



Vesalius College  
Brussels



## **Brand New MA in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies in Brussels!**

Vesalius College of Global Affairs Brussels, in cooperation with EGMONT - The Royal Institute for International Relations, the Belgian Royal Military Academy and the Institute for Economics and Peace, launches a new intensive Master Programme in English in

### **Global Peace, Security & Strategic Studies (MA GPSSS).**

**Directed by Dr. Jamie Shea (Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Threats, NATO & Distinguished Professor of Global Security Policy & Practice at Vesalius College)** and taught by an outstanding international faculty of dedicated professors and senior policy-makers, the intensive one-year programme (90 ECTS) seeks to build bridges between the thinking and strategic communities related to military and coercive approaches on the one hand and peacebuilding and non-violent approaches on the other. By bringing together senior practitioners and scholars involved at both ends of the spectrum and by deliberately offering a Global Perspective on major issues of peace, security and strategy, the degree hopes to break new ground in training the next generation of comprehensive and globally minded analysts and practitioners in the field.

The MA includes both **theory-grounded courses and strongly applied courses**, such as the College's award-winning MA Capstone Practicum (where students form their own think tanks in order to advise senior policy-makers on a concrete policy issue) as well as Brussels-based internships.

The programme combines the strengths of the Belgian Royal Military Academy (on military and strategy issues) with the diplomatic and foreign policy expertise of the Egmont Institute (the think tank associated with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the applied research of the Institute for Economics and Peace (the think tank behind, inter alia, the Global Peace Index and Global Terrorism Index) and the Global Affairs perspectives of Vesalius College, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

**The teaching faculty of visiting professors** includes, inter alia, Johan Galtung (often viewed as one of the founders of the discipline of peace studies), Professor Richard Caplan (University of Oxford), Jolyon Howorth (Yale/Bath), Sarah Leonard (Vesalius College), Tongfi Kim (Vesalius College), Sven Biscop and Thomas Renard (Egmont Institute), Maria Almagro (Vesalius College / University of Cambridge), Samir Puri (King's College), Dr Fernando Andresen Guimaraes (European External Action Service / Vesalius College), Julia De Clerck-Sachsse (European External Action Service / Vesalius College).

For further information, please visit: <http://www.vesalius.edu/academics/masters-degrees/ma-in-global-peace-security-and-strategic-studies/>

**For an interview with the Course Director, Dr. Jamie Shea,** please visit <http://www.vesalius.edu/dr-jamie-shea-nato-veco-magpsss/>

The College provides a wide range of scholarships.

The programme can be taken as 90 ECTS (12 months) or 120 ECTS (16 months) versions - full-time and part-time.

## **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

### **MA in Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies: Structure and Courses**

**The 90 ECTS MA in GPSSS runs across one intensive academic year (or two years, for part-time students)** and is divided into three trimesters. Students can also choose an extended 120 ECTS credits option, consisting of additional electives or a Global Risk Analysis and Crisis Management (GRACM) concentration – both worth an additional 30 ECTS. The extended version (See below) requires 16 months full-time and 32 months part-time. For students choosing the full-time 90 ECTS version, the modular structure is as follows:

#### Trimester 1 (September-December) – Core Foundations Trimester

*Compulsory Courses (33 Credits) + 1 Skills Training*

- The Theory and Practice of International Relations and Geopolitics – 6 ECTS
- Theories and Applied Issues of Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies – 6 ECTS
- The Role of International and Regional Organizations (including UN, IMF, World Bank, NATO the EU and other regional organisations) – 6 ECTS
- Foreign Policy Analysis – 6 ECTS
- Research Methods – 6 ECTS
- Networking and Professional Skills Training Workshops – Preparation for Capstone Course in Semester 2

#### Trimester 2 (January-May) – Electives

*At least 3 Major Electives – Peace, Security and Strategic Studies (18 ECTS) and max 2 from MADAGG (12); Maximum 4 MA GPSS electives and 1 at least from MADAGG*

*Elective Course Modules (GPSSS), 18-24 ECTS*

- History of Global Conflicts and Global Security – 6 ECTS
- Global Perspectives on the History and Ideas of Peace – 6 ECTS
- History and Theory of Strategy – 6 ECTS

- Global Governance and Emerging Powers – 6 ECTS
- Geopolitics – 6 ECTS
- Mediation, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution in Theory and Practice – 6 ECTS
- Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Peace Enforcement – 6 ECTS
- Terrorism, Counterterrorism and (De-)Radicalisation – 6 ECTS
- Emerging Security Threats in Theory and Practice (incl. Cybersecurity, Energy Security, Environmental Security) – 6 ECTS
- The Global Arms Trade – 6 ECTS
- The Nexus between Science, Technology and Global Peace & Security – 6 ECTS

*1-2 Electives from the Diplomacy and Global Governance Track (6-12 ECTS)  
Elective Course Module (MADAGG)*

- Negotiating the Global Economy 1: Trade – 6 ECTS
- Transnational Network Diplomacy and Global Public Policy – 6 ECTS
- The Design, Successes and Failures of Global Public Policy – 6 ECTS
- Diplomacy, Global Development and Humanitarian Aid – 6 ECTS
- Social (In)-equality and Global Justice – 6 ECTS
- Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy – 6 ECTS
- The EU as a Global Diplomatic Actor – 6 ECTS
- International Law for Diplomats – 6 ECTS
- Transatlantic Approaches to Global Peace, Security & Diplomacy (in cooperation with Georgetown University's Conflict Resolution Programme) – 6 ECTS
- Diplomacy and the Challenge of Climate Change: Agents, Actors and Diplomatic Break-throughs – 6 ECTS
- Public Diplomacy and Strategic Communication in the era of social media – 6 ECTS

**Please note: Certain electives can also be taken in intensive 10 day format during trimester 3.**

Trimester 3 (May – August) – 10 intensive weeks

***Internship, Research Methods II, MA Thesis and Capstone-Practicum***

***Brussels Graduate Internship (6/12 ECTS extended summer version) to be chosen instead of a 5th Elective Course; Extended Internship Option only available for 120 ECTS students***

- Brussels Graduate Internship (regular or extended version) – 6/12 ECTS

***AND Final Research and Policy Modules (Semester 2 and Summer Semester) (27 ECTS)***

- Research Methods Seminar II (incl. MA Thesis Seminar) – 3 ECTS
- MA Thesis – 18 ECTS
- MA Capstone Practicum: Policy-Oriented Advising (regular or extended) – 6/12 ECTS

**\* Please note: The (extended) internship option and preparatory work for the Thesis and Capstone run across Trimesters 2 and 3**

**In order to graduate in the 90 ECTS track**, students need to pass all courses of the Core Foundations Trimester (33 ECTS), pass all courses in the Electives track (between 18 and 30 ECTS in GPSSS, depending on number of electives chosen in GPSSS track; and maximum 2 electives from MADAGG), have successfully passed the Capstone, the research seminar and defended successfully the MA Thesis (27 ECTS).

Overall, students need to have a grade point average of ‘C’ or above to graduate.

**MA GPSSS – 120 ECTS Track**

16 months full-time / 32 Months part-time

Students wishing to follow the 120 ECTS track need to take a further 30 ECTS worth of credits (including the possibility of extended internships and extended capstone) of electives. Students can also opt to take the Global Risk Analysis and Crisis Management (GRACM) concentration. This concentration consists of 10 weekend modules (each worth 3 ECTS) from September – June. Courses include:

*Part I: Risk Analysis and Early Warning (15 ECTS)*

Module 1: Understanding Risks, Grasping Uncertainty – 3 ECTS

Module 2: Analysing Risks, Preparing for Uncertainty – 3 ECTS

Module 3: Open Source Intelligence: Tools and Techniques – 3 ECTS

Module 4: A New Information Environment: Media, Conflict and Crisis Communication – 3 ECTS

Module 5: Global Crisis Monitoring, Conflict Analysis & Early Warning – 3 ECTS

*PART II: Crisis Management and Crisis Response- 15 ECTS*

Module 6: Understanding the Crisis Cycle and Complex Crises – 3 ECTS

Module 7: Understanding the Main Actors in Crisis Response – 3 ECTS

Module 8: Political, Humanitarian and Military Approaches: Towards a Comprehensive Approach – 3 ECTS

Module 9: Preparing for the Field: Facing Reality on the Ground – 3 ECTS

Module 10: Core Debates, Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Future Challenges – 3 ECTS