

Understanding the Present Shaping the Future

Graduate Education Powered By Asia's Leading Think Tank



RSIS Graduate Education - At The Forefront Of International Affairs

The puzzling complexities of today's geostrategic and geoeconomic landscapes demand critical perspectives and profound insights into global and regional dynamics.

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) empowers future leaders with conceptual tools and policy-relevant knowledge through a rigorous graduate education in international affairs. Helmed by an international faculty of renowned scholars and practitioners, RSIS offers Masters programmes in Asian Studies, International Political Economy, International Relations, Strategic Studies, as well as an NTU-Warwick Double Masters Programme and a PhD Programme catered to the professional needs of advanced graduate students.

With a strong practical emphasis and research-focused approach, RSIS equips graduates with the analytical frameworks and critical skills required to understand the present and shape the future.

Dean's Message

RSIS is a Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), offering an international education with diversity and a Singapore perspective.

Our Masters programmes provide a rigorous professional education in international affairs with a strong practical emphasis, preparing graduates for careers in an extensive range of fields, including political risk consulting, security, management consulting, public relations, foreign affairs, journalism, investment banking, international development, technology, financial crime, risk and research amongst others.

In addition, the RSIS PhD Programme has students researching on topics ranging from technology in international relations to political communication to infrastructure investment in Indonesia.

The think tank role of RSIS, with the gathering of experts at conferences, workshops and seminars organised by RSIS, gives our students the unique opportunity to actively participate in research and networking activities as well as to be taught by faculty who are involved in policy-relevant research.

Since the establishment of the first MSc Programme in Strategic Studies in 1998, RSIS has attracted exceptional local and international students from diverse backgrounds and professions. Over the years, student numbers have grown from a small class of 10 to more than 200 students from 30 countries each academic year.

To quote our founding director, the late Mr S R Nathan, we aim to "nurture a core of knowledgeable scholars engaged in the continuous study of questions of strategic interest to Singapore and the region around us". With students at the centre of everything we do, we aim to enable our graduates to make a difference to society.

Joining an RSIS MSc Programme will open windows to studying international relations and related subjects in action right here in the region.

Professor Kumar Ramakrishna
Dean

S. Rajaratnam School of
International Studies



Why Choose RSIS

At RSIS, we take pride in being a gateway to an in-depth understanding of international affairs.

Our graduate education, tailored to meet the diverse needs of masters students, offers uniquely structured programmes grounded in both academic and policy perspectives. Students who are looking to enrich their knowledge in international studies, regional diplomacy, comparative politics, geoeconomics, international security and strategic studies will be rewarded with a truly fulfilling educational experience.

RSIS Graduate Programmes

- MSc (Asian Studies)
- MSc (International Political Economy)
- MSc (International Relations)
- MSc (Strategic Studies)
- NTU-Warwick Double Masters Programme
- PhD Programme

One of Asia's top universities

RSIS is a graduate school of NTU, ranked #4 in Asia and #19 in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2023.

The leading Asian think tank

Take part in our cutting-edge research projects, or access groundbreaking findings and developments from our research centres and research programmes. Consistently ranked among the top regional think tanks, our research centres and research programmes conduct policy-relevant research in defence, national security, international politics, international political economy or strategic studies among others.

Our Research Centres

Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS)

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS)

Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)

Our Research Programmes

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)

Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme (SRP)

World-class faculty

Learn from our international faculty of leading thinkers and practitioners, globally respected experts in their fields of specialisation.

International student cohort

Network with like-minded peers from over 30 countries around the globe, spanning diverse academic and professional backgrounds. About 40% of our students are Singaporeans, while the rest may be from anywhere in the world, ranging from China, India, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, the US, Canada or the UK to Mauritius, Norway, Iceland, Colombia, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Bhutan, Ghana, South Africa or Eswatini.

Global alumni

Enrich your personal and professional connections through the RSIS Alumni Association, comprising more than 2,700 members from over 80 countries, including government officials, military officers, entrepreneurs, academics, researchers, media professionals, consultants and investment bankers, amongst others.

Real people, real experiences

Interact with distinguished professionals from the diplomatic service, government, the armed forces or the security and corporate sectors at career talks, seminars, public lectures and workshops. At RSIS, our students are exposed to experiences beyond the lecture theatre, learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Flexibility

Align your course selection with your own aspirations and learning goals by choosing from a diverse range of approximately 60 to 75 elective courses offered across our degree programmes each academic year.

The professional edge

Refine your perspectives and exchange ideas with faculty and fellow students. Our classes are conducted as seminars, where students are encouraged to contribute to debates. Students also have the opportunity to take part in a range of professional skills workshops, career development workshops, networking engagements with prominent visitors, and Asian language classes.

International exposure

Broaden your horizons with the opportunity to participate in the US Foreign Policy Summer Programme at the Elliott School of International Affairs (George Washington University).

International collaboration

RSIS maintains links with renowned schools and think tanks globally to enrich our research and teaching initiatives, as well as learn from best practices.

Scholarships

All students may apply for scholarships and other forms of financial assistance.

“None of us are invulnerable to the forces of change, especially in a fast changing and unpredictable strategic environment. For us in Singapore and the region the implications are far more complex. They call for the shaping of new thinking and the discarding of misleading precepts and outdated assumptions.”

Mr S R Nathan
Founding Director

Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies



Graduate Programmes Overview

rsis.edu.sg/gpo

Programmes	Master of Science (Asian Studies)	Master of Science (International Political Economy)	Master of Science (International Relations)	Master of Science (Strategic Studies)	NTU-Warwick Double Masters Programme	PhD Programme
Duration	1 year (full-time) OR 2 years (part-time)				2 years (full-time)	4 years (full-time)
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political developments in the region Traditional and non-traditional security in the region Political, economic, military and social developments in major Asian states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basics of economic analysis with an emphasis on macroeconomics Trade, finance and production networks Key political developments affecting the world economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories of International Relations The making of foreign policy The relationship between state and non-state actors in a globalised international system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core security issues in the Indo-Pacific region The nexus between non-traditional security issues and the use of force The challenges that technological developments pose to strategic policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theoretical and empirical skills in international and strategic studies Insights into the multiple and cross-disciplinary influences affecting contemporary public and private decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialisations in Strategic Studies, International Relations or International Political Economy Development of theses that address real-world policy problems and challenges
Core Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative Politics of Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories and Issues in International Political Economy Quantitative Methods in the Study of International Politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Study of International Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Analysis of Defence and Security Policies The Evolution of Strategic Thought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The same core courses as for the other Masters programmes depending on the specialisation chosen by the student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies of Qualitative Research in International Studies Quantitative Methods in the Study of International Politics
Primary Courses (examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State, Society and Politics in Malaysia State, Society and Politics in China The International History of Asia Government-Business Relations in Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Globalising China in the World Economy Energy and Environment Issues Introduction to the Political Economy of Southeast Asia Political Risk Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Human Rights Law Global Governance Current Topics and Controversies in US Foreign Policy International Politics of Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrorism, Intelligence and Homeland Security Technology and Strategic Policy Intelligence in Peace and War Conflicts in the Digital Age: Information and Cyber Warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The same primary courses as for the other Masters programmes depending on the specialisation chosen by the student 	–
Elective Courses	Students can choose from a wide range of options including courses from the other MSc programmes at RSIS, as well as subjects taught as part of the MBA programme at Nanyang Business School (subject to availability and approval from the Business School).					Any MSc course related to the PhD candidate's area of specialisation
Certificates	RSIS MSc students can choose to pursue a specialised Certificate in Terrorism Studies (CTS). CTS courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Analysis of Defence and Security Policies The Evolution of Strategic Thought Terrorism, Intelligence and Homeland Security 					–
International Exposure	Opportunity to participate in the US Foreign Policy Summer Programme at the Elliott School of International Affairs (George Washington University)					Overseas fieldwork
Cohort Size	30-60	30-60	30-60	30-60	5-10	–
Scholarships and Study Awards	RSIS offers generous scholarships and study awards for exceptional candidates. For more information, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg/gpo/admissions/financial-assistance					All full-time candidates will be considered for NTU research scholarships.
Application Period	1 September – 31 December Please visit www.rsis.edu.sg/gpo/admissions/how-to-apply/ for detailed information on how to apply.				All year round	Apply by 31 July for the January intake. Apply by 30 November for the August intake.
Key Admission Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree certificate and transcript TOEFL / IELTS Resume; 2 references; 2 essays (Essay 1 - Statement of Purpose: discuss the rationale for studying at RSIS and how this fits with your career aspirations after graduation in 600 words; Essay 2 - Essay on issue of international importance: discuss an issue of international importance and its concern to you in 600 words) 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree certificate and transcript Master's degree certificate and transcript Resume; 2 references; 2 essays Research proposal³

Tuition Fees

- Fee information is accurate at time of print (AY2023/2024) and is subject to change each academic year. For the latest information, please refer to the Graduates Programmes website at www.rsis.edu.sg/gpo/admissions/fees.
- Eligibility Guidelines for the Ministry of Education (MOE) Tuition Fee Subsidies: applicants who have previously enjoyed an MOE subsidy in a graduate programme will not be eligible for subsidised fees for a graduate programme at the same or lower level.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to tailor their Research Proposals to fit into one of the three PhD programme specialisations on offer at RSIS, namely, International Political Economy, International Relations or Strategic Studies. Applicants are also advised to identify faculty members whom they would wish to have as their primary supervisor. Detailed faculty profiles are available at www.rsis.edu.sg/gpo/gpo-staff-profiles.

MSc (AS), MSc (IPE), MSc (IR), MSc (SS) ¹		NTU-Warwick Double Masters Programme		PhD Programme ¹	
Singapore Citizens (Subsidised Fees) ²	S\$ 9,950	Year 2 at RSIS:	S\$ 34,000	Singapore Citizens (Subsidised Fees) ²	S\$ 9,750
Singapore PRs (Subsidised Fees) ²	S\$ 10,450			Singapore PRs (Subsidised Fees) ²	S\$10,050
International Students (Subsidised Fees) ²	S\$ 15,700			International Students (Subsidised Fees) ²	S\$15,270
Full Fees	S\$ 32,880			Full Fees	S\$ 33,195