

The 2018 Core Course on Security Policy

A comprehensive, interconnected
approach to security and strategy

Schedule and topics

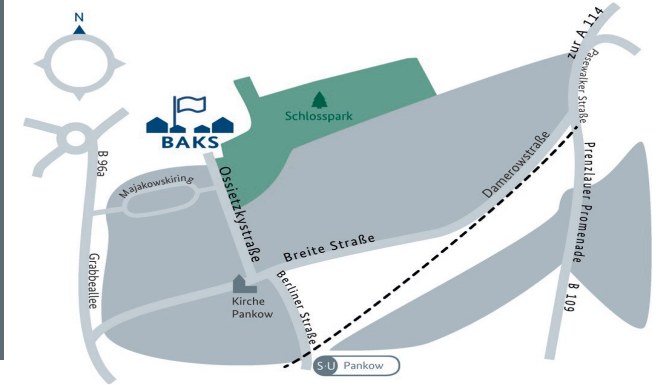


Tasks and Objectives

The Federal Academy for Security Policy is the German Federal Government's central, interministerial institution for advanced training in security policy. The Academy is practically oriented, interdisciplinary in its approach and promotes a comprehensive understanding of Germany's long term security objectives. The Academy promotes a shared understanding of national and international security policy among individuals from politics, government agencies, science, business, civil society and the broader public. The Academy was founded in Bonn in 1992. Since 2004, it has been based in Berlin.

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Academy's "Haus Berlin" seminar building and one of its seminar rooms, equipped with up-to-date conference and event technology.

Publication details

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Organisation and Staff

Politically, the Academy is led by a board of trustees, which is chaired by the German Chancellor and includes all ministries represented in the Federal Security Council. The board of trustees is supported by an advisory board consisting of key figures in the security policy arena. Organisationally, the Academy falls within the remit of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

The Academy employs approximately 50 members of staff dispatched from all ministries represented in the Federal Security Council. Dr Karl-Heinz Kamp is the President of the Academy and Wolfgang Rudischhauser is the Vice President.

Objectives and Target Audience

The Core Course is the most diverse advanced training course on security policy provided in Germany on behalf of the German Federal Government. It conveys a broad and comprehensive approach to security, refines knowledge about global interrelations, and gives its participants an interdepartmental understanding of security at the strategic level.

The course also prepares younger senior officials for national and international assignments as decision-makers.

The 2018 Core Course on Security Policy runs for three months, from 9 April to 6 July 2018. It takes place in Berlin and is held in German. It can be attended by up to 25 national and international participants from Germany and other countries and offers:

- background talks with ministers, state secretaries, and ambassadors as well as top-level representatives of the Federal Chancellery and departments in the Federal Security Council;
- high-level talks in political and economic decision-making centres in Brussels, Washington D.C. and New York;
- a field study in the Baltic region, including Stockholm and Tallinn;
- access to an exclusive network of players in the world of national and international security policy – even after the completion of the course.

The course is designed for a select group of younger senior officials from the German federal and state ministries, business, academia and politics as well as from socially relevant groups such as churches, trade unions and NGOs.

All participants are required to attend the full course.

Module 1
Comprehensive security – dimensions, developments and trends
10 April – 19 April

Module 2
Powers and crises – the global order in transition
23 April – 25 May

Module 3
The Baltic region – a security hot spot
28 May – 13 June

Module 4
Internal security – a global challenge
18 June – 29 June

Module 5
From theory to practice – foresight and strategy, communication and decision-making
2 – 4 July (and throughout the course)

The framework of international politics has changed fundamentally. Globalisation and digitalisation appear to be bringing the world closer together, but globally agreed strategies are stagnating or eroding. The influence of new actors on the global stage, including non-state actors, makes the situation more complex. An appropriate response to these developments is a comprehensive, interconnected approach to security policy. As we examine a selection of global developments, emerging issues and trends, we will expand and embed the classic concept of policy making in the security sector into a comprehensive foresight perspective. The module concludes with considerations of a forward-looking security policy.

From China and India to a resurgent Russia – from the OBOR Initiative to the AIIB, new centers of power and spheres of influence are being established besides those of the West. Against this backdrop, we will outline and analyze the options open to relevant organisations and states (which are frequently in competition with one another) and draw conclusions for national strategic decisions. Two study tours will take the course participants to Washington, DC, New York and Brussels.

In the Baltic region not only NATO is encountering Russia. Different ethnic populations and a critical infrastructure create a highly sensitive security environment. At the same time, the Baltic States are in the vanguard of digitalisation in Europe. A study tour, taking us to Stockholm and Tallinn among others, will make this sensitive and contradictory region more tangible.

The world is facing new threats with immediate implications on homeland security and regardless of national borders. Therefore, new strategies are needed to find suitable answers. Current challenges such as radicalisation, extremism and terrorism as well as integration will be examined in depth. Particular attention will be given to the implications of global digitalisation and its impact on cybersecurity.

Having heard and listened to many different voices and views, seen a number of relevant places and locations, having met interesting people and learned lots of things on security policy the overall question remains: What will come next? And in addition to this: What can I do in my specific context to deal with risks and threats and to use strengths and opportunities to cope with the challenges to come? The final module aims at developing individual strategic capabilities of the attendees using foresight methods and doing “down to earth” scenario planning.