



Elliott

Security Policy Studies Highlights

1,600+ SPS alumni

200+ graduate students

90%+ graduates employed within 6 months

70+ courses on key security topics

40+ professors of practice

7 core faculty members

300+ lectures, conferences, and seminars each year

SPS Leadership

Dr. Paul D. Williams
Director and Professor
of International Affairs

Dr. Min Jung Kim
Associate Director, Visiting
Assistant Professor of
International Affairs

SPS Core Faculty

Dr. Nicholas Anderson

Dr. Michael E. Brown

Dr. Alexander Downes

Dr. Min Jung Kim

Dr. Rollie Lal

Dr. Maria Restrepo

Dr. Paul D. Williams

The Elliott School's Security Policy Studies (SPS)

graduate program is preparing a new generation of students to tackle the most important security challenges of our times. SPS graduates possess the knowledge, analytic skills, and practical experience to become leaders in this demanding global field.

Security is a basic human need, yet establishing a peaceful, stable world remains one of humanity's toughest problems. An education in security policy helps equip emerging leaders with the skills, judgment, and character to meet this challenge.

In the classroom, SPS faculty deliver a top-tier academic experience geared for real-world applications and issues. Students can concentrate on U.S. national security, transnational security issues, science and technology, or conflict resolution.

Beyond the classroom, students have access to more than 300 annual events sponsored by the Elliott School, as well as hundreds of relevant institutions in Washington, DC. Students also learn through internships, meeting potential employers, and our rigorous Global Capstone experience, which partners students with real-world clients to develop policy solutions to urgent global challenges.

Our graduates have successful careers working on the global issues that matter most with organizations across the security policy spectrum—from the CIA to Council on Foreign Relations, from NATO to the UN, and think tanks to the World Bank.



"My professors constantly challenge me and my peers to strive for excellence by putting us in the center of difficult topics and debates. The Security Policy Studies program shines a light on the lives and livelihoods of those experiencing conflict first-hand." — *Carmella Saia, MA '24, National Military Intelligence Foundation Merit Scholar, 2023*



"You're not learning what to think, you're learning how to think. So, you're going to come away with the knowledge of how to implement a particular theory and develop potential policy options. That's what will make you valuable when you leave here." — *Jason Nunes, MA '20, U.S. Army Executive Officer*

Selected Classes

AI & International Security
Environmental Security
War in Ukraine
Great Power Competition
Emerging Threats
China's Military
Russia & International
Security
Fundamentals of Intelligence
Strategic Planning
Cyber Threats & Policy
Cybersecurity
Space & National Security
Understanding U.S. Special
Operations
U.S. Grand Strategy
Military Power &
Effectiveness
Analysis of Military
Operations
Transnational Security Issues
Political Risk Analysis
Organized Crime
Terrorism & Political Violence
Gender, War & Peace
Stabilization & Peacebuilding
Insurgency &
Counterinsurgency
Gender & Security
Countering Violent Extremism
Conflict Prevention
WMD Arms Control

Security Policy Studies Event Highlight

Annual Conference with the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation University



Since 2009, the Security Policy Studies program has been housed in the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies (ISCS). For the last two years, SPS students participated in an annual two-day conference co-convened by the Defense Security Cooperation University and the Elliott School's ISCS. The conference brings together security professionals working on the frontline of today's most important security cooperation challenges facing the

United States, from security assistance in Ukraine to defense institution building across Africa.

*"For 45 years, GW's Security Policy Studies program has built a community of students and faculty devoted to understanding and tackling the world's most pressing security challenges. Developing expertise, honing critical analytic skills, and building a network of trusted colleagues is **the best antidote to the disinformation that poisons so many discussions of security policy in the media and society at large.**"*

—Dr. Paul D. Williams, Director, Security Policy Studies Program

Your philanthropy boosts student success

Gifts to the Elliott School Security Policy Studies MA program enhance academic and professional opportunities for students focused on finding solutions to the world's most pressing national and global security issues. Your gift is an investment in the next generation of global leaders—and in a more peaceful world for all.

How your gift helps Elliott students in the Security Policy Studies (SPS) program:

\$125 – supports SPS student site visits to potential employers.
\$250 – enhances SPS student-alumni networking and career events.
\$500 – supports major conferences focused on security policy and conflict resolution, including crisis simulations and wargame events.
\$1,000 – provides grants for student research with faculty members.

For more information, please contact Max Kaplan: maxkaplan@gwu.edu.