



Australian
National
University

NATIONAL
SECURITY
COLLEGE

Academic program 2025



Australian Government

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

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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 endeavour 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 programs that are responsive to the changing needs of the national security community and enhance participants' understanding of the national security environment, challenges, strategies, policy priorities, planning, governance, architecture 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 for creative ideas that stimulate positive policy change in Australia and internationally; and promoting the ANU National Security College (NSC) as a centre of excellence for national security education, research, and policy ideas.

Futures Hub

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

Message from the Head of College



Welcome to our degree programs, world-class offerings to equip you for a career in security and policy. In 2025, this year of profound

disruption and strategic volatility, there has never been a more important time to study national security.

The National Security College at The Australian National University offers study opportunities that fuse 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 complexity and risk. And now in our 15th year, we are well established as a place of learning with a reputation for excellence.

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

Our degree programs go deeper still. They combine 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.

Some 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 more than the military dimension.

You will gain a dynamic sense of how politics, policy, leadership, resilience, risk, law, diplomacy, economics, geopolitics, coercion, technology, intelligence, 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. Studying with us makes you part of a networked and respectful community of practitioners and scholars. Our student community has special access to careers insights and the security policy ecosystem. We also offer a range of scholarships, including with the support of the Australian intelligence community.

Study with us and empower yourself in careers that make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rory Medcalf".

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 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

TESQA Provider ID: PRV12002 CRICOS code: 0101473

Program code: 7871 MNSEP

Units/duration: 72 Units / 1 – 1.5 years full time, dependent on previous study

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:

A minimum of 12 units from completion of foundational courses from the following list:

- NSPO8006 National security policymaking
- NSPO8007 National security: concepts and methods
- NSPO8012 Leadership, risk, resilience and crisis
- NSPO8018 The evolution of national security since 1945

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

- NSPO8009 Cyber and emerging technologies in national security
- 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
- NSPO8050 National security, human rights and international law

A minimum of 6 units from completion of national security issues courses (3 units each) from the following list:

- 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 completion of experiential courses from the following list:

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

A maximum of 24 units from completion of security, strategy and policy courses from the following list:

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
- INTR8067 U.S. security policy in the Asia Pacific
- MEAS8115 Islam in world politics

Public policy

- INTR8017 Issues in Australian foreign policy
- INTR8068 Foreign policy analysis
- POGO8021 Public sector ethics
- POGO8045 International policymaking in the shadow of the future
- POGO8062 Public sector management
- POGO8076 Corruption and anti-corruption
- POGO8083 Policy advocacy
- POGO8136 Participating in public policy: citizen engagement and public talk
- POGO8138 Science, technology and public policy
- POGO8233 Policy tools & mixes
- POGO8234 Unpacking policy capacity
- POGO8235 Engaging China: working with policy in the PRC
- POGO8401 Foundations in public policy
- POGO8402 Political and institutional architecture of public policy
- IDEC8021 The Chinese economy
- IDEC8034 Middle Eastern economies
- IDEC8035 Islamic Economies in Practice
- IDEC8000 Government, markets and global change
- REGN8013 Crime, governance and security
- REGN8022 Globalisation in a complex and uncertain world
- REGN8052 Regulation and governance
- REGN8056 Complexity, catastrophe and resilience

Strategy and defence

- STST8001 Diplomacy, politics and the United Nations
- STST8004 Humanitarianism in world politics
- STST8013 U.S. security policy in the Asia Pacific
- STST8021 Islam in world politics
- STST8026 Nuclear strategy in the Asian century
- 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

A maximum of 24 units from completion of a research thesis course

- NSPO8031 Thesis

Master of National Security Policy (online)



This degree is also available as an online option (unavailable to international students onshore).

Program details

TESQA Provider ID: PRV12002

Program code: 7871 MNSEPO

Units/duration: 72 Units / 1-1.5 years full time, dependent on previous study

Alternate admin requirements

- > Bachelor or international equivalent with GPA 5/7; or
- > Bachelor or international equivalent with GPA 4/7 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 or international equivalent with GPA 4/7 and a GC or international equivalent with a GPA of 4/7; or
- > Graduate Diploma or international equivalent with a GPA 4/7; or
- > 48 units of courses in a postgraduate program with a GPA of 4/7; or
- > Graduate Certificate or international equivalent with a GPA of 4/7 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.

More information

Visit <https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/program/MNSEPO>.

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 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 to the Master of National Security Policy.

Program details

TESQA Provider ID: PRV12002

CRICOS code: 103864F

Program code: 6565 CNSEP

Units/duration: 24 Units / 0.5 years full time study

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 12 units from completion of foundational courses from the following list:

- NSPO8006 National security policymaking
- NSPO8007 National security: concepts and methods
- NSPO8012 Leadership, risk, resilience and crisis
- NSPO8018 The evolution of national security since 1945

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

- NSPO8009 Cyber and emerging technologies in national security
- 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
- NSPO8050 National security, human rights and international law

A minimum of 6 units from completion of national security issues courses (3 units each) from the following list:

- 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

Graduate Certificate of National Security Policy (online)



This degree is also available as an online option (unavailable to international students onshore).

Program details

TESQA Provider ID: PRV12002

Program code: 6565 CNSEPO

Units/duration: 24 Units / 0.5 years full time study

More information

Visit <https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/program/MNSEPO>.

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.

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, resilience and crisis (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.

The evolution of national security since 1945 (NSPO8018)

The end of the Second World War and the onset of the Cold War saw the development of a new way of viewing the concept of national security within official government policy-making structures. Disputes over the lessons of war and national security agendas influenced government debates and decision-making throughout the Cold War and post-Cold War periods. This course provides an overview of post-war global security history and discusses the evolution of the concept of national security since 1945, examining how and why certain security threats and interests were perceived and how national security policies transformed over time.

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.

National security, human rights and international law (NSPO8050)

This course will equip students with an understanding of the relationship between national security and international law. It introduces the foundations of international law and considers sub-topics of direct relevance to national security, with a focus on human rights. No prior legal training or study is necessary, and this course is available to persons with or without legal qualifications.

Students will encounter the sources and institutions of international law and engage with sub-topics such as the law of state responsibility, the law of the sea, space law, the laws of armed conflict, and human rights. These topics are relevant to national security in various ways. For example, Australia and its intelligence agencies may be involved in military conflicts where the laws of armed conflict can also apply or may rely on information collected by remote sensing technologies in space.

While a nation's national security laws and policies can assist in protecting human rights, particularly rights relating to the safety and freedoms of its people, national security laws and policies also pose challenges to the enjoyment and fulfillment of human rights, such as freedom of expression, movement, fair trials, and free press. This course exposes students to the legal and policy issues underpinning these and other tensions.

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.

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 enroll in this course, students must have successfully completed 48 units of ANU courses in the Master of National Security Policy and maintain a weighted average mark of 75% in the program.

NSC students



“Choosing to undertake the Master in National Security Policy was undoubtedly one of the best decisions I’ve made. Lectures from leading politicians, policymakers, business leaders, and media personalities were something I can’t imagine I would have found in other degrees.”

Kaden Fountain

Master of National Security Policy



“My journey from a rural Australian town to the global financial hub of London has been nothing short of a whirlwind adventure. It’s a fusion of my humble beginnings and the global perspective I’ve gained along the way, and this has motivated me to dive deeper and contribute to the complex world of national security policy.”

Samantha Mullins

Master of National Security Policy



NSC alumni



The key benefit of studying the Master 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

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 impact, futures analysis, parliamentary

engagement, international dialogue and capacity-building, in addition to its core activity in executive development, academic education and research. It is trusted as a go-to institution in Australia's policy landscape, with exceptional networks and an alumni of many thousands of security practitioners.

Rory Medcalf has more than 30 years 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 Australian Government service, he worked as a senior strategic analyst with the Office of National Assessments (now the Office of National Intelligence). He was a diplomat, with experience including a posting to New Delhi, a secondment to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and truce monitoring in Bougainville. 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.

Professor Medcalf played an early role in developing Australia's relations with India, and convenes informal diplomatic dialogues ('track 1.5' and 'track 2') with many Indo-Pacific powers. He has been recognised as a thought leader internationally for his work on the Indo-Pacific concept of the Asian strategic environment, as articulated in his 2020 book *Contest for the Indo-Pacific* (released internationally as *Indo-Pacific Empire* and translated into Japanese and Chinese).

He has been an independent adviser to the Australian Government on defence, foreign policy and national security, and represents Australia on the ASEAN Regional Forum Register of Experts and Eminent Persons. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, the Board of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, and the Scientific Advisory Council of the Finnish Institute for International Affairs. He is an Adjunct Fellow (non-resident) with the Australia Chair of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC.

In 2022, Professor Medcalf was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to international relations and tertiary education. That year he was also recognised with a commendation from the Japanese Foreign Minister for services to Australia-Japan relations. In 2023, he was appointed a Fellow of the Australian Institute for International Affairs (FAIIA) for contributions to the understanding of the Indo-Pacific.

NSC academic conveners



Associate Professor Danielle Ireland-Piper is the NSC's Academic Director

Associate Professor 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 including a first-of-its-kind edited volume on national security law in Australia, 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 James Mortensen is a Senior Lecturer and the NSC's HDR Program Coordinator

Dr Mortensen is a distinguished academic with a diverse background in the fields of national security, technology, and political ethics. Currently serving as a Lecturer at NSC, he contributes significantly to the academic community through three main research streams. With a focus on the history and philosophy of political security, Dr Mortensen delves into the intricate dynamics of political systems and their implications for national safety.

Additionally, he explores the intersection of technology and social control, examining how advancements in technology influence and shape societal structures. Furthermore, his expertise extends to the security implications of climate change on Eastern Australia, showcasing a holistic approach to contemporary security challenges.

Dr Mortensen's publications include work on the history of Australian national security, climate security, and conspiracy theories and policy response.

Before joining NSC, Dr Mortensen held the position of Research Fellow at The Australian National University's Cyber Institute, where he furthered his research in the realm of technology and its impact on security. His academic journey includes earning a PhD from NSC and he previously achieved First Class Honours in Religious Studies from the University of Newcastle, Australia.

The NSC network

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



John Bew is Professor of History and Foreign Policy at the Department of War Studies, King's College London. He is a distinguished academic who has served four British Prime Ministers as the chief Foreign Policy Advisor, supporting the prime minister at G7, G20, NATO and the UN General Assembly.



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.



David Brewster is a Senior Research Fellow at NSC, who focuses on security in India and the Indian Ocean region, and Indo-Pacific maritime affairs.



Michael Cohen is an Associate Professor at NSC with an expertise in International Security with an empirical focus on the Indo-Pacific.



Dominique Dalla-Pozza is a Senior Lecturer with NSC and the ANU Law School. She was instrumental in building the National Security Law course in the Master and Graduate Certificate of National Security Policy.



Sophie Howe was the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales – the only role of its kind in the world.



Rosemary Huxtable AO PSM was Secretary of the Department of Finance from October 2016 to August 2022 and has vast experience in the Australian Public Service.



Katherine Mansted is a Senior Fellow in the Practice of National Security at NSC. She is also the Executive Director of Cyber Intelligence at CyberCX, Australia and New Zealand's largest cyber security services company.



Hamish Macdonald is an award-winning journalist who has covered wars, disasters, and major world events.



Stuart Murray is an Associate Professor in international relations and diplomacy at Bond University.



Narushige Michshita is Executive Vice President and Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.



Shambhavi Naik is the Head of Research and Chairperson of the Advanced Biology Programme at The Takshashila Institution.



Tanya Notley is an Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University.



Tom Rogers is the former Australian Electoral Commissioner, serving from 2014 to 2024: the longest tenure of any Commissioner in the Australian Electoral Commission's history.



Beth Sanner formerly served as the United States Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Mission Integration during President Donald Trump's first term, where she oversaw the integration of intelligence community collection, analysis and programs.



David Schaefer is a Lecturer at NSC with expertise in intelligence studies.



The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO is Partner and Chair of the Asia Group's Australia Practice and most recently served as Australian Ambassador to the United States, where he was involved in Australia's negotiations related to AUKUS, the Quad, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.



Heather Smith PSM FAIIA is National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and has 20 years' experience in the Australian Public Service at leadership levels.



Meg Tapia is Managing Director of Novexus, a boutique national security advisory firm, and co-founder of The Paragon Alliance.



Peter Tesch is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Queensland and a Visiting Fellow at the ANU Centre for European Studies.



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



Dirk van der Kley is a Research Fellow at NSC and specialises in technology competition and innovation between the US and China, with a particular interest in biological technologies.



Joseph Voros has been a professional futurist for 25 years, mostly at Swinburne University of Technology in the office of the Vice-Chancellor, and in the flagship, but now ceased, Master of Strategic Foresight program.



Misha Zelinsky is a leading authority on the rise of global authoritarianism. A Fulbright Scholar, economist, lawyer, and the author of *The Sun Will Rise*.

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



How to apply

Apply directly to us

1. Find a degree program you are interested in at **www.programsandcourses.anu.edu.au**.
2. Submit your online application via the 'Apply' button on **programsandcourses.anu.edu.au**
3. We'll assess your application and will contact you if we need any further details.
4. 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_000408**.

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

Phone: +61 2 6125 9978

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: 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: 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.

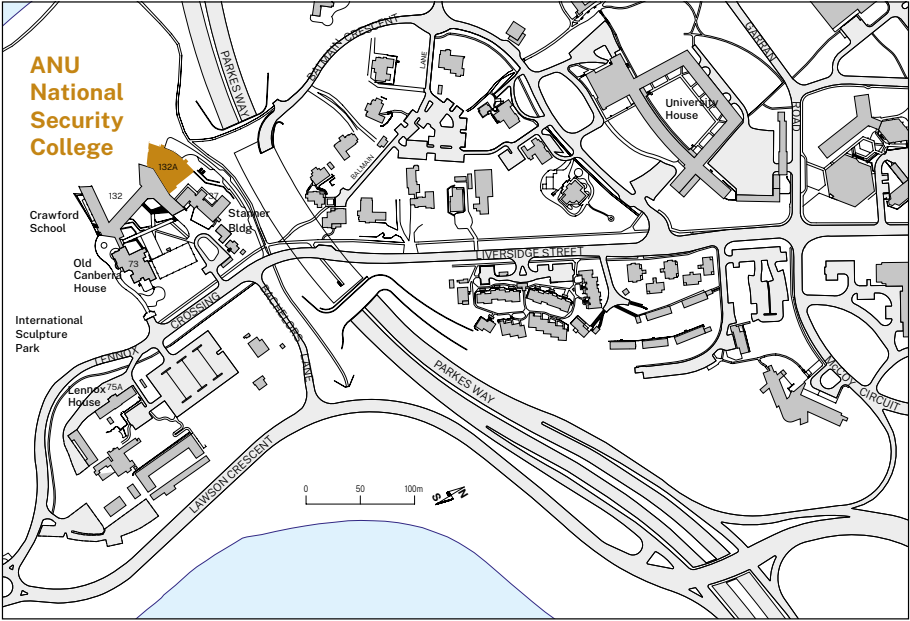
Your admission will be dependent on the strength of your research proposal and the availability of an NSC academic supervisor. For more information, visit the PhD Study section of the ANU website nsc.crawford.anu.edu.au/study/graduate-degrees/phd-programs.

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 james.mortensen@anu.edu.au.

Map





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