

CENTRE FOR SECURITY, DIPLOMACY AND STRATEGY

Brussels

360

Geostrategy.

Policy.

Technology.

EXECUTIVE COURSE
2026



BRUSSELS SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE
CENTRE FOR SECURITY,
DIPLOMACY AND STRATEGY

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 deeper understanding of these changes, and to do so by engaging, exchanging and learning from leading academics and policymakers in the field.

Now in its second year, the Executive Course is organised around three individual modules that are organised over a period of 3 days in Brussels:

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

Each module is built around 4 preparatory pre-recorded lectures and readings, a series of lectures and panel discussions. All lectures and discussions will be held at the Brussels School of Governance, located at [Boulevard de la Plaine 5/1st floor, 1050 Bruxelles](#).

The Executive Course is convened 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



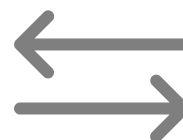
3 days

The Executive Course is organised over 3 days 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 from **3 to 5 June 2026**.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Have a **Master's degree and 2 years'** worth of relevant experience or a **Bachelor's 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,
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, CSDS

Antonio heads the Geopolitics and Technology programme at CSDS.

POINT OF CONTACT

Mia Andjelic
Project Officer, CSDS

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PAST COURSE SPEAKERS

François Arbault

European Commission

Benedetta Berti

North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Sven Biscop

Egmont Institute

Marco Chirullo

European Commission

Karel de Gucht

Brussels School of Governance

Linde Desmaele

Leiden University

Giovanni Grevi

CSDS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Juha Heikkilä

European Commission

Dominik Jankowski

North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Rory Keane

United Nations

Liviu Lazar

North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Alexander Mattelaer

CSDS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Guillem Riutord Sampol

European External Action Service

Tim Sweijs

The Hague Centre for Strategic
Studies

Joris Teer

EU Institute for Security Studies
(EUISS)

Nynke Tigchelaar

European Commission

David H. Ucko

North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Patrick Wouters

Belgian Air Force

Alexandros Yannis

European External Action Service

TESTIMONIALS (2025 Course)

“As an industrialist, I wanted to find an executive programme to develop my competencies and I truly appreciated the Brussels 360 programme. This was an intense programme, but I really appreciated the quality of the participants and speakers. This programme also helped me to increase my network!”

“This was a very interesting, lively and candid course that took place under the Chatham House Rule. We had the opportunity to learn new perspectives and to network with leading experts in the field. A really good course.”

“This was an excellent course with great speakers and exciting content. Speakers were of a very high quality and very balanced in their academic and institutional perspectives. I learned a lot.”

“I highly appreciated our opportunity to network with leading EU and NATO personalities and to learn about their perspectives and work. The executive course includes a lot of interesting information and some excellent learning opportunities.”

“I wanted to learn more about defence and technology, given that it is not my field of expertise. I have learned much about the changes underway in the transatlantic relationship and how the EU and NATO are adapting.”

“The balance between sessions, learning and networking was really good. There is ample time for discussion, and the networking sessions were very useful.”