Welcome to the Security Studies Program
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
Georgetown University

SSP students are exposed to a diverse group of academicians, practitioners, and diplomats.

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS), founded in 1919, is the oldest and largest school of international affairs in the United States. It enrolls approximately 1400 undergraduate students and over 700 graduate students. The SFS provides its students with the ability to identify and understand issues, problems, and intercultural factors from the perspective of the foreign affairs and national security practitioner. To accomplish this, the SFS ensures that its students acquire the social science background and analytical skills required to formulate and evaluate international policies; and the broader interdisciplinary foundation needed to analyze the nature and impact of critical global and domestic issues on the conduct of international relations.

The SFS includes eight research centers and three institutes which explore a comprehensive range of international issues. Each offers talks, panel discussions, and conferences, and conducts leading policy research. SFS students are thus exposed to a diverse group of academicians, practitioners, and diplomats, and are able to participate in a myriad of dialogues and debates.

The Security Studies Program (SSP) is one of eight masters degree programs in the SFS: the Master of Arts in Arab Studies; the Master of Arts in Asian Studies; the Master of Arts in Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies; the Master of Arts in German and European Studies; the Master of Arts in Global Human Development; the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies; and the Master of Science in Foreign Service. Students in the SSP are therefore presented with a stunning array of courses from which to choose.

The SSP is the academic component of the Center for Security Studies, which is dedicated to examining the full range of cultural, economic, historical, political, and technological factors that influence global peace and security. The Center's faculty undertake research projects examining the range of contemporary security challenges, such as intelligence reform, comparative counterterrorism, military stability operations, global intelligence networks, the role of regional organizations in international peace operations, risk analysis, counterinsurgency, and homeland security. In addition to these activities, faculty are editors and regular contributors to leading journals and serve as consultants to governments and advisors to prominent security-related organizations.

Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service is simply the best place to be for those wishing to study international affairs.

Professor Bruce Hoffman, SSP Director, terrorism expert and author of *Inside Terrorism*.

Dr. David M. Edelstein, SSP core faculty member and author of *Occupational Hazards: Success and Failure in Military Occupation.*

AREAS OF STUDY

The SSP offers some seventy courses per semester making it the nation's largest and most comprehensive program dedicated to graduate level professional education in security studies. The curriculum reflects the breadth and depth of its faculty and allows students flexibility when planning their degree program. Students may incorporate a regional or functional specialty into their studies and obtain specialized certificates offered in these areas.

The curriculum features seven concentrations:

Intelligence. Students studying in this concentration focus on both the theory and practice of intelligence in the United States, as well as in other countries. Courses examine the intelligence cycle, the limits of intelligence collection, problems of intelligence analysis, foreign and domestic intelligence, covert operations, and the intelligence-policy nexus. In addition to helping prepare students for careers in the intelligence community, this concentration prepares students to work with intelligence issues in the military, in government positions, and at consulting firms.

International Security. This concentration examines the broad range of issues that affect security beyond the borders of the United States. Topics range from infectious diseases to non-proliferation to terrorism, all of which students examine from an international perspective. This concentration prepares students for careers with international organizations, foreign governments, private sector firms, as well as research and policy institutions.

Military Operations. Students in this concentration examine American and other militaries and their evolutions. Courses explore conventional military operations, the use of air power, military analysis, net assessment techniques, and civil-military relations, among other issues. Students develop the expertise necessary to pursue careers related to the evaluation and use of military force for either the U.S. or foreign governments.

Dieter Telemans / Panos Pictures

Science and Technology. This concentration offers technical literacy for policy professionals and policy formulation skills for technical experts. It provides students with a conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between technology and security. Students expand their working knowledge of nuclear weapons, missile defense systems, cyberwar, encryption, and other technologies. These students are uniquely qualified to bridge the technology and policy communities and apply their knowledge in the U.S. Departments of Defense, Energy, and Homeland Security, as well as in the intelligence community and in the private sector.

Terrorism and Substate Violence. Students in this concentration study the motivations and operations of terrorist and insurgent groups, the dynamics of civil wars, and the policies to counter these challenges. Courses examine sources of terrorism, terrorist tactics, terrorist groups like al-Qa'ida and the Lebanese Hizballah, counterinsurgency strategies, ethnic conflicts, and post-conflict stabilization missions, among other issues. Students learn to analyze conflicts and consider practical solutions to them. They pursue careers in U.S. and foreign governments, relief organizations, and consulting firms.

Unconventional Weapons and Non-Proliferation. Students in this concentration examine nuclear, chemical, biological, other unconventional weapons and the dynamics of their acquisition and operations. Courses offer an in-depth study of political and military uses and technological characteristics of unconventional weapons. Students learn about U.S. and international policy responses to counter the challenges these weapons pose. U.S. and foreign governments and international organizations all seek professionals in this area.

U.S. National Security Policy. This concentration provides students with the background necessary to identify and analyze U.S. national security issues and to formulate policy options to successfully address these challenges. This concentration is particularly relevant for students seeking careers in the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government as well as the military and intelligence community.

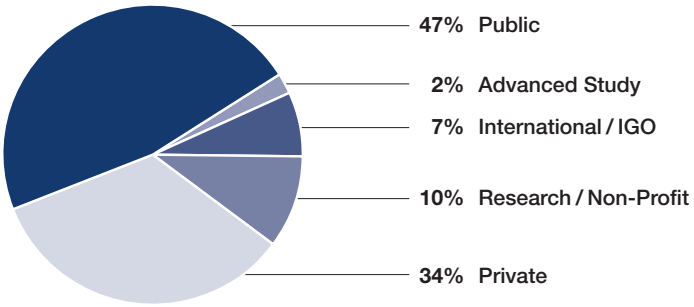
SSP core faculty member and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East Dr. Colin H. Kahl (right) attends the end of mission ceremony in Baghdad, along with Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta.

Security professionals describe the Security Studies degree as a “must have” credential.

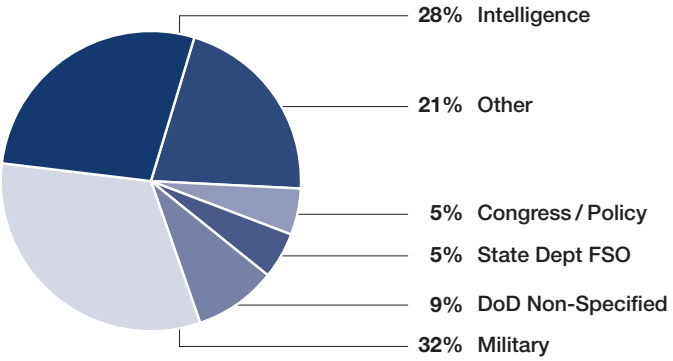
CAREERS

Security professionals regard the Security Studies degree as the gold standard. SSP graduates are highly successful whether they work in the public, private, or non-governmental sector. A small number of graduates continue their studies in doctoral programs, law, and business schools.

Recent SSP Alumni Employment by Sector



Public Sector Breakdown



Top Employers of SSP Alumni

Public: Central Intelligence Agency; Department of Defense; Department of State; United States Army; United States Navy

Private: Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.; IBM Corporation; MITRE Corporation; Northrop Grumman Corp.; SAIC

Research/Non-Profit: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Homeland Security Institute; Institute for Defense Analysis; The Brookings Institution; The RAND Corporation

International Governments/IGOs: Defense Ministry of Japan; Government of the Republic of Korea; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); The United Nations; The World Bank

Photo: Department of Defense/ Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

Dr. C. Christine Fair, SSP core faculty member, conducting field research in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

The SSP is committed to assisting students with professional development.

CAREER SERVICES

The Security Studies Program and the School of Foreign Service are committed to assisting students with career and professional development. A member of the SSP staff works closely with students to provide career and professional guidance. Together, the SSP and the School of Foreign Service Graduate Career Development Center also collaborate to help students target employment opportunities in all branches of the federal government, in the private sector, with non-profit organizations, at research institutions, and at international organizations.

Security Studies Program

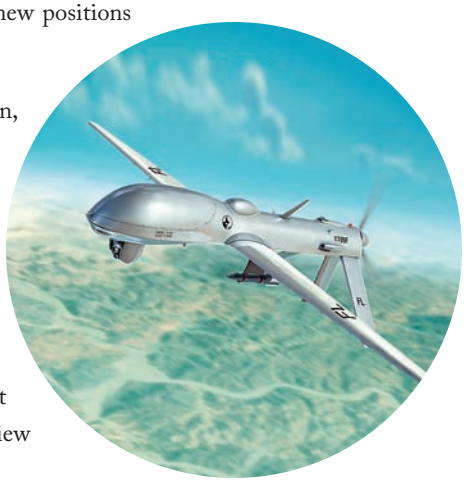
Career programming in the SSP is designed to connect students with the SSP's expansive alumni network and other members of the SSP community who offer valuable industry-specific guidance.

SSP Alumni Career Panels feature SSP alumni from numerous sectors of the security community and illustrate how the SSP assists in achieving professional success. Past events have highlighted careers in consulting and defense contracting, intelligence analysis, policy and law, and international organizations.

The SSP Student-Alumni Mentor Program matches current students with an SSP alumni employed within a security subfield or organization in which the student has expressed interest. The mentorship begins during the student's first semester and evolves to where the mentor offers specific career suggestions, serves as a character reference, and helps the student cultivate additional professional relationships in the security community.

SFS Graduate Career Development Center

SSP programs complement resources available in the SFS Graduate Career Development Center. The Career Development Center offers individual career counseling, hosts on-campus recruiters and interviewers, facilitates contact between SSP students and Georgetown alumni, and utilizes the Symplicity software system to provide students online access to a job and internship database. Employers also use Symplicity to post new positions for students to review.



Individual Career Counseling allows students to develop a career plan, discuss relevant sectors, fields and employers for their professional goals, identify potential networking contacts to facilitate the job and/or internship search, prepare documents such as a resume, cover letter and application materials, and even practice mock interviews.

On-Campus Recruiting puts SSP students in direct contact with potential employers in the security field. Representatives from both the private and public sector come to Georgetown each Fall to meet with students, collect resumes, host information sessions, and interview for open positions.

Washington, D.C. provides numerous opportunities for professional development.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The city of Washington is a dynamic and exciting place to learn and live. From historic Georgetown to powerful Capitol Hill, Washington offers something for everyone.

Cultural opportunities abound. The free museums on the National Mall hold artistic masterpieces, moon rocks, and Native American historical artifacts, among other treasures. Fans of music, dance, and theater will delight in productions at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, independent theater groups perform at smaller venues such as the Studio Theater and Arena Stage, while world-class musicians and artists perform concerts and musicals at the Warner Theater. Washington is also home to five professional sports teams and Division I college teams, including the Georgetown Hoyas.

Washington's nightlife is as diverse as its cultural scene. Georgetown alone is home to everything from cozy neighborhood pubs to luxury restaurants. On Wisconsin Avenue, one can shop for antiques or view the latest exhibit in one of the neighborhood's privately owned galleries. For ethnic food and nightclubs, Adams Morgan's 18th Street is the place to be. DuPont Circle features eclectic eateries, intimate museums, and specialty bookstores. U Street is home to unconventional clothing boutiques and lounges that carry on the city's historic and legendary tradition of live jazz.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy extensive recreational facilities such as tennis courts, parks, and bike paths located in Washington. The Shenandoah Mountains as well as the beaches of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia are located within an easy drive of the city. Day trips to historical sights, such as Gettysburg and Harper's Ferry, are also within two hours drive of Washington.

Perhaps most importantly, given its position as the center of security policymaking, Washington provides numerous and varied opportunities for professional development. SSP students attend Congressional hearings and conferences hosted by various institutions ranging from the National Defense University to internationally respected research institutions. Students also obtain internships with public and private sector organizations in the security community. The prospects for social, cultural, professional, and academic growth are unlimited and make Washington, D.C. an ideal place for graduate study.

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