course credit for studies undertaken in the Graduate Certificate program.

Program details

CRICOS code: 103864F

Program code: 6565 CNSEP

Units/duration: 24 Units / 0.5 years

Admission requirements

- > Bachelor or international equivalent with GPA 4/7; or
- > Graduate Diploma or international equivalent with a GPA 4/7; or
- > Graduate Certificate or international equivalent with a GPA 4/7; or
- > 24 units of courses in a postgraduate program with a GPA of 4/7; or
- > GRE General test, completed no more than 5 years before the time of application, with a minimum score of 155 for Verbal Reasoning, 155 for Quantitative Reasoning and 4.0 in Analytical Writing and a minimum of 3 years full-time equivalent work experience at ANZSCO Skill Level 1 in a field related to the program; or
- > A minimum 5 years full-time equivalent work experience at ANZSCO Skill Level 1 in a field related to the program.

Program requirements

The Graduate Certificate of National Security Policy requires completion of 24 units which must consist of:

A minimum of 6 units from completion of foundational courses from the following list:

NSPO8006 National security policymaking

NSPO8007 National security: concepts and methods

A minimum of 18 units from completion of any of the following national security policy courses:

NSPO8008 Ethical challenges for national security

NSPO8009 Cyber and emerging technologies in national security

NSPO8012 Leadership, risk and national security crisis management

NSPO8028 History for policymakers

NSPO8030 Coercion and national security

NSPO8032 Geoeconomics and national security

NSPO8033 Climate, the environment and national security

NSPO8034 China, America and national security

NSPO8035 Australia's strategic environment and future security challenges

NSPO8036 Australian national security law: an introduction for policymakers

A maximum of 6 units from completion of any of the following 3-unit national security issues courses:

NSPO8040 Gender and security

NSPO8041 Borders, migration and security

NSPO8042 Civil-military coordination

NSPO8043 Pandemics, infectious diseases and national security

NSPO8044 Energy security

NSPO8045 Propaganda and information war

NSPO8046 Terrorism and national security

NSPO8047 How Canberra works: a guide for security policymakers

NSPO8048 The future of intelligence

NSPO8049 Security in the Indo-Pacific

Course descriptions

National security policymaking (NSPO8006)

This course examines the structures, processes, actors and norms of national security policymaking, with reference to the Australian experience.

In line with the College's signature pedagogy, this course is delivered as a collaboration between an academic convener and a policy practitioner. Guest presentations are included, both from other national security academics and from current and former senior policymakers.

A highlight of the course is a fully-fledged exercise simulating whole-of-government national security policymaking in a crisis scenario.

National security: concepts and methods (NSPO8007)

This course equips students with conceptual and analytical skills and frameworks to address these core questions surrounding national security.

Students will interact with policy practitioners to understand how conceptual frameworks help explain the ways in which contemporary security challenges are understood by government. The course concludes by setting the scene for a subsequent course on translating conceptual analysis into making policy.

Ethical challenges for national security (NSPO8008)

This course examines the ethical norms that both underpin and limit national security. It has a particular focus on the way that the relationships between those ethical norms pose challenges for national security policy and practice. It explores how, and the extent to which, ethical considerations can and should influence decisions about national security.

Cyber and emerging technologies in national security (NSPO8009)

This course examines cyber and other emerging technologies as a domain where states project power and protect their interests. It considers the interaction of state and non-state actors, cyber-enabled conflict and cooperation, as well as cyber-enhanced tools of statecraft including espionage and information operations. It also considers how states are adapting to the threats and opportunities in this new domain, including those presented by emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), drones and artificial intelligence. Throughout, it explores the future of cyberspace and emerging technologies and the potential to disrupt ideas of national security.

Leadership, risk and national security crisis management (NSPO8012)

Crises are endemic to national security policymaking. The modern era is punctuated by crises emanating from the natural and social worlds that threaten local, national and international security.

This course considers this backdrop of threats alongside changing notions of 'threat', 'risk' and 'crisis' and challenges participants to determine how leadership and policymaking can reconcile the competing imperatives of national security and the public interest in the midst of crisis. The course involves (1) exploration of definitions and theories of national security and approaches to leadership, risk assessment/mitigation and crisis management; and (2) the application of this conceptual material to empirical cases of domestic, international and transnational crises from bushfires to pandemic, confrontation to conflict.

History for policymakers (NSPO8028)

Contemporary policy issues often have long historical precedents. History can therefore provide policymakers with some perspective through the knowledge of past patterns, and when used responsibly, it can have a constructive influence on policy. Historical evidence can benefit policymakers as it provides not merely insight into the past, but also a basis for informed decisions, which can be drawn through the examination of continuity and change. This course looks at how history can be relied on to enhance an understanding of the present as well as raise awareness of the dangers of the negative abuse of history. It will encourage innovative ways to use historical knowledge to address present and future policy issues.

Coercion and national security (NSPO8030)

What is the role of coercion in international security affairs? Under what conditions is it most effective? Coercion is as old as the international system itself, and while answers to these questions remain contested, they are only likely to become more important. This course aims to assess the different forms that coercion can take and how effective these national security strategies are likely to be under different contexts. It is designed to make students better understand the logic and effectiveness of coercion and assist policymakers to understand when to use coercion and how best to respond to its use by others. The class will cover relevant historical cases and use a course-length, class-wide, interactive and dynamic war-game that applies the theoretical and empirical content to contemporary national security challenges.

Geoeconomics and national security (NSPO8032)

This course introduces students to the intersection of economics and security, captured in the concept of 'geoeconomics'. It focuses on the uses – and limitations – of economic relations as an instrument of state power. Students are introduced to the longstanding connection between economics and national security; basic principles of economic theory; the mechanisms/instruments of geoeconomic statecraft (such as trade, finance and institutions); contemporary geoeconomic challenges, such as economic coercion, critical infrastructure and critical technologies; and the policy challenges involved in developing national responses that integrate security and economic considerations.

Climate, the environment and national security (NSPO8033)

Climate change is one of the most defining – and contested – issues of the 21st century. While catastrophic weather events such as fires, cyclones, and droughts increasingly tax state capacity, the political, economic and social consequences pose potentially grave risks for state stability and global order. This course examines climate change and environmental security from a national security lens, examining the potential for conflict, confrontation and cooperation. Students will closely examine the securitisation and politicisation of climate change issues, the flow on effects for national security, and policy options for adaptation.

China, America and national security (NSPO8034)

This course examines the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC), which will likely shape international security – and heavily influence Australia's interests – for the foreseeable future. It is organised around four core questions: how do the United States and China respectively understand national security; how have changing power dynamics between the two affected their geopolitical, geoeconomic and institutional preferences; how might this impact their handling of potential flashpoints in their relationship; and what are the implications for the security interests of third countries, notably Australia?

Australia's strategic environment and future security challenges (NSPO8035)

The core focus of this course is the horizon of risk facing Australia's national security policy planners in the context of a changing regional and global strategic environment. The course draws on established scholarship on 'traditional' security challenges, as well as new and emerging 'black swan' events that will require swift action from the national security community to protect Australian interests. Students taking this course will gain an understanding of both conceptual and applied knowledge, as well as key debates on how to situate Australian national security policy in an uncertain Indo-Pacific and global order. As a result they will develop the ability to make informed policy-focused evaluations of the subject matter.

Australian national security law: an introduction for policymakers (NSPO8036)

This course is designed specifically for students of national security policy – including serving and prospective policymakers. It will examine the intersections between Australian laws and legal systems and national security issues. After setting out the foundations and basic legal architecture of Australia's national security institutions and agencies, this course will focus on specific areas where the law has been used as a key mechanism for implementing national security policy. Students will gain in-depth understanding of the process by which Australian national security law is made, and how (and why) the use of this body of law is oversighted.

Gender and security (NSPO8040)

This course will address the importance of analysing gender perspectives in national security-related policy and decision making, implementation and practice. Students will gain an enhanced understanding of gendered policies in national security communities in government, the private sector, non-government organisations and the media. Students will engage with critical gender theory and empirical research from a range of interdisciplinary sources and perspectives.

Borders, migration and security (NSPO8041)

This course examines a theme frequently identified as a significant security challenge for policymakers: the role of borders and migration in security. The course draws from the interdisciplinary nature of scholarly writing on this topic to provide students with the conceptual and empirical knowledge to make informed and policy-focused analyses. The course will consider human movement, territory, citizenship and borders through critical, practical and national security lenses. Students will be provided frameworks for understanding contemporary events and evolving issues. Alongside academic teaching, engagement with policy practitioners will underscore the challenges in formulating and implementing border and migration policy in an Australian context.

Civil-military coordination (NSPO8042)

In this course students will examine the difficulties for military forces, civilian agencies and humanitarian actors in navigating the 'space' in which they are co-located. Policies, principles and practices of the Australian Government, the United Nations, and other key international actors and non-government organisations will be considered. Attention will also be given to disaster risk reduction and peace-building strategies to help minimise the severity of natural disasters and the reversion of fragile states into conflict. The overall aim of the course is for students to gain a better understanding of the boundaries and complexities of civil-military relations in disaster, stabilisation and conflict situations, and to consider initiatives relevant to Australia and its region.

Pandemics, infectious diseases and national security (NSPO8043)

This course assesses the political and security significance of infectious diseases, pandemics and public health. From the historical experiences with smallpox, plague and cholera, to the contemporary challenges posed by new diseases like HIV/AIDS and SARS or the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that pathogenic micro-organisms exercise a powerful influence over the security of people, societies and states. The aim of the course is to provide students with a stronger understanding of the scientific and political nature of these problems, why and how they might threaten security, and the conceptual and empirical connections between them.

Energy security (NSPO8044)

This course provides a critical understanding of energy security – its various conceptualisations, its relationship to other forms of security, and its embeddedness in the structures of the modern state. In the format of an intensive unit, this course examines energy security in terms of supply, demand, critical infrastructure, environment, as well as the flow on effects for the political, economic, commercial and military realms. It considers a range of potential threats from geostrategic tensions to the destabilising consequences of global climate change.

Propaganda and information war (NSPO8045)

This course examines a theme frequently identified as a difficult security challenge for policymakers: the rise of propaganda, populism, and information war, especially in the digital age. The course draws from the interdisciplinary nature of writing on this topic in order to provide students with the conceptual and empirical knowledge to make informed policy-focused assessments and analyses of the subject material.

Terrorism and national security (NSPO8046)

This course explores the nature and causes of terrorism as well as individual (state) and collective (international) responses. It does so through an explicitly multidisciplinary approach that incorporates historical; conceptual; and geographical frameworks.

We begin by examining the historical evolution of terrorism, its causes/rationales, and the major theoretical and conceptual approaches to help understand it. We then explore the development of historical and contemporary terrorist groups. The final part of the course focuses explicitly on counter-terrorism responses and counter-terrorism policies in the context of national security policy formulation.

How Canberra works: a guide for security policymakers (NSPO8047)

How is security policy in Australia really made? This course is a primer on the institutions, actors and their interactions – sometimes outside formal structures – that shape decision-making in Canberra on key issues related to national security. The course takes advantage of the ANU National Security College's privileged access to the policy community. Policy practitioners will guide students through the intersection of politics, bureaucracy, intelligence and external influences, tying together this foundational knowledge in a policy simulation exercise in which students will formulate, and afterwards critique, a government response to a hypothetical national security problem.

The future of intelligence (NSPO8048)

Knowledge is integral to security, but the value of intelligence – the process by which information is acquired, analysed and disseminated for unique insights – is under challenge. In an era of disruption, complexity and information saturation, the changing role of intelligence is a central concern for national security policymakers and analysts. This course provides students with sufficient foundational awareness of intelligence issues to enable them to critically evaluate the utility of 21st century espionage, and thus, anticipate its evolution. The course will focus on future-oriented intelligence issues, notably the rise of open source intelligence and big data analytics, the democratisation of capabilities once monopolised by the state, the ubiquity of cyber, the collapsing distinction between domestic and foreign intelligence, growing public transparency expectations, and the challenge to 20th century intelligence-sharing alignments, especially the Five Eyes.

Security in the Indo-Pacific (NSPO8049)

This course introduces students to the challenges and choices facing national security policymakers in an era of connectivity and contestation across the Pacific and Indian oceans. The debate about the Indo-Pacific as a coherent regional framework will be introduced, along with implications for the security interests of key regional powers, notably China, India, Japan, Indonesia, the United States and Australia. The interstate and transnational dimensions of Indo-Pacific security challenges will be considered, including how risks related to climate change, maritime resource management, pandemics and piracy connect with interstate competition.

Australian National Internships Program internship A (graduate) (ANIP6503)

The Australian National Internships Program provides students from any discipline with the opportunity to undertake a significant research project within a workplace. Academic credit will be awarded towards the students' degrees. Placements are in national institutions, peak industry bodies, large industry organisations, public policy-focussed NGOs, or international organisations. As part of a real-world experience, students will have the opportunity to work in an office environment, learn to prioritise tasks and deadlines, develop the skills to express themselves concisely and provide a succinct précis of a complex topic.

Practice-based project (POGO8140)

The Experiential Research Project is part of a range of 'capstone experience' courses from which students can select to complete requirements for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The course is designed principally for students currently in the workforce, and bridges classroom and practice environments by having students undertake an applied research project on a policy or administration topic of relevance to their current employer.

Applied policy project (CRWF7000)

The APP involves small groups of students undertaking applied research for real-world policy organisations. Each project is initiated by clients from the public or non-government sectors, for example government departments, think tanks, peak bodies, advocacy groups, and advisory institutions. The course is designed to give students an opportunity to extend their academic skills into the professional world. Working in groups, students learn about the inner workings of policy organisations through the process of designing and conducting research on their behalf. In each project, students are required to understand client research needs, define research problems, formulate research questions, gather and analyse policy relevant data, and structure and produce a research report for the client.

Public policy and professional internship (CRWF8019)

This course provides students with an opportunity to gain credit towards their degree in the Crawford School of Public Policy by undertaking a self-sourced internship.

Research project (NSPO8037)

As an individual research project, this course provides students with an opportunity to acquire an advanced level of knowledge concerning their own choice of a national security issue and build the student's skills in research and complex writing. Regular supervisory sessions will help facilitate and support the completion of the research project. Research projects will be supervised by the course convener and supported by class and supervisory discussions. Students will identify their own research topic in discussion with the course convener, present their research questions to the rest of the class and write an academic research paper.

Thesis (24 units) (NSPO8031)

Thesis is a 24-unit course available in the Master of National Security Policy program. In relation to relevant thesis topics, the notion of national security (together with any policies related to it) is understood in broad terms and students are therefore welcome to investigate traditional and/or non-traditional security issues. The completion of this thesis will demonstrate an advanced aptitude for conducting innovative research and producing high-quality writing with minimal supervision. This program is also equally suitable for students who may be interested in continuing with further research work or as a PhD candidate.

To enrol in the thesis, students must achieve a weighted average mark of at least 70% over the first 48 units of the degree.

NSC students



The Master of National Security Policy is unlike any other study I have undertaken. The degree develops students into proficient policymakers

with a full appreciation of Australia's strategic environment.

I come from a STEM background and have enjoyed being immersed in practitioner-focused learning across a broad range of subject matter. Each lecture, tutorial and assessment piece allows for a deeper understanding of how to develop effective national security policy.

At ANU, you have the opportunity to study alongside a diverse cohort of students. This, coupled with the ability to network with academic, think tank and government national security professionals, compliments the degree in a way that is unmatched.

Laura Whelan

Student, Master of National Security Policy



Moving to Canberra and commencing the Master of National Security Policy degree at NSC has been the best career decision I have ever made.

This Master degree has truly enlightened me to the breadth and depth of complex national security issues affecting Australia. Students have the flexibility to choose courses on a wide array of topics and I really enjoyed challenging myself with subjects outside of traditional national security studies.

The Master program provides students with unparalleled access to Australia's leading policy practitioners and I have had the pleasure of learning from current and former members of parliament, intelligence agency

heads, the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, as well as experts in the fields of cyber security, national security law and climate change.

Being a part of the National Security Social Society has enabled me to connect with my peers and make invaluable industry connections that have fuelled my passion for national security, and that I will treasure for many years to come.

Amy Vanderhor

Student, Master of National Security Policy
President, ANU National Security Social Society



The Master of National Security Policy degree is a wholly unique – and unparalleled – academic opportunity.

Set to a backdrop of constantly adapting security challenges, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine, the Degree has challenged my perspectives and motivated me to better understand the world around me.

In my opinion, the most unique element of the degree is the unrivalled access it provides to both scholastic and practical subject matter experts. Each course is delivered by the College's experienced and diverse academic staff, with many also featuring exclusive guidance from world-class guests – including but not limited to current and former policymakers, security experts, and private sector leaders.

This range of expertise gives each student the ability to specialise their degree with reference to their own academic and professional interests. Courses within the Master of National Security Policy can cover everything from intelligence and emerging technologies to propaganda or ethics – allowing students to better address the future challenges that matter to them.

Jarrod Maher

Student, Master of National Security Policy

NSC alumni



The key benefit of studying the Masters of National Security Policy at NSC is the College's multidisciplinary focus. From policymaking and

political philosophy to international relations theory, from geoeconomics to climate and human security, from cybersecurity to futures analysis – the College provides its students with the ability to think and write coherently across many disciplines.

There is no better place to grapple with the issues facing our nation's security. The degree forces students to think about how our shared understanding of history, identity, and nationhood forms not only how we view security within our own country, but also how we place ourselves in the region and world around us. The College seamlessly blends its policy-orientated learning with the essential task of forcing its students to look to our shared ethics to find the right answers to Australia's strategic and security challenges.

I was incredibly fortunate to study at the ANU National Security College, where students are given the tools and confidence to thrive in careers in academia, think tanks, politics, the public service, the private sector, the media, and key parts of our civil society. The exceptional educational community at the College made up of your peers, experienced academics and seasoned policy professionals makes you feel like you are learning within Australia's engines of political power.

Rhys De Wilde

Policy Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



I began the Master of National Security Policy degree at a time of unprecedented threats to Australia's national security

– threats ranging from the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, through to economic coercion and supply chain disruptions, climate change, foreign interference, cyber-enabled threats and disinformation.

I learned quite quickly that everything I thought about our national security was wrong. I had misconceptions that national security was just defence or military capability. Instead, I realised that it must be understood through many disciplines and prisms. Where once our national security was the sole responsibility of the federal government – for example, through border control or capability – it now transcends across all levels of government, industry, communities and individuals.

I was lucky to learn from world-leading thinkers with the ANU National Security College, and be surrounded by a cohort of diverse and thoughtful students from both Australia and across the Indo-Pacific. The degree inspired me to pursue a career in the grey zone of our national security threats – and think more deeply about how we can pursue a whole of nation approach to tackling threats to Australia's national security.

Louisa Bochner

Adviser to Australia's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs

NSC Head



Professor Rory Medcalf AM has been Head of NSC at ANU since 2015.

He has led the expansion of the College into policy engagement and futures analysis, as well as executive development, education and research. This has positioned the College as ‘more than a think tank’ and the go-to institution bridging academia and government to foster a more inclusive approach to Australian security.

His professional background involves three decades of experience across diplomacy, intelligence analysis, think tanks, academia and journalism, including as founding Director of the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute.

In government, Professor Medcalf worked as a senior strategic analyst with the Office of National Assessments (now the Office of National Intelligence). He was also an Australian diplomat, with experience including a posting to New Delhi, a secondment to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, truce monitoring after the civil conflict in Bougainville and policy

development on Asian security institutions. He has contributed to three landmark reports on nuclear arms control: the 1996 Canberra Commission, 1999 Tokyo Forum and 2009 International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. His earlier work in journalism was commended in Australia’s leading media awards, the Walkleys, in 1991.

Professor Medcalf and NSC convene strategic dialogues to develop Australia’s relations with Indo-Pacific powers. He has been recognised as a thought leader internationally for his work on the Indo-Pacific concept, as articulated in his book *Contest for the Indo-Pacific*.

Professor Medcalf was a member of the expert panel for Australia’s 2016 Defence White Paper. He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and *Asia Policy*. He has been a Non-resident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution and retains affiliations as a Non-resident Fellow with the Lowy Institute and the Sea Power Centre of the Royal Australian Navy. He is a board member of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, and a representative on the ASEAN Regional Forum Register of Experts and Eminent Persons. He is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs.

In 2022 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to international relations and tertiary education, and received the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation for promoting mutual understanding between Japan and Australia.

NSC academic conveners



Associate Professor Danielle Ireland-Piper is the convener of NSC's academic program.

Associate Professor Dr Danielle Ireland-Piper has experience in academia, legal practice, parliamentary practice, and policy development, including in state and federal government, as well as the private sector. She has a PhD from the University of Queensland and a Master of Laws from the University of Cambridge. Danielle's expertise includes national security

law, constitutionalism, human rights, transnational criminal law, space law and policy, and international law.

She is the author of books, journal articles, and other public commentary. Danielle has received both teaching and research excellence awards, including a 'National Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning' awarded by the Australian Government.



Dr Michael Cohen is convener of NSC's PhD program.

Dr Cohen has expertise in international security with an empirical focus on the Indo-Pacific and, more specifically, the causes and implications for armed interstate conflict of nuclear weapons proliferation and international alliance dynamics. His research also addresses the role of political leaders in national security policy and how their foreign policy decision-making can be improved, and the efficacy

of signalling and coercion. Dr Cohen is also committed to better understand what past national security threats do and do not teach us about present ones, and has conducted archival research throughout the United States, Britain and Australia to better understand this.

Dr Cohen completed his PhD in the Department of Political Science at the University of British Columbia in 2012, and has over ten years of teaching experience in Canada, Denmark and Australia. He was a visiting scholar at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University in 2014. From September 2022 through January 2023, he was Partners Across the Globe Fellow at NATO Defence College, Rome.

The NSC network

The ANU National Security College offers its students unique access to a combination of multidisciplinary academic experts and policy leaders with extensive practical experience – the following is just a sample.



Allan Behm is Director of the International and Security Affairs Program at the Australia Institute. He was Chief of Staff to Minister for Climate Change and Industry Greg Combet and senior advisor to the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong.



Jake Blight is an Associate Professor at NSC. He is the former Acting Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.



George Brandis KC is a Professor in the Practice of National Security at NSC. He previously served as a Minister in the Governments of John Howard, Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull, including as Australia's 36th Attorney-General. He served as Australia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom 2018–2022.



Gai Brodtmann is a member of NSC's Futures Council, the ASPI council and Sapien Cyber advisory board. She served as the federal Member for Canberra (2010–19) and as the Shadow Assistant Minister for Cyber Security and Defence.



Mark Croweller AFSM is an Associate Professor in the Practice of National Security at NSC. He is an expert in crisis leadership and emergency management and was Director-General of Emergency Management Australia and Head of the National Resilience Taskforce.



Dominique Dalla-Pozza is a Senior Lecturer at the ANU College of Law specialising in Australian Public Law.



James Goldrick AO CSC is an Honorary Professor at the ANU Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, a Fellow at the Sea Power Centre and a retired Rear Admiral in the Royal Australian Navy.



Allan Gyngell AO is the former National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. He was the Director-General of the Office of National Assessments and the founding Executive Director of the Lowy Institute.



Jane Halton AO PSM is an Honorary Professor at the ANU Research School of Psychology. She was a former member of the National COVID-19 Advisory Board and Chair, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. She is a former Secretary of the Department of Health and Department of Finance.



Benjamin Herscovitch is a Research Fellow at NSC and the ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance, where he focuses on China's economic statecraft and Australia-China relations.



Ian Kemish AM is a former senior Australian diplomat. He has served as High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Ambassador to Germany, Head of the Prime Minister's International division and DFAT's Southeast Asia Division.



Dirk van der Kley is a Research Fellow at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) and NSC. He specialises in the theory of geoeconomics, international economic sanctions, PRC international economic policy.



Duncan Lewis is a Professor in the Practice of National Security at NSC. He is the recently retired Director-General of Security and was Australia's inaugural National Security Adviser. Previously he was Secretary of the Department of Defence and retired from the Australian Defence Force as Major General.



Darren Lim is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations at ANU, focusing on geoeconomics and grand strategy. He co-hosts the Australia in the World podcast.



Alastair MacGibbon is Chief Strategy Officer, Cyber CX. He was recently National Cyber Security Adviser, Head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Cyber Security.



Katherine Mansted is Senior Fellow in the Practice of National Security at NSC and Director of Cyber Intelligence and Public Policy at CyberCX.



Richard Maude is Executive Director Policy at Asia Society Australia. He was Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Director-General, Office of National Assessments. He led development of Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper.



Lyndon McCauley is a military exercise planner, specialising in cyberwarfare and counter-terrorism. He has over 20 years' experience across the defence and national security sectors including five years at the Australian Civil-Military Centre.



James Mortensen is a Lecturer at NSC. He convenes courses in emerging technology, climate, and research skills.



Michelle Price is a Partner at Ernst & Young's Oceania cyber security, privacy and trusted technology practice. She was previously the inaugural CEO of AustCyber. Michelle was also NSC's first Senior Adviser for Cyber Security.



James Renwick CSC SC is a barrister and was Australia's 3rd Independent National Security Legislation Monitor.



Anthea Roberts is a Professor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet). She specialises in public international law, international economic law, comparative international law, and the effect of geopolitical change on global governance.



Tracy Smart is a Professor, Military and Aerospace Medicine at ANU. She works across the areas of Health Security, the impacts of military service, health leadership and as a Space Medicine Mission Specialist for ANU InSpace. She was the ANU COVID Public Health Lead until March 2022.



Heather Smith PSM is a Professor at NSC and the National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. She previously served as Secretary of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science as well as the Department of Communications and the Arts.



Elise Stephenson is a Research Fellow at NSC and Deputy Director at the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at ANU. Her work focuses on intervening at critical junctures to ensure equality in 'frontier' international affairs and grand challenges.



Will Stoltz is Senior Manager, Strategy & Consulting at CyberCX.



Sue Thompson is an Associate Professor at NSC. She has extensive experience in academia, government, the media and the non-government sector.



Nicholas Thomson is a public health and human rights trained epidemiologist and is currently the Senior Health Advisor at the Australian Pacific Security College at ANU.



Johanna Weaver is the founding Director of the Tech Policy Design Centre at ANU. She previously served as Australia's independent expert and lead negotiator on cyber issues at the United Nations.

The ANU National Security College hosts a broad range of security leaders, practitioners and experts.



How to apply

Apply directly to us

1. For all Crawford School of Public Policy degrees apply directly to us.
2. Find a degree program you are interested in at www.programsandcourses.anu.edu.au or Crawford School webpage (crawford.anu.edu.au/study/graduate-degrees).
3. Submit your online application via the 'Apply now' button, or via programsandcourses.anu.edu.au
4. We'll assess your application and will contact you if we need any further details.
5. You will be issued an outcome within 4–6 weeks of submitting your application, depending on any requirements that are pending.

Important

Please include the following documents with your application:

- > An up-to-date detailed resume
- > High-quality, colour scan of official academic transcript and testamur.

Admission to most ANU programs is on a competitive basis. Therefore, meeting all admission requirements does not automatically guarantee entry

An online application fee applies for international applicants, unless you are applying through an ANU agent.

All applicants must provide evidence that their English language ability meets the minimum requirements for admission. To find out more, visit https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_6546951.

To enquire: crawford.degrees@anu.edu.au

Phone: +61 2 6125 6261

Scholarships

ANU offers a range of scholarships to students. More information can be found at <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/scholarships>.

National Intelligence Community and National Security College Scholarship for Women

Objective: to foster the talent of Australian women with a diverse background and skillset who are interested in national security and pursuing a career in the national intelligence community; to showcase the College's programs for high achievers; and to provide an opportunity to standout women who may otherwise be unable to undertake a Master of National Security Policy degree.

Value: \$50,280 per annum, 100% tuition fee up to 72 units.

The ANU National Security Policy Scholarship

Objective: to foster domestic talent in national security policy and attract high quality applicants who may otherwise have been excluded due to financial constraints and who can demonstrate long-term commitment to a career in national security in either the public service or policy research.

Value: \$25,000 – \$90,000. Domestic recipients of this scholarship will receive a 50% tuition fee scholarship, upon enrolment into the program. Recipients are responsible for making payment of any fees not covered by the scholarship, by the prescribed date.

National Security College Student Excellence Scholarship

Objective: to support a high achieving student to study the Master of National Security Policy. This Award is aimed at supporting a student to undertake studies on campus at ANU.

Value: \$24,000 per annum. This is a cash payment scholarship worth a maximum of \$36,000 over 72 units of study (\$24,000 per annum).

National Security College Indigenous Excellence Scholarship

Objective: to support an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student to complete a postgraduate coursework award at the ANU National Security College and; to attract a high achieving prospective Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island student who otherwise may not have the opportunity to undertake studies at NSC.

Value: \$24,000 per annum. This is a cash payment scholarship worth a maximum of \$36,000 over 72 units of study (\$24,000 per annum).

Dr Margot McCarthy Memorial Scholarship for Women in Security

Objective: to support and empower women who wish to enter the national security industry but do not have the means to do so.

Value: \$24,000 per annum. This is a cash payment scholarship worth a maximum of \$36,000 over 72 units of study (\$24,000 per annum).

National Security College Thesis Grant

Objective: to encourage high achieving students in the Master of the National Security Policy to complete a thesis as part of their postgraduate coursework degree, and to financially support them during their enrolment in the thesis course.

Value: \$7,000 per annum.



Doctoral studies

The NSC PhD program aims to develop experts in security studies with excellent research skills. As a PhD candidate, you will have the benefit of a dedicated academic supervisor and encouragement to undertake fieldwork.

Admission into the Program

To gain admission to the PhD program you will need a Bachelor degree with an upper second class (H2A) honours degree (at minimum) or its equivalent in a relevant discipline. However, to be competitive for a place in the program, we encourage a first class honours degree, or a master degree equivalent with a research component in a cognate discipline such as international relations, strategic studies or political science.

Your admission will be dependent on the strength of your research proposal and the availability of an NSC academic supervisor. For more information, visit the PhD Study section of the ANU website nsc.crawford.anu.edu.au/study/graduate-degrees/phd-programs.

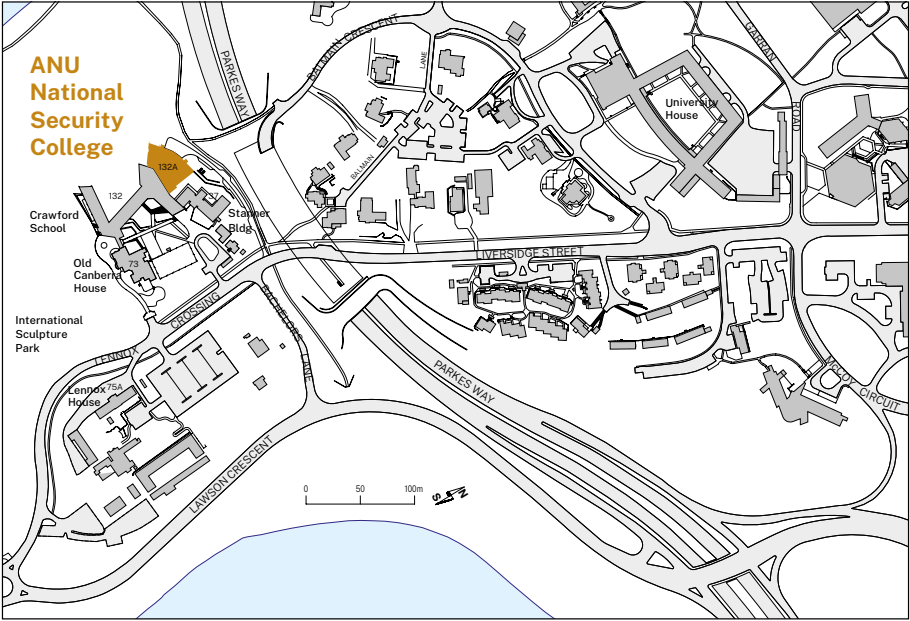
PhD Scholarships

ANU offers scholarships for students wishing to pursue PhD study at NSC.

More information on these is available at www.anu.edu.au/study/scholarships.

For more information on Higher Degree Research visit <https://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/graduate-research> or contact cap.hdr@anu.edu.au.

Map





Australian
National
University

Contact Us

ANU National Security College
GJ Yeend Wing (Crawford Building #132a)
1 Lennox Crossing
The Australian National University
Acton ACT 2601
Australia

T +61 2 6125 6131

E national.security.college@anu.edu.au

W nsc.crawford.anu.edu.au

🐦 [@NSC_ANU](https://twitter.com/NSC_ANU)

🌐 linkedin.com/company/national-security-college

CRICOS #00120C