

CENTRE FOR SECURITY, DIPLOMACY AND STRATEGY

Brussels

360

Geostrategy.

Policy.

Technology.

EXECUTIVE COURSE
2027



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 Great Power Rivalry
2. Defence, Investment and Innovation
3. Technology and Economic Statecraft

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 Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels.

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 **2 to 4 June 2027**.

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, Investment and Innovation, CSDS

Daniel is Head of Defence, Investment and Innovation at CSDS and is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute.



Prof. Dr. Antonio Calcara
Head, Technology and Economic Statecraft, CSDS

Antonio is Head of Technology and Economic Statecraft at CSDS.

POINT OF CONTACT

Mia Andjelic
Project Officer, CSDS

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PAST COURSE SPEAKERS

François Arbault

European Commission

Benedetta Berti

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Sven Biscop

Egmont Institute

Angus Campbell

Australian Ambassador to
Belgium, Luxembourg, the EU
and NATO

Marco Chirullo

European Commission

Raluca Csernatonî

Carnegie Europe

Karel de Gucht

Brussels School of Governance

Emir Demircan

Siemens

Linde Desmaele

Leiden University

Giovanni Grevi

CSDS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Juha Heikkilä

European Commission

Anne Fort

DG DEFIS, European Commission

Camille Grand

ASD Europe

Baudouin Heuinckx

European Defence Agency

Osamu Izawa

Japanese Ambassador to NATO

Dominik Jankowski

North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Rory Keane

United Nations

Panagiotis Kikiras

European AI Office, European
Commission

Liviu Lazar

North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Christoph Luykx

IMEC

Alexander Mattelaer

Defence Policy Director, Belgium

Zach Meyers

CERRE

Guillem Riutord Sampol

European External Action Service

Tim Sweijts

The Hague Centre for Strategic
Studies

Joris Teer

EU Institute for Security Studies

Nynke Tigchelaar

European Commission

David H. Ucko
North Atlantic Treaty
Organisation

Patrick Wouters
Belgian Air Force

Alexandros Yannis
European External Action
Service

TESTIMONIALS

“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.”

PARTICIPANTS

On Brussels 360, you will learn and engage alongside a range of policy-makers, diplomats, industrialists and more. On the Executive Course we have welcomed participants from the following organisations:

- Aisin Europe
- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Government of Australia
- Government of Japan
- Government of South Korea
- Hanwha Global Defence
- Indra Systems
- Lago Ventures
- Mitsubishi Corporation
- Naturgy
- NORCE Research AS
- NATO
- Saab AB

“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.”