



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Communicating Security

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

LUNGESCU Oana

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KIVI Emmi-Ilona

COURSE TYPE

Masterclass

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

0

TEACHING HOURS

6

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

0

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course highlights the importance of communications as an integral part of policymaking and implementation at NATO, as well as a key component of preventing and managing crises in a complex multilateral political-military environment. Students will get insights from "the room where it happened," with a practitioner's perspective of communicating security from an audience of one to audiences of millions, through one of the most turbulent periods in transatlantic security, including Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, nuclear sabre-rattling and the first Trump administration.

The course will also outline NATO's transition from debunking disinformation to pre-bunking and inoculation. Students will engage with a range of realistic scenarios to enhance their understanding of developing key messages, engaging with the main stakeholders and contributing to a whole-of-society approach in order to communicate security in a dangerous world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- 1) Acquire a better understanding of the intersection of several disciplines such as international relations, diplomacy, policy development and political communications in support of deterrence and defence (A1, MATA1.1);
- 2) Develop core skills in setting and achieving collective goals, overcome setbacks and manage group dynamics in a crisis scenario (B2);

- 3) Acquire a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of European security and strategy, analysing contemporary forms of warfare and how to deal with them from a transatlantic perspective (ESSST1, ESSST2, MATA1.6);
- 4) Develop the ability to compare different strategic cultures and how they can impact transatlantic coherence through NATO (ESSST5, MATA1.6);
- 5) Through interaction with an expert and practitioner, develop competences to design solutions to complex problems and to communicate complex ideas effectively to a range of audiences (B4, ESSST6, MATA2.2);
- 6) Acquire a more nuanced perspective of transatlantic affairs and partnership in the context of NATO decisions and communications (ESSST5, MATA1.6).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lecture, slides, scenario play, Q and A.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

None.

COURSE CONTENTS

Three 2-hour sessions over 2 days, as follows:

1. First session with an overview of the importance of communicating security as part of policymaking at NATO, not as an afterthought, including examples of good and bad practice based on the experience of the longest-serving NATO Spokesperson.
2. Second session where students divide into teams to engage with two realistic scenarios of crisis communications.
3. Third session with feedback and lessons learnt from the scenario play, as well as a broader Q and A on the challenges of communicating security.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

"On My Watch – Leading NATO in a Time of War," Jens Stoltenberg, William Collins, 2025

"Crisis Communications Strategies," Amanda Coleman, KoganPage, 2023

"Foolproof – Why we Fall for Misinformation and How to Build Immunity," Sander van der Linden, 4th Estate, 2023

"If Russia Wins – A Scenario," Carlo Masala, Atlantic Books, 2025

"If You Want Peace, Prepare for War," Rob Bauer & Eleonora Russell, Nieuw Amsterdam 2025

"Fighting Disinformation in a Dangerous Year," Oana Lungescu, Royal United Services Institute commentary, 18 January 2024 <https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/fighting-disinformation-dangerous-year>

"NATO in a Decade of Uncertainty (with Oana Lungescu)," StratComPodcast, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, 28 November 2024
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bF_oC4kWQK0.