Master in International Security Policy

The politics of international conflicts

In addition to being an absolute priority for governments across the world, security seems to have colonized our language as much as our everyday lives. Not a day goes by without politicians and media outlets mentioning yet another 'security issue'. The master’s programme in International Security asks what this tells us about our contemporary world, and whether our world has really become more dangerous and uncertain than before.

At the intersection of international relations studies, security and defence studies, political theory, sociology and history, this programme provides a deep understanding of what security and international security could look like in an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world. It does so by analysing the role of different actors in addressing and shaping international security issues, which go beyond the single framework of action of States. The programme also seeks to provide students with the necessary critical skills for understanding and addressing the social–political mechanisms driving transnational armed conflicts, violence and global uncertainty.

This degree of International Security will enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose security problems and design security policy solutions, and to occupy key professional positions in national administrations as well as international and non–governmental organizations. Students will not only benefit from the academic environment of the School, but also from the practical knowledge of security practitioners and experts within various seminars such as a joint seminar with the French Army Command (based in Lille) and the research seminars co-organized with the Collaborative Observatory on Terrorism, Antiterrorism and Violence (OCTAV).

Optional courses

In semester 1, 2 and 4, you will be able to further tailor your degree to your interests by choosing from a broad offer of optional courses, such as:

- Global Environmental Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Global Food Politics
- Digital Democracy
- Global Economic Governance
- International Development
- Global History

Semester 1

Core courses
- Theories of Security & Contemporary Challenges
- Armed Conflicts and Peacemaking

Research courses
- Introduction to Research & Epistemology
- Statistics and the Political Sociology of Quantification
  - 1 optional course
  - 1 intensive language module
  - 1 career development course

Semester 2*

Core courses
- War, Terrorism and Violence
- Cyber Security

Research courses
- Research Methodology
- Academic Writing Workshop
  - 1 optional course
  - 1 intensive language module
  - 1 career development course

Semester 3

Core courses
- Defence Policy in Practice
- International Relations
  - Master dissertation
  - 1 intensive language module

Semester 4

Core courses
- Sovereignty and the State in International Relations
- World Political Organisation
  - 2 optional courses
  - 1 intensive language module
  - 1 professional internship

* The second semester can also be completed in one of our numerous partner universities across the world.