



For additional information:

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explore

## National Security Studies

MA in Political Science,  
Specialization in National Security Studies

School of Political Sciences  
Faculty of Social Sciences



expand

## Welcome to the University of Haifa



Situated at the top of the Carmel Mountain, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Galilee, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies. The University of Haifa is one of Israel's seven research universities, the largest in the north. It is a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility.

An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university has a diverse population of 18,000 students made up of secular and religious Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and native Israelis and a growing number of students from around the world. We invite you to become one of them.

The School of Political Sciences at the University of Haifa, established in 1972, offers students the resources and talent of one of Israel's most prominent academic research centers engaged in teaching and scholarship in the fields of diplomacy studies, political thought, international relations, public policy, public administration, local administration, comparative and Israeli politics. It is home to the National Security Studies Center (NSSC) and the Center for Public Management and Policy (CPMP). Members of the School's faculty hold leading editorial positions in worldwide academic publications. Counted amongst the School's alumni are members of the Israeli cabinet and parliament, top military commanders, senior officials in the defense and intelligence establishments, heads of government offices and leading media figures.

Established as an independent think tank in 2000, the NSSC was founded to promote research and public discourse on the national security of Israel. The Center seeks to develop comprehensive and multidisciplinary research on the political, social, military and economic components of national security and the complex interrelationship between them. Students will have the opportunity to interface with the Center through various activities throughout the program.

## The Program

The International Graduate Program in National Security Studies is designed for students and professionals who are seriously interested in the field of national security in the broadest sense of the term. Students will examine the complex interrelationship between the social, political, ethical, diplomatic, economic and military dimensions of national security to create a comprehensive picture of the state of the nation.

The program aims to prepare graduates to deal effectively with critical national decisions. The program targets mid-career officials, policy makers, academics and students from Israel and around the world, as well as retired and active members of defense establishments.

Facing a long-standing challenge at the center of a mostly hostile regional environment, even decades before its establishment, Israel has accumulated the experience in dealing with national security issues and has developed a comprehensive approach in this field, combining academic theory with real-world constraints.

We will strive to introduce students to real-time dilemmas and choices of Israeli decision makers as well as high-ranking officials, in addition to examples of national security dilemmas from other national and regional conflicts.

In addition to gaining insight about national security, graduates of this program can expect to develop careers in governmental, security and private organizations, which are interested in enhancing their ability to deal with strategic affairs, challenges and opportunities.



*Lieutenant General (ret.) Gabi Ashkenazi, former chief of general staff for the Israel Defense Forces, speaking at the University of Haifa.*

The course curriculum has been developed by the University of Haifa faculty in cooperation with Israel's National Security College, the highest course of study in the Israel Defense Forces. The National Security College is an established institution that has been successfully teaching graduate studies in national security to military, intelligence and government personnel from Europe, America and Asia. Graduates have gone on to serve in senior positions in their armed forces and diplomatic services. Additionally, the program will interface with the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa, where selected students can participate in the Center's advanced research.

The one-year program is taught in English over three consecutive semesters from September through August. Exceptional students wishing to apply to the thesis track will need, upon acceptance, to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework.

A thesis is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies in Israel, which is normally completed in the year following the completion of coursework. Students who complete their thesis later than one semester after the completion of their coursework, may be expected to pay an additional fee as detailed by the Graduate Tuition Authority.



Upon completion of the program, students will receive an MA in Political Science, with a specialization in National Security Studies from the School of Political Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences.

# Program Structure and Scope

## Program Objectives

- To provide students with the methodological skills and competence required for the integration of a wide range of information and insights that make up the complex national security environment, as well as the ability to identify the center of gravity of every given situation. This knowledge will enable students to understand and critique the choices of decision makers and eventually play a productive role in that process in governmental and private sectors;
- To acquaint students with the various academic perspectives in the field of national security and enhance their analytical abilities to deal with the questions, problems, challenges and dilemmas of modern national security affairs, including the ethical aspects of dealing with the challenges of terrorism and other kinds of asymmetric warfare in democratic societies;
- To expose students to the unique role of Israel in the Middle East, as an unwitting and unwilling predecessor to modern time clashes between open democracies and mobilized traditional societies, amongst other perspectives. Dilemmas that Israel faced since its inception, that are deeply rooted in the profound cultural differences with its regional adversaries, have come to haunt other democracies in their conflicts in the Third World. Students can select from the Israeli experience, the misperceptions, mistakes, lessons, adjustments and achievements and apply them to what they believe to be relevant to their own country's environment;
- To facilitate and encourage students to learn from each other's backgrounds and experiences, both during the structured discussions in class and through their informal interactions.



*Lieutenant General (ret.) Kersten Lahl, President of the Federal College for Security Studies in Germany, speaking at the University of Haifa.*

## Program Outline

The program combines theoretical discussions and actual Israeli experiences. The program consists of seminars and courses taught by leading academics in their field of specialty, as well as discussions with practitioners from the fields of intelligence, military, economics and policy.



**Coursework:** All courses are required and will consist of the following main components:

- Study of political science
- Introduction to the Middle East and Israel
- Specific courses on various aspects of national security, such as ethics, communications and economics

**Practicum:** In order to expose students to the work of organizations engaged in national security-related matters, they will be required to participate in a short practicum. Exceptional students will be able to participate in research conducted at the NSSC as part of their practicum. Students who demonstrate excellence during their practicum may be approached to continue research at the Center after the completion of their studies.

**Academic Study Tours:** Students will be offered professional tours of areas of special national security significance and to meet with high-ranking officials – past and present – involved in the political, intelligence and military establishment on site (where authorized).

## Curriculum\*

The program consists of 40 credits, including 10 core courses and a final assignment, which is either a major research paper or an integrative final examination.

Exceptional students may want to take advantage of the International School's Hebrew and/or Arabic courses, although it is not required and is not included in the tuition. Please see the International School website for more details ([www.uhaifa.org](http://www.uhaifa.org)).

Core Courses	Credits
The National Security of Israel	4
Legal and Ethical Aspects of National Security	4
Approaches to Political Science	4
Intelligence and National Security	4
The Foreign Policy of Israel	4
Political Demography of the Middle East	4
Communications and National Security	4
Society and Security in Israel	4
Economics and National Security	4
Managing the Democratic State: Dilemmas of Policy and Security	4



\*The curriculum is subject to change without notice. Please see program website for the most up-to-date curriculum.

## Course Descriptions

### The National Security of Israel

This course will introduce students to the history, evolution and present state of thinking about Israel's national security. It will present the major threats facing Israel, and the dilemmas in finding the appropriate response to the threats in each given historical period, taking into account the national, regional and international environments and their constraints.

### Legal and Ethical Aspects of National Security

This course will address the legal environment of the national security system in general, and that of Israel in particular. It will address national and international legal problems related to national security, as well as the moral dilemmas involved in finding appropriate responses to national security threats.



*Lieutenant General (ret.)  
Moshe Ya'alon, Israeli Vice  
Prime Minister and Minister  
of Strategic Affairs, speaking  
at the University of Haifa.*

### Approaches to Political Science

This course will present the philosophical, intellectual and methodological foundations of contemporary social science in general, and political science in particular, explaining the basis for the scientific study of politics, diplomacy, strategy and broader aspects of research on national security.

### Intelligence and National Security

This course will explore the role of intelligence as a concept, a system and a foundation of national security. Intelligence communities have played a key role in national security decision making, in issuing warnings about threats and other key issues in national security. This course will also study the relationship between intelligence, leadership and the public.

# Course Descriptions

## The Foreign Policy of Israel

This course will cover the history and present state of Israeli foreign policy. It will introduce the series of challenges faced by Israeli foreign policy over time, as well as the general concepts of this policy, and the various trends of thought that have evolved in it over time, with attention paid to current developments and dilemmas.

## Political Demography of the Middle East

This course will present the Middle East, as it is reflected in the demographic trends that dominate social development in the region. Population movements, manpower issues, labor relations and economic problems related to demography will be explored, depicting the setting to contemporary political developments in the region.

## Communications and National Security

This course will address itself to the mutual relations between national security issues and forums on the one hand, and modern mass media and systems of communications on the other. Attention will be paid to the immense impact of modern information technology and social networks, particularly in light of the "Arab Spring."



## Society and Security in Israel

This course will explore historical and current trends in Israeli society, with particular emphasis on the attitudes of various social strata and groups to national security matters. The duality of social cleavages and social solidarity will be studied, with attention to the present make-up of Israeli society along lines of national, ethnic, religious and economic differences.

## Economics and National Security

This course will explore the economic foundations of national security, including such issues as defense spending versus other social needs, economic difficulties as an obstacle for national security, economic threats to security and international economic security warfare, including sanctions, financial means of waging war and boycotts.

## Managing the Democratic State: Dilemmas of Policy and Security

This course will try to offer some intellectual avenues for understanding the dilemmas in managing the democratic state and models for building strong nations under policy constraints. It will discuss the main challenges facing modern democracies of our times, especially under serious security threats and growing social demands.



# Admission Requirements & Prerequisites

## General Admission Requirements

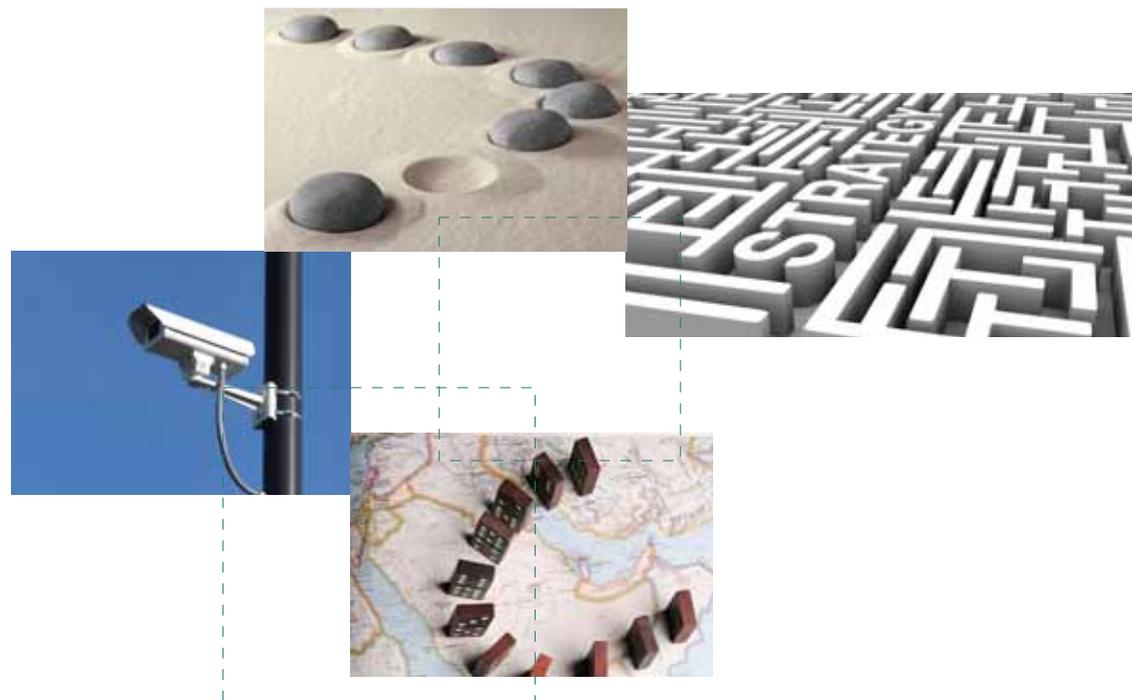
- An undergraduate degree in political science, history or the social sciences from an accredited university in Israel or abroad, diploma and transcript
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 80% or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test); 230 (computer-based test) or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two recommendations from relevant academic faculty members
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Statement of Intent/Personal Essay (500-750 words)
- Medical forms

## Academic Prerequisites

Students will be required to complete three out of the following four introductory courses before the first semester of the program:

- Introduction to International Relations
- Introduction to Government and Politics
- Introduction to Government Administration and/or Public Policy
- Introduction to Political Philosophy, Thought or Theory

Under certain exceptional circumstances, a committee may be willing to consider applicants who do not meet the minimal admissions requirements. See program website for additional details (<http://securitystudies.haifa.ac.il>).



# General Information

## Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see program website for current tuition and fees. There are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a list of scholarship options please see the International School website.

## Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the International School website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications as the complete application file is received.



## Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for student's use. Refer to the International School website for more details.

## Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes international students to the events and activities taking place throughout the semesters. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze and Bedouin.

## Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.



## Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to become part of Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.

## Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.