

Geneva, 13 February 2024

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), with the support of the Swiss Confederation, has the honour to invite Vietnam to nominate candidates for:

The Leadership in International Security Course (LISC)

Generating Inclusive & Resilient Approaches to International Security

07 October 2024 – 28 May 2025

This course is designed to train highly qualified professionals who will serve in the broad area of security policy and will interact in some form with international agencies engaged in security-related policy planning, political and military decision-making or practical implementation in a range of complex and interlinked security situations.

It will advance the knowledge and skills of participants to prepare them for leadership roles in their institution, in particular by enabling them to:

- Strengthen their **leadership skill-set** within a multi-cultural and cross-sectoral environment,
- Enhance their ability to critically analyse the **evolving nature of security threats**,
- Assess the effectiveness of current policy responses and propose **sustainable alternatives**,
- Develop their **international network** to pursue collaborative and innovative solutions.

In addition to the LISC Certificate, the course also offers the opportunity to receive a **Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International Security**, accredited by the University of Geneva.

The course will be conducted in English at the GCSP in Geneva.

With the support of the Swiss Confederation, we are pleased to offer the LISC **free of tuition fees**. In addition, please note that your country is eligible to apply for a **scholarship**. Scholarship attribution (full or partial) is **not automatic but based on a competitive review process**. The purpose of the scholarship is to help cover living expenses and accommodation **in Geneva**. However, travel costs are the responsibility of the sending government.

Countries may nominate diplomats, military officers, or civil servants from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Development, Economy, Finance, Interior, Justice, Prime Minister's office, Presidential Administration or other relevant ministries.

Your country is kindly asked to submit nominations for this course by **Friday 31 May 2024**.

The GCSP strives to meet gender parity in course participation, for this reason, your country is asked to nominate at least **two candidates**, one female and one male.

For further information, please see the course **webpage** or contact the LISC Team on **+41(0)22 730 9691**, e-mail: **lisc@gcsp.ch**.

We very much look forward to receiving nominations from your country.

Yours sincerely,



Ambassador Thomas Greminger
GCSP Director

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Leadership in International Security Course (LISC)

Generating Inclusive & Resilient Approaches to International Security

07 October 2024 – 28 May 2025

The 39th edition of this eight-month international security course is designed to increase the knowledge and skills of high-performing professionals, who seek to enhance their career and engage in leadership positions in solving the world's most pressing security challenges.

The course targets individuals who will interact with international agencies engaged in security-related policy planning, political and military decision-making and practical implementation in a range of complex and interlinked security situations.

In addition to the LISC Certificate, the course also offers the opportunity to receive a [Master of Advanced Studies \(MAS\) in International Security](#), jointly run with the Global Studies Institute of the University of Geneva.

Course Objectives

The course is designed to advance the knowledge and skills of participants to prepare them for leadership roles in their institution, in particular by enabling them to:

- Strengthen their **leadership skill-set** within a multi-cultural and cross-sectoral environment,
- Enhance their ability to critically analyse the **evolving nature of security threats**,
- Assess the effectiveness of current policy responses and propose **sustainable alternatives**,
- Develop their **international network** to pursue collaborative and innovative solutions.

Course Methodology

The curriculum of the LISC is revised each year in order to incorporate recent international developments and provides an interactive and flexible approach to learning – the 'GCSP Way' combining the experience and knowledge of scholars, practitioners and participants.

Participants will be engaged through three pillars including classroom analysis, peer to peer networking, and individual skills enhancement:

- **Expert-led sessions on security policy and institutional visits:** Will provide a comprehensive and global overview of topics related to international security. The sessions are led by GCSP staff and highly qualified guest speakers, which will be complemented with visits to Geneva-based international organisations and on occasion briefings from high level staff.
- **Participant-led activities and skills enhancement:** Will improve professional performance through interactive and/or participant-led workshops and modules on topics including leadership, strategic communication, negotiation, politico-military cooperation, strategic foresight, policy memo writing and reporting, debates, analysis seminars, national security policy briefings, etc.
- **Community-building and networking:** Will promote dialogue, understanding and generate the opportunity to form a long-lasting international community of security policy professionals based on mutual trust and confidence.

A particular focus on **Leadership** is carried throughout the course in both substance and skills enhancement sessions, as part of the GCSP's [Geneva Leadership Alliance](#) to develop participants' **individual** and **collaborative leadership capacity** through theory and practice.

Teaching Staff

In order to develop the relationship between scholars, practitioners and participants, the LISC teaching staff includes GCSP's own international team composed of academics and practitioners with broad experience in security policy, diplomacy and/ or military affairs, as well as high-level experts (academics, government officials, representatives from international institutions, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and the private sector) from across the globe.

Admission Requirements

Participants should be dynamic and highly motivated to study issues of international security, in addition to demonstrating a clear potential for leadership. Additionally, certain specific criteria are required:

- Applicants should have a university degree or be serving officers (Advanced Military Staff Course completed).
- Applicants should be at a mid-career level and have a corresponding level of professional or academic experience in the field of international security. Post-graduate training and/or mission experience is an asset.
- Applicants should have an **excellent knowledge of spoken and written English**, the working language for the LISC. A deficit in language capabilities will hinder an applicant's involvement in the course and may lead to their ineligibility to participate.
- The LISC depends on the continuous full-time engagement and attendance of all participants in Geneva throughout the course.

Course Fees

The LISC is offered free of tuition fees as part of Switzerland's contribution to the Partnership for Peace.

Scholarship for Living Expenses and Accommodation

A limited number of partial and full scholarships are available to help cover living expenses and accommodation **in Geneva**. Scholarship attribution is **not automatic and is based on a competitive review process**. The GCSP will offer the available scholarships to the most qualified applicants, in accordance with the admission requirements.

The scholarship amount may vary between CHF 1'000 and CHF 2'500 per month throughout the course (8 months from October 2024 to May 2025). The scholarship is offered by Switzerland and other member states of the GCSP Foundation Council through the GCSP Global Scholarship Fund.

Applicants should please indicate if they wish to be considered for a scholarship, in their letter of motivation, and state why it is required.

Travel costs between the home country and Geneva are the responsibility of the respective sending government or organisation. Travel costs associated with LISC-organised learning events during the course are paid by the GCSP.

Assessment and Course Certificate

Participants are assessed based on their participation throughout the course and their performance in a number of specifically assigned activities and tasks. After successful completion of the course, participants will receive a Course Certificate from the GCSP, a **PfP Partnership Training and Education Centre (PTEC)**, as well as an **ISO 9001 certified centre**. A letter of assessment, outlining the participant's performance, will be provided to the sending institution.

Alumni Community

Upon graduation, participants become members of the GCSP Alumni network. This network of over 10'000 members from over 174 countries offers access to an online community, regular information on GCSP activities, as well as invitations to designated sessions together with LISC participants and other alumni, either locally or internationally. During these events participants are updated on current peace and security matters where they have the opportunity to meet and discuss important issues while building up their professional network.

Application Process

Your country is kindly asked to submit all nominations **by Friday, 31 May 2024**. Please note that due to the lengthy visa requirements, we must insist on this deadline and advise that late applications will not be considered.

Candidates can apply for the course online by clicking the link [here](#). Candidates will then receive an automated email requesting the following documents to complete the application file:

- A letter of motivation (max 800 words)
- A curriculum vitae
- Two letters of reference from superiors within the candidate's sending institution

The application process is highly competitive and is open to a maximum of 24 participants. Only the most qualified candidates will be accepted.

In addition to careful consideration of the admission requirements in its selection process, the GCSP also strives to ensure diversity in institutional representation, national origin, professional experience and educational/training background.

Particular emphasis is placed on gender parity. For this reason, your country is asked to nominate at least two candidates, **one female and one male**.

Please also note that former participants of the GCSP advanced courses (the International Training Course in Security Policy/LISC, the European Security Course, and the New Issues in Security Course) are not eligible to apply.

For further information, please contact:

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Direct Phone Number: +41(0)22 730 9691
GCSP Reception Phone Number: +41(0)22 730 96 00
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Annex 1:

Master of Advanced Studies in International Security (MAS)

The GCSP is delighted to announce that LISC participants have the opportunity to earn a **Master of Advanced Studies in International Security (MAS)** (60 ECTS credits). This MAS is jointly run by the [Geneva Centre for Security Policy](#) and the [Global Studies Institute](#) (GSI) of the University of Geneva – and is based upon the internationally recognised training expertise of GCSP's Leadership in International Security Course in addition to the long-standing academic expertise of the University of Geneva.

The MAS has a taught and a research component, in addition to the successful completion of the three LISC modules. The taught component consists of the successful completion of the LISC and participation in an additional module taught by the University which will be assessed by a written exam. The research component requires the completion of a research paper (10'000-12'000 words) on an agreed security-related topic, examined by oral defence.

The tuition fee for the MAS programme is **CHF 15'000**. Tuition scholarships may be available. Interested applicants, after having been accepted to the LISC, should contact the Coordinator (mas@gcsp.ch) if they wish to apply for the MAS. Acceptance into the programme is subject to a University of Geneva Admission Board evaluation.

Application materials and further inquiries can be addressed to mas@gcsp.ch or by clicking on the [MAS webpage](#).