Why study with us?

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016, the Strategic & Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) has a rich history. The Centre provides "real-world" focused strategic studies courses that are research-based and research-led.

SDSC is uniquely positioned to strike the right balance between theory and practice as our teaching faculty includes renowned academics, shapers of strategic policy and former influential members of the Australian public service and Defence Force.

Who should study Strategic Studies?

With an Asia transformed by the rise of China and India, and a world preoccupied with security issues, the current century has been defined by global strategic challenges.

If you’re interested in issues of strategic importance to Australia, addressing how political ends and military means interact, understanding the origins, applications and implications of war and other forms of organised violence, our strategic studies program is for you.

Internships

You can get both practical experience and credit towards your masters degree with an internship. Our students have had the opportunity to intern with organisations such as:

> The International Institute for Strategic Studies-Asia (Singapore)
> The Australian Strategic Policy Institute
> The Chair of the Defence Sub-committee for the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
> The Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence
> The Lowy Institute

Scholarships

Each year a limited number of T.B. Millar Scholarships are offered to full-time students enrolled in the Master of Strategic Studies. The scholarship provides the tuition fee for two core courses (24 units).

The Robert O’Neill Scholarship aims to support students undertaking a 3 month internship with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)-Asia office in Singapore.

The Freyberg Scholarship (New Zealand Defence Scholarship) is available for New Zealand citizens wishing to undertake the Master of Strategic Studies offered by SDSC.

Enquiries

If you would like to know more about this degree email our program administrator.

E: sdsc@anu.edu.au.

"The most valuable skills I learnt in my degree were the ability to think about strategy and how to implement it. Professor Evelyn Goh helped me push my academic skills boundaries and taught me the importance of a rigorous methodology. She was a wonderful mentor, and guided me through my research until I achieved a product I was proud of".

Elke Larsen
Master of Strategic Studies
Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor Degree or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 5/7
- Up to 24 units of credit is available for applicants with a Bachelor Degree or Graduate Certificate in a cognate discipline
- Up to 48 units of credit is available for applicants with a Graduate Diploma or Honours in a cognate discipline
- All applicants must meet the University’s English Language Admission Requirements for Students

Key Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion you will have the skills and knowledge to:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and cognitive skills in strategic and defence studies
- Possess an integrated understanding of the conduct of strategy, military operations and its relationship to policy
- Undertake strategic and policy analysis and be able to critically analyse, reflect on and synthesise complex information relating to the conduct of strategy and military operations
- Possess the technical skills needed to access the academic literature in the fields of study associated with strategic and defence studies
- Research and apply established theories and concepts and exercise expert judgement in military, defence or policy contexts
- Apply strategic concepts and knowledge to practical problems in a contemporary setting
- Conduct scholarly research, express ideas and construct evidence-based arguments in both written and oral form

Structure

The Master of Strategic Studies consists of 96 units which must comprise of:

12 units from the following compulsory course:
- Strategic Studies

6 units from either:
- Australian Strategic and Defence Policy; OR
- Nuclear Strategy in the Asian Century

18 units from the following courses:
- The New Power Politics of Asia
- Strategic Studies Concepts and Methods
- Strategy in Action: Orchestrating the Elements of National Power

30 units from the following courses:
- Strategic Studies Internship
- Australian Strategic and Defence Policy
- China’s Defence and Strategic Challenges
- Special Topics in Strategic Studies
- Intelligence and Security
- Nuclear Strategy in the Asian Century
- Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in an Age of Terror
- Great and Powerful Friends: Strategic Alliances and Australian Security
- Alliances in Asia: Theory, History and Practice
- Building a Defence Force: Defence Force Structure, Planning and Acquisition
- Making Grand Strategy
- Strategy and Southeast Asia: Defence and Security Dynamics
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- Ethics of Peace and War
- U.S. Security Policy in the Asia-Pacific
- Dynamics of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- The Gulf Strategic Environment
- Civil-Military Relations
- Disease, Security and Biological Weapons
- Ethics and Technologies of War
- Statecraft and National Security in Cyberspace
- The Evolution of National Security Policy since 1945
- Defence Leadership in ASEAN A
- Defence Leadership in ASEAN B

2019 Indicative Fees

Annual indicative fee for international students – $43,680
Annual indicative fee for domestic students – $30,720
Overview

The Master of Strategic Studies (Advanced) is comprised of two parts: coursework and a research thesis.

In addition to the knowledge and skills gained in the traditional coursework, the thesis component of this program provides an opportunity to hone your research skills while being supervised by our world renowned academics.

Students wishing to pursue or leave open the possibility of further research work or PhD study are strongly encouraged to complete the Master of Strategic Studies (Advanced).

Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor Degree or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 6/7
- Up to 24 units of credit is available for graduates in a cognate discipline
- Students must achieve a minimum 70% weighted average mark in the first 72 units of courses in order to remain enrolled in the Master of Strategic Studies (Advanced)
- All applicants must meet the University’s English Language Admission Requirements for Students

Key Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion you will have the skills and knowledge to:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and cognitive skills in strategic and defence studies
- Possess an integrated understanding of the conduct of strategy, military operations and its relationship to policy
- Undertake strategic and policy analysis and synthesise complex information relating to the conduct of strategy and military operations
- Demonstrate high levels of independent research and apply established theories and concepts and exercise expert judgement in military, defence or policy contexts
- Make an original contribution to knowledge in the field of strategic and defence studies

2018 Indicative Fees

Annual indicative fee for international students – $43,680
Annual indicative fee for domestic students – $30,720

Structure

The Master of Strategic Studies (Advanced) consists of 96 units which must comprise of:

- 30 units from the following compulsory courses:
  > Strategic Studies
  > The New Power Politics of Asia
  > Strategic Studies Concepts and Methods
  > The Resort to Force: Understanding Military Power

- 6 units from the following courses:
  > Australian Strategic and Defence Policy
  > Nuclear Strategy in the Asian Century

- 36 units from the following courses:
  > China’s Defence and Strategic Challenges
  > Special Topics in Strategic Studies
  > Intelligence and Security
  > Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in an Age of Terror
  > Great and Powerful Friends: Strategic Alliances and Australian Security
  > Alliances in Asia: Theory, History and Practice
  > Building a Defence Force: Defence Force Structure, Planning and Acquisition
  > Making Grand Strategy
  > Strategy and Southeast Asia: Defence and Security Dynamics
  > Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
  > Ethics of Peace and War
  > U.S. Security Policy in the Asia-Pacific
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  > The Gulf Strategic Environment
  > Civil-Military Relations
  > Disease, Security and Biological Weapons
  > Ethics and Technologies of War
  > Statecraft and National Security in Cyberspace
  > The Evolution of National Security Policy since 1945
  > Defence Leadership in ASEAN A
  > Defence Leadership in ASEAN B

24 units from the following research components:

- Strategic Studies Sub-Thesis - Full-time
- Strategic Studies Sub-Thesis - Part-time
World-class academics are your teachers

“SDSC has a long-standing history of research dedicated to the analysis of the use of armed force in its political context. Its remit covers military, strategic, Asia-Pacific security and Australian Defence studies. Today we prepare and educate the next generation of strategic leaders—military, civilian and academic—in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.”

Professor John Blaxland
Head
Strategic & Defence Studies Centre

Dr Andrew Carr
Senior Lecturer
Andrew’s research interests include Australian foreign and defence policy, Middle Power Theory and Asia-Pacific security. His recent books are Winning the Peace: Australia’s campaign to change the Asia-Pacific and Asia-Pacific Security: An Introduction.

Dr Brendan Taylor
Associate Professor
Brendan’s area of expertise is on strategy in Asia, Asian security architecture and Australian strategic policy in the Asia-Pacific. In August 2018, Brendan released his newest book The Four Flashpoints: How Asia goes to War.

Dr Jean Bou
Program Convenor
Jean focuses on the history of Australian peacekeeping, Australian military history and post Cold War operations.

Dr Nina Silove
Lecturer
Nina’s research focuses on grand strategy, strategic planning and U.S. policy toward the Asia-Pacific.

Professor Evelyn Goh
Shedden Professor
Evelyn specialises in East Asian security and international relations, U.S.-China diplomatic history and contemporary strategic relations, international relations theory, Cold War history and security studies.

Dr Garth Pratten
Senior Lecturer
Garth focuses on military operations, WWII with an emphasis on Australian and Commonwealth experience and peacekeeping and peace support operations.

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1 Choose your degree

The Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs offers world-class programs. You can find out more by visiting our online guide (bellschool.anu.edu.au/study), connecting with us at our events, or emailing the relevant program administrator.

2 Make sure you meet the requirements

For most of our programs we consider all academic qualifications when assessing your application. If you are concerned about getting the result you need to enter your preferred program, there may be special entry pathways that you can consider. Find out more at anu.edu.au/study or email the relevant program administrator.

HOW TO APPLY

3 Apply

Domestic students should submit applications through the Universities Admission Centre (UAC) at uac.edu.au. For international students, ANU has an extensive network of official agent representatives in more than 50 countries. Agents can help you with your enquiries and all aspects of your application. Find out more at anu.edu.au/study/apply/anu-postgraduate-coursework-international-applications. Alternatively, you can submit your application directly to ANU at anu.edu.au/study/apply.

4 Accept your offer and enrol

Once you receive your offer, accept online at anu.edu.au/study/accept. We look forward to having you here!
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