POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN STRATEGY AND SECURITY

www.exeter.ac.uk/strategy
#GivingYouTheEdge
The Strategy and Security Institute (SSI) is an interdisciplinary teaching and research Institute within the College of Social Sciences and International Studies; it is based in Knightley, a detached period building on the edge of the Exeter’s Streatham Campus. SSI was established to address the strategic deficit in a world beset by instability and insecurity. Its Director is Lieutenant General (Retd) Professor Sir Paul Newton KBE and its Academic Director is Professor Patrick Porter.

The SSI’s world leading academics are supported by an Advisory Board and an extensive network of Honorary Professors and Fellows. This network of experts is able to bring practical global experience from across the spectrum of politics, the military, the diplomatic corps, the intelligence services, government and business. SSI also has strong links to the leading defence think tank in Whitehall, the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). The combination of SSI academics, practitioners and think tank analysts provides SSI with extraordinary breadth and depth in its teaching and research.

For further details, please visit our website: www.exeter.ac.uk/strategy

RESEARCH CULTURE
The contemporary strategic environment presents a paradox. In some respects the global security situation is arguably more benign today than it was at any point in the twentieth century prior to 1990, yet simultaneously less benign than it has been since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The rise of new major powers and the resurgence of others and the associated challenge to US strategic dominance creates a renewed risk of serious state-on-state confrontation. Such challenges include the continued evolution of existing strategic domains, such as land, maritime and air, while both state and non-state actors strive to exploit continuing technical developments in cyber activity and the use of mainstream and social media.

Civil wars and insurgencies present both a humanitarian calamity for affected and displaced populations and a pressing concern for Western security policy. Climate change, food and water scarcity, resource shortages, violent criminality, population growth, and conflict-driven migration add further complications. Meanwhile, terrorism continues to evolve and remains a persistent risk and the spectre of nuclear/biological weapons proliferation is a grave concern.

Such dangerous and complex strategic challenges are in need of analysis and understanding. SSI academics are at the forefront of this research, seeking to understand the causes, consequences, and mitigation of many of today’s most serious security problems.

SSI academics excel in the analysis of, and contributions to, UK and allied national security strategy, strategic decision-making, and assessment of contemporary national security threats, both state and non-state. Their contributions to public debate include regular submissions of Parliamentary evidence, government consultation and media commentary, as well as theoretical and empirical research necessary to ground policy on rigorous academic foundations.

In addition, SSI recognises that the decision to use organised violence in pursuit of political goals is not just a matter of operations and equipment; it is also governed by domestic and international law, accepted norms and legitimised social processes. Certain norms, such as the ‘responsibility to protect’ and the ‘nuclear taboo’, are now arguably critical determinants of national security policy choices. SSI leads the way in investigating how and to what extent law and norms do – and should – constrain the exercise of military force.

For further details, please visit our website: www.exeter.ac.uk/strategy/research
OUR PROGRAMMES

If you want to reach the very top of your chosen career, our programmes are the right choice for you. We will help you develop your strategic awareness, decision-making and leadership skills to give you a competitive edge in the jobs market.

- Learn how to make decisions under intense pressure using crisis management simulations
- Learn analytical and practical tools in real time
- Visit Whitehall, international organisations in Brussels and a site of recent conflict
- Practice applied writing on real world global issues
- Generate knowledge as part of SSI and contribute to global security
- Join a strong network of academics, practitioners and MStrat Alumni
- Skills learnt on the MStrat set you apart when applying for graduate jobs
- Understand how and why decisions are made and how you can influence them
The MA Applied Security Strategy (MStrat) is designed to develop future leaders and decision-makers, producing confident strategic thinkers able to execute policy and strategy calmly under pressure at the very highest levels.

The programme is designed to meet the needs of current and future strategic practitioners and anyone who wishes to understand strategy-in-action.

Our MStrat alumni go on to successful, varied career paths.

The MStrat considers threats to national, international and human security, ranging from interstate conflicts to more diverse contemporary security challenges, such as terrorism, organised crime, resource denial and cyber security.

You will gain exposure to Whitehall, visit international organisations, engage with think tanks and policymakers, and benefit from the excellent networking opportunities and peer and mentor support we offer to all our students.

Our series of lectures, seminars and conferences, with leading academics and practitioners, will teach you how to combine the tools of strategy including strategic communications and intelligence to craft policy and strategy in the contemporary security arena.

You will also apply the strategic theory you have learnt to high pressure crisis management simulations mirroring real world events, and engage in field trips overseas to experience strategy-in-action.

Drawing on simulation and scenario-planning techniques employed by industry, government and the military, you will learn how to design and implement strategy in conditions emulating the complexity, uncertainty and pressure experienced by senior leaders everywhere.

By the time you graduate and join the MStrat alumni network you will have acquired the strategic skills needed to lead on the development and execution of policy and strategy in an uncertain, culturally-diverse and resource-constrained world. All of which are vital for demanding positions in the private and public sectors, government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the military, the security sector, the media, business and elsewhere.

For further details, please visit our website: www.exeter.ac.uk/strategy/ma
“The academic and professional support from SSI staff throughout and after the MStrat has been incredible.

By being exposed to a whole variety of perspectives and issue areas, we were forced to question our assumptions and this helped us develop a more well-rounded understanding of strategy and international security. It also exposed me to new ideas and areas of interest that I had not previously considered.

We were consistently pushed right to our limits and required to be highly adaptable in a fast-paced environment, and the balance between the academic and applied elements was pretty much spot-on. The MStrat has set me up really well in terms of skills I will need to develop my career.”

Alice Lynch, MA Applied Security Strategy graduate
MASTERS BY RESEARCH, MPhil, AND PhD STRATEGY AND SECURITY

Our research degrees provide opportunities to study with leading academics and practitioners who are specialists in strategy and security. In addition to MPhil/PhD study, we also offer a one-year Masters by Research degree.

All research students will be allocated a supervisor and have access to a professional mentor from our group of prestigious honorary appointments and our Advisory Board. Training in research methods is a core component in the early stages of the PhD. We strongly encourage students to give papers at major conferences and help them to publish their work.

Research students also participate in the lively seminar series organised by our research groups, with past speakers including leading academics from around the world and senior practitioners, such as the Director General of MI5. There may also be opportunities to teach.

We particularly welcome enquiries from students seeking to undertake research in our key impact areas, and offer research supervision on a range of topics including:

- Arms and arms export controls
- Conflict prevention and management
- Counter-insurgency and cyber security
- Decision-making and leadership in strategy
- Deterrence
- Domestic security, public resilience and counter-terrorism
- Humanitarian intervention and the laws of armed conflict
- Middle East and North African security
- Military history
- Public policy
- Seapower
- Science, technology and security policy
- Strategy and security in the contemporary world
- US and European security
- The ethics of the use of armed force

For further details, please visit our website: www.exeter.ac.uk/strategy/education/researchdegrees

“The standout moment was the presentation my team and I gave to RUSI. The opportunity to not only present but also be challenged by foreign policy professionals in their London home has been a great source of pride and one that I am not likely to forget. The MStrat is a fantastic bridge from academic studies to the world of employment.”

Matthew Power, MA Applied Security Strategy graduate
ABOUT SSI

- An interdisciplinary teaching and research Institute (within the College of Social Sciences and International Studies)
- Director: Lieutenant General (Retd) Professor Sir Paul Newton KBE
- Learn from world-leading experts and meet a large number of highly regarded professionals in the security field
- Highly relevant, policy-focused approach to teaching and research
- Research, consultancy and teaching in the fields of global security and strategy
- Strong internal and external networks, including an Advisory Board, Honorary Professors and Fellows, and links to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
- Our programmes are the ideal choice for leaders of the future

CONTACT US

Email: mstratadmissions@exeter.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1392 723192

www.exeter.ac.uk/strategy
#GivingYouTheEdge