

## National Security Studies Short Course – Applicant FAQs

### 1. Is this an online or in-person course?

This course is held in person on the Strand campus of King's College London, in central London.

### 2. What is the required time commitment?

Contact time is 2 hours per week (1 hour seminar and 1 hour seminar), which are organised on one day per week to facilitate arrangements with employers (usually Thursdays). It is expected that participants complete around 2 hours-worth of preparatory reading each week. When group tasks are assigned, time will be provided in seminars to work on these together, rather than outside the classroom.

### 3. What are the term dates?

This is a 20-week course, with ten weeks in each semester, following the academic calendar since participants study alongside the students undertaking the full MA Security Studies. The course runs from the end of September until mid-December. Following the Christmas break, the course resumes in mid-January until the end of March. There is also a mid-term break known as “reading week” in mid-November and mid-February.

### 4. I am a foreign national, can I get a visa specifically to undertake this course?

Due to the length of the course (longer than 6 months), this course is ineligible for the Short-Term Visitor Visa. Students on this credit-only course code, who are subject to immigration control, should already hold another type of non-student, existing permission, e.g. pre-settled or settled status, leave to enter, long-term multiple entry visit visa (longer than 6 months).

### 5. What materials do I need to upload in the application process?

You should complete the online application form and enclose a personal statement that outlines your motivation to undertake the course and prior relevant experience. You should also scan copies of your degree certificate.

### 6. If I have already passed the internal sift at my sponsoring organisation, is this a guarantee of a spot on the course?

All applicants must still be reviewed by the KCL Programme Director, who makes the final decision on acceptance, in accordance with KCL's own quality assurance processes.

### 7. I have taken a non-traditional route (e.g. military, apprenticeship etc.) and do not have a first degree. Does this automatically make me ineligible to undertake this course?

No, we consider all applications on a case-by-case basis and take into account relevant professional expertise. This is where the personal statement is also important, to outline your motivation and experience to date that has prepared you to successfully undertake postgraduate study.

### 8. My organisation has agreed to sponsor my participation. Now what?

Please apply on the online portal on the course page as the first step. Once your application has been processed, if you are accepted then you will be contacted by the admissions team to confirm you have a place. Only after you are fully enrolled will you be contacted for payment.

**If you have secured funding for your tuition/bench fees from a third party, and wish to ensure that the sponsor is invoiced for the fee, then please submit evidence of this funding to Student Admin Services [here](#) once you have enrolled.** This should be a valid formal letter, on company headed paper from the sponsor confirming their willingness to cover any amount of tuition/bench fees. The letter should list the exact amount of their fees in GBP or percentage of the sum their sponsor has agreed to pay to the College towards the tuition / bench fees.

The sponsorship document must be addressed to King's College London and clearly outline the following information: -

- Student ID
- Name of the company to receive the invoice
- Amount in GBP/Percentage of fees the student is sponsored for during Academic Year 2023/24
- Invoicing address and email address that the invoice should be sent to
- Contact name and contact details (incl. direct email) for queries
- Reference number/purchase order (PO) number to be listed on invoice (a PO is mandatory for all NHS Trusts)

Once King's is in receipt of this information, the finance team will then be able to update the student's record(s) to reflect sponsorship.

You can find more information on this process [here](#).

#### **9. Upon acceptance, if I miss a class, will the material be recorded?**

The lectures are recorded, but the seminars (where the learning is applied to practical tasks) are not recorded. As stated above, this is an in-person not online course.

#### **10. Can I put these credits towards a degree?**

Yes, you could either enrol to do the full MA National Security Studies and complete the remaining 150 credits through part time or full-time study at KCL. Alternately, you can undertake other short courses and stack them up to receive a postgraduate certificate or full MA Security Studies. All the guidance for this can be found [here](#).

#### **11. I would like to do some pre-reading before the course begins. Where should I start?**

The Centre for Defence Studies at KCL has released three volumes of short essays discussing the Integrated Review in Context. These are [The Integrated Review in Context: A Strategy Fit for the 2020s?](#), [The Integrated Review in Context: Defence and Security in Focus](#), and [The Integrated Review in context: One year on](#). These short pieces feature many of the experts who contribute to the course and are a good way to begin engaging with questions around national security.

#### **12. I have a question that is not covered on this list, what should I do?**

If you have any questions related to Admissions and your application, please contact the Admissions team through your King's Apply Account.

For any other non-Admissions related queries, please contact the Programme Director Dr Hillary Briffa on [Hillary.briffa@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Hillary.briffa@kcl.ac.uk).