

# Brussels

# 360

Geostrategy.

Policy.

Technology.

EXECUTIVE COURSE

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The “Brussels 360” Executive Course aims to provide participants with a deeper and more critical understanding of Europe’s role in a world in flux. The onset of Sino-American strategic competition and Russia’s war in Ukraine are having profound effects on Europe’s security architecture, and Europe’s global role. The core aim of this 3-day Executive Course is to provide participants with a more profound understanding of these changes, and to do so by engaging, exchanging and learning from leading academics and policymakers in the field.

The Executive Course is organised around three individual modules that are organised over a period of 3 days in Brussels:

1. Trends in Global Geopolitics and European Grand Strategy
2. Trends in European Security and Defence Policy
3. Trends in European Trade and Technology Policy

Each module is built around 3 preparatory pre-recorded lectures and readings, a series of lectures and panel discussions. All lectures and discussions will be held at the offices/headquarters of the Brussels School of Governance, located at [Boulevard de la Plaine 5/1st floor, 1050 Bruxelles](#).

The Executive Course is run by the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS), which is a research hub at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). CSDS seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the key contemporary security and diplomatic challenges of the 21st century – and their impact on Europe – while reaching out to the policy community that will ultimately need to handle such challenges.

## COURSE OVERVIEW



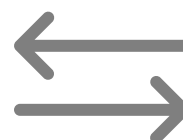
### 3 days

The Executive Course is organised over a 3-day period of (online and in-person) lectures, policy panels and networking opportunities.



### 16 hours

To fully prepare for the course, participants are expected to dedicate 16 hours to readings and pre-recorded lectures.



### Fees

The fees charged for three days are €2,800. When signing-up early, participants qualify for a reduced fee of €2,500. A non-refundable €100 registration fee applies. For details on bespoke institutional arrangements, contact CSDS.

## COURSE AIMS

1

To provide participants with a **contemporary understanding** of the geopolitical shifts that are affecting European security and Europe's role in the world.

2

To provide participants with a better **empirical understanding** of the key trends in European security, defence, trade and technology policy.

3

To provide participants with **opportunities to engage and network** with leading policymakers and experts in the Brussels ecosystem.

4

To afford participants the opportunity to enhance their policy analysis and **communication skills** through the production of a policy memo and in-class participation.

## DATES

Brussels 360 takes place in **Summer 2025** from 4 to 6 June.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Be in possession of an **Masters degree and 2 years'** worth of relevant experience or a **Bachelor degree and 5 years'** worth of relevant experience. Good command of the English language is required, as the course is taught exclusively in English.

## COURSE CONVENORS



**Prof. Dr. Luis Simón**  
Director, CSDS

Luis is the Director of CSDS and heads the Brussels office of the Elcano Royal Institute.



**Prof. Dr. Giulia Tercovich**  
Deputy Director, CSDS

Giulia is the Deputy Director of CSDS.



**Prof. Dr. Daniel Fiott**  
Head, Defence and Statecraft Programme, CSDS

Daniel heads the Defence and Statecraft programme at CSDS and is a non-resident fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute.



**Prof. Dr. Antonio Calcara**  
Head, Geopolitics and Technology Programme, CSDS

Antonio heads the Geopolitics and Technology programme at CSDS.

## POINT OF CONTACT

**Piero Barlucchi**  
Project Officer, CSDS

Contact information:  
[piero.barlucchi@vub.be](mailto:piero.barlucchi@vub.be)

## COURSE MODULES

### Day 1 – Module 1 - Trends in Global Geopolitics and European Grand Strategy

The aim of this first module is to better understand key trends in global geopolitics and their implications for European grand strategy.

#### Schedule

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Preparation   | <b>Online lectures</b> – two 25 minute pre-recorded lectures on “US-China Competition” and “European Strategic Autonomy” will be provided in advance of the course.                        |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | <b>Introduction</b> – the convenors will provide a course overview, including information on the course structure.   |
| 09:30 – 09:40 | <b>Group Picture</b> – a photo of course participants.   |
| 09:40 – 10:50 | <b>(Panel Discussion) Key geopolitical trends in 2025: Insights from Policy Planning</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion between key policymakers from the EU and NATO. |
| 10:50 – 11:20 | <b>Networking Break</b>  |
| 11:20 – 12:15 | <b>(Panel Discussion) Geopolitical Competition and the Looming Crisis in Global Governance</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with a leading academic/practitioner.    |
| 12:15 – 13:45 | <b>Networking Lunch</b>  |
| 13:30 – 14:20 | <b>(Lecture) Trends in US Grand Strategy: Implications for Global and European Security</b> – participants will engage with an in-person lecture with an academic subject-matter expert.   |
| 14:20 – 14:40 | <b>Networking Break</b>  |
| 14:40 – 15:30 | <b>(Lecture) Competing Visions for European Grand Strategy</b> – participants will engage with an in-person lecture with an academic subject-matter expert.                                |
| 15:30 – 15:50 | <b>Networking Break</b>  |
| 15:50 – 17:00 | <b>(Panel Discussion) Europe’s Role in the Indo-Pacific</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with a senior EU official.  |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | <b>Networking Cocktail</b>   |

## Day 2 - Module 2 – Trends in European Security and Defence

The aim of this second module is to better understand key trends in European security and defence policy.

### Schedule

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Preparation   | <b>Online lectures</b> – two 25 minute pre-recorded lectures on “European Security and NATO deterrence and defence” and “European Security and Defence Policy” will be provided to participants in advance of the course. |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | <b>Introduction to Module 2</b> – the convenors will provide a module overview, including information on the module structure.  |
| 09:15 – 10:15 | <b>(Lecture) Scenarios for Ukraine and European Security</b> – participants will engage with an in-person lecture with an academic subject-matter expert.   |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | <b>Networking Break</b>   |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | <b>(Panel Discussion) The Return of NATO: Deterrence and Defence in the Euro-Atlantic Area</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with senior officials from NATO.  |
| 12:15 – 13:30 | <b>Networking Lunch</b>   |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | <b>(Lecture) Unclassified Briefing: How Does Nuclear Sharing Work in Practice?</b> – participants will engage with an in-person lecture with a former senior official from a European government.                         |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | <b>Networking break</b>   |
| 15:15 – 16:45 | <b>(Panel Discussion) The EU as a Defence Actor</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with two senior officials from the EU.   |

## Day 3 - Module 3 – Trends in European Trade and Technology Policy

The aim of this third module is to better understand contemporary debates and challenges about European economic security, trade policy, innovation and strategic competition in technologies.

### Schedule

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Preparation   | <b>Online lectures</b> – two 25 minute pre-recorded lectures on “European trade policy in a changing world” and “Technology, great power politics and Europe” will be provided to participants in advance of the course. |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | <b>Introduction to Module 3</b> – the convenors will provide a module overview, including information on the module structure.   |
| 09:15 - 10:30 | <b>(Panel Discussion) Key Trends in European Trade Policy</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with a senior official from the EU and a former senior official of the European Commission.             |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | <b>Networking Break</b>  |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | <b>(Lecture) Technology Competition and Semiconductors</b> – participants will engage with an in-person lecture with an EU Think Tank Expert.  |
| 12:15 – 13:30 | <b>Networking Lunch</b>  |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | <b>(Panel Discussion) Artificial Intelligence and Geopolitics</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with a senior official from NATO.   |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | <b>Networking Break</b>  |
| 15:30 – 17:00 | <b>(Panel Discussion) Emerging and Disruptive Technology Trends</b> – participants will engage with a panel discussion with two senior officials from the EU and NATO.   |
| 17:00         | <b>End</b>   |