



**Hellenic National
Defense General Staff**



**Hellenic National
Defence College**

**11th Senior Course on Defence Studies
International Senior Course in Applied Strategy and Defence Diplomacy
Athens, Greece
(Sep 10 - Dec 11, 2026)**

OVERVIEW

AIM OF THE COURSE

The course aims to prepare students regarding their duties as flag / general officers of their countries, to cope with the rapidly changing situations of the geostrategic environment, and to become defence staff officers who stand out for their level of strategic thinking and critical analysis. The course promotes students' understanding of the strategic leadership setting, and the associated knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead security organizations at the strategic level within national and international environments.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Provide students with a basic understanding of the various cultural, demographic, economic, ethnographic, historical, physical, political, and social aspects that are essential for the formulation of strategic leadership.
- Familiarize students with the evolution of Greek thinking through time.
- Comprehend the role of strategic leaders in the global environment.
- Analyze the nature and theory of war and strategy.
- Delve into concepts of Diplomacy and Defence Diplomacy practices.
- Analyze the phenomenon of terrorism.

- Provide adequate knowledge in how NATO copes with Maritime Security Threats and implements Peace Support Operations.

DURATION: 13 ½ weeks

FREQUENCY: 1 course per year

PARTICIPATION ESSENTIALS

- This course is suitable for officers, who at a minimum, have successfully graduated from a Joint War College or equivalent institution of higher education. Graduation from a National Defence College or equivalent is desirable. The course is open to all international partners.

- English language proficiency is necessary, at least at level 3333, IAW STANAG 6001 (professional level for listening, speaking, reading, and writing). No additional language training or translation will be provided throughout the course.

- Students must have basic level computer skills in the Microsoft Office package (mostly Word and PowerPoint) and Internet Explorer.

- The course is open to all international partners. Officers from NATO, PfP, MD, and other countries as approved are accepted to the course.

- No prior knowledge of strategic studies, theories, or applications is necessary for enrollment.

RANK LIMITATION:

Lt. Colonel - Colonel (NATO OF4-OF5) and equivalents from all military services, for civilian members of government departments and services with equivalent ranks

OUTLINE SYLLABUS

- Section 1: Research Methodology (CA) & Organizations Orientation (OO) (5 days).
- Section 2: Thucydidean Approach to Applied Strategy (TAAS) (5 days).
- Section 3: Strategic Leadership and Behavioral Decision Making in the age of AI (10 days).
- Section 4: Introduction to Peace Support Operations (PSO) (5 days).
- Section 5: Strategic Crisis Management (SCM). (3 days).
- Section 6: Critical Thinking in Strategic Studies (CT) (2 days)
- Section 7: Applied International Relations & Foreign Policy (AIR&FP). (7 days).
- Section 8: Defense Diplomacy and Negotiations (DD&N) (5 days).
- Section 9: Countering the Changing Threat of International Terrorism (CCTIT) (5 days).
- Section 10: Managing Maritime Security Threats (MMST). (5 days).
- Section 11: War games/ Strategic Exercise (WG/SE) (5 days).

**MA Applied Strategy And International Security (MAAS)
(Applications should be submitted through HNDC)**

OVERVIEW

- All students attending the HNDC programs have the opportunity to pursue a Master of Arts offered by the University of Plymouth – MA in Applied Strategy & International Security (offered in English).
- Under its agreement with HNDC, the University of Plymouth recognizes that successful International Senior Course in Applied Strategy and Defense Diplomacy, graduation equals 60 credits for an MA in Applied Strategy and International Security through the accreditation of prior certificated learning (APCL). <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/cpd/accreditation-of-prior-learning>
- The modules on Applied International Relations and Foreign Policy (SS513GR) and Countering the Changing Threat of International Terrorism (SS512GR) are also modules of the MA program in Applied Strategy and International Security. Students accepted into the program must undertake the following coursework to obtain 60 MA credits:
 - Two 4500–5000-word essays for the SS513GR module
 - One word essay and a presentation for the SS512GR module
- Participants will get a diploma of attendance from the HNDC after successfully completing the Senior Course on Defense Studies: International Senior Course in Applied Strategy and Defense Diplomacy. Any participant wishing to apply for admission to the MA program must submit a CV and a university application through HNDC.

AIM OF THE MAAS

The MA program aims to offer students, specialized knowledge of international relations and strategic studies (fact, concepts, and literature), with an emphasis on applying knowledge and skills to understand contemporary events, mastering knowledge of learning, thinking, and communications, and their relevance to strategy and security studies. Additionally, it aims to promote students' critical insights into teamwork and problem-solving combined with a range of transferable personal skills, superior ability to conduct research, key thinking and learning skills, and a greater ability to communicate in written, oral, and visual forms.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the module, students will have:

- Demonstrated an ability to formulate a coherent research question, and develop a plan of research.
- Demonstrated significant factual knowledge about the chosen research area, drawing on primary sources and credible secondary sources of information.
- Demonstrated the capacity to apply an appropriate analysis to their research question; this analysis might include interpreting knowledge through the prisms of generalization, analogy, modeling, conceptualization, or theory.
- Demonstrated an ability to synthesize knowledge and analytical ideas to produce some new or useful insight.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant scholarly literature in the relevant field of study, as well as a capacity to engage with it in order to improve their insights or analysis.

DURATION

The MA in Applied Strategy and International Security is taken as a full-time (1 year and 5 months) program; however, all taught modules concentrate their teaching contact in week-long (Monday-Friday) blocks. The internet system (including DLE) will be used to guide student preparation before the teaching block, and thereafter to consolidate learning and support the required assessments. There will be two intakes each year, September will be made up of the International Cohort which will be taught over an intensive three-month period and the January intake comprised of Greek senior military officers.

FEES

Fees are expected to be set at £3,000 (UK-EU fees) and £7,000 (non-EU fees), which will include travel expenses for field trips in Greece, accommodation incurred for the trip to NMIOTC, Crete, and to MPSOTC, Kilkis. Subsidized accommodation to the Army Resort in St Andreas – Attica together with transportation to and from the HNDC will also be provided.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The MA program is offered to current students, graduate officers, or civilians from the HNDC or respective Defence Colleges/Universities. International applicants will be required to provide evidence of their English language ability, for example by achieving an IELTS score of 6.5 overall (with a minimum of 5.5 in each element) or equivalent.

OUTLINE SYLLABUS

- Countering the Changing Threat of International Terrorism (University of Plymouth module, **SS512GR**, 20 credits)
- International Relations & Foreign Policy (University of Plymouth module, **SS513GR**, 40 credits)
- After the successful completion of the **SS513GR & SS512GR**, students will enter the Masters stage. All students will be required to submit two 4500-5000 essays for the **SS513GR** module and one 4500-5000 essay and a presentation for the **SS512GR**, Terrorism module.
- In consultation with a dissertation supervisor, students will develop a research title and project, which will be submitted on a given Project Title, Design, and Planning Form. Students will then undertake a substantial piece of research in the field of strategy and international security (**SS514GR**, MA dissertation, 15,000 words). The dissertation will primarily be the product of independent study and the dissertation will be allocated an academic supervisor to provide advice and support as appropriate.

MAAS STRUCTURE

Level 7					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Year of Delivery	Semester/Term of Delivery	Core/Optional
SS512GR	Countering the Changing Threat of International Terrorism	20	1	All Year	Core
SS513GR	International Relations & Foreign Policy	40	1	All Year	Core
SS514GR	MA Dissertation in Applied Strategy and International Security	60	1	All Year	Core
CRED500	Level 7 Credits Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) Senior Course in Defence Studies (Sept-December)	60	1	All Year	Core