

Why the MISS?

The Master's Degree in International Security Studies (MISS) aims to produce a new generation of graduates able to meet contemporary national and international security challenges. From traditional ideas of security (such as war, global terrorism, and national security), to non-traditional concerns (such as energy crises and climate change), security studies represent a solid framework for the analysis of multi-level challenges posed to our global society. Based on a multidisciplinary approach, the programme is designed to provide high-level training for students in preparation for a career as analysts and policymakers or for further academic research. The course equips students with a firm knowledge of core security issues and emerging threats faced in the international arena.

About the Degree

The Master's Degree in International Security Studies (MISS) is offered jointly by the School of International Studies (SIS) of the University of Trento and the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies - Pisa. Foundation areas of the MISS include security, law, politics, history, and economics. Thanks to a learning approach that combines class teaching with more innovative methods, participants are expected to acquire the theoretical tools and practical skills necessary to understand the various factors and actors having an impact on the global order, with specific reference to security issues. All courses are taught in English.

The Degree in Detail

Students spend the first year at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies - Pisa, where teaching is focused on the main issues concerning security, including hard and soft security, technological security, environmental security, and human security. These and other germane topics are dealt with through different disciplinary approaches.

The second year is based at the School of International Studies in Trento, where students take a closer look at the specific security challenges modern societies face, such as migration, energy issues, environmental degradation, economic and financial threats, armed and other violent conflicts. During the second year, students are also encouraged to spend a period abroad for research purposes, to prepare their dissertation and/or pursue an internship connected with the dissertation.

MISS students can apply for a place on one of the numerous exchange agreements and mobility programmes the University of Trento has with prestigious academic institutions all over the world. In addition, MISS students are encouraged to apply for internship programmes with organisations operating in a European or international sphere, based both in Italy and abroad. Graduates also have a working knowledge of at least one additional foreign language and, in the case of international students, a proven knowledge of Italian.

Beyond the Classroom

Both the School of International Studies and the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies - Pisa organise a multitude of extra-curricular activities and events which MISS students are encouraged to attend. These include a lively series of guest lectures and seminars held by academics of international standing, talks given by distinguished professional practitioners working in international organisations, workshops on applied security, and Alumni meetings and career fairs. Not least, soft skills workshops on topics such as report and policy brief writing, project management and interview skills are available to enhance graduates' key professional competences.

Admission Requirements

Students intending to enrol in the MISS must be in possession of:

- A three-year bachelor's degree (180 credits) awarded in Italy or other qualification recognised as equivalent awarded elsewhere which includes the equivalent of at least 60 course credits from at least two of the following discipline areas: History, Philosophy, Economics, Law, Political Science, Sociology or Foreign Languages;
- Excellent command of English;
- Good knowledge of one of the following languages: French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, and Chinese;
- A personal background with academic qualifications appropriate to the interdisciplinary nature of the degree course. Professional and vocational experience is an asset.

The number of students admitted is capped at 25 each year.

Application deadlines for 2020-2021: 20 February for non-EU citizens; 30 June for EU citizens.

For further details about the programme and entry requirements, visit the MISS webpage at www.unitn.it/sis-lm-miss

Future Prospects: An International Career

The MISS prepares its students for positions within the areas of security, public policy, and international relations. MISS graduates will possess the skills and qualifications necessary to:

- Hold positions of responsibility within European and international institutions and organisations engaged in security, peacekeeping, and state-building activities;
- Work in private organisations dealing with risk prevention and risk management;
- Work in national ministries and enter diplomatic services;
- Work for governmental and non-governmental organisations engaged in areas such as institution-building, project management, humanitarian assistance, local development and reforms, security risk prevention and management;

For those intending to continue their studies, the programme provides a remarkable basis for admission to PhD programmes in international studies and in disciplines related to international security.