

**NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM
ACADEMIC YEAR 2027 - 2028**



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND CYBERSPACE (CIC)
COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (CISA)
EISENHOWER SCHOOL (ES)
NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (NWC)

1. Timeframe. The NDU International Fellows Program (IFP) in AY27-28 reports Saturday, 19 June 2027, starts Monday, 21 June 2027, and is projected to end Friday, 9 June 2028.
2. Overview. NDU offers one-year fellowships to select senior officers and civilians from allied and partner nations, all personally invited by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Fellowships provide an opportunity to study and conduct research in the College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC), College of International Security Affairs, (CISA), Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy (ES), and National War College (NWC). Each college program is accredited with the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Joint Professional Military Education – Phase II (JPME II), more commonly known as Senior Level Education or War College equivalents. Additionally, all programs include travel within the United States to military, governmental, cultural, and industrial locations.
3. Academic Environment. Fellows are assigned to different seminars or committees alongside U.S. representatives from each of military services and various interagency partners. This allows every U.S. student a chance to interact with one or more of the other International Fellows in the cohort, as well as their American counterparts. Fellows are encouraged to correspond with former and current International Fellows as well as their U.S. classmates throughout their careers – professionally, informally, and through a robust alumni program – to best leverage the relationships made during their studies.
4. Objectives. The broad objectives of the programs are to “educate national security leaders in critical thinking and the creative application of military power to inform [their respective] national strategy... in order to prevail in war, peace, and competition.” (NDU Strategic Plan 2022).
5. International Fellows Program Objectives.
 - a. Enrich the educational environment of NDU by sharing their perspectives on historical and current regional and global security challenges;
 - b. Provide an understanding of factors and considerations that shape U.S. security policy and strategy;
 - c. Develop firsthand knowledge of social, political, and economic factors that shape U.S. institutions;
 - d. Provide an understanding of the strategic decision-making process, as well as the factors and considerations that affect them, in the development and implementation of national and international security strategies for use in conditions of peace, crisis and war; war mobilization planning, resource management and systems acquisition for national security; the use of the information instrument of power and cyber domain strategies; and irregular warfare plans and strategies to achieve strategic effect.
 - e. Develop strategies for key strategic security issues that encompass working across military services and with other governmental and civilian agencies, and partner nations;
 - f. Further develop professional qualifications.
6. Selection. Country participation is by personal invitation from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

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Staff (CJCS). Country nomination is in alignment with CJCS priorities in close coordination with the Geographic Combatant Commanders and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy -Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict. Participant selection is the responsibility of the invited country in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy Office of Defense Cooperation/Security Assistance Office.

7. Prerequisites. Selected personnel are expected to meet the same minimum prerequisites as U.S. students attending. Specifically, those selected must meet the below listed criteria.
 - a. Be an active-duty military officer of any Service (or a civilian employed in the country's national defense/security architecture);
 - b. Serving in the equivalent rank of a US colonel (Navy captain) or one-star flag officer or their civilian equivalents;
 - c. Attained a university baccalaureate degree or military academy degree equivalent to a BA/BS degree (4 years of post-secondary education);
 - d. Completed a U.S. or equivalent staff college;
 - e. Completed 15 years of military or government service;
 - f. Served in high-level command and staff or management experience;
 - g. Achieved a score of **80** or higher on the English Comprehension Level (ECL) test for countries in which English is not the native language (refresher training in the U.S. does not substitute for a score that does not meet the requirements);
 - h. Selected officers for CIC attendance from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, & the United Kingdom **MUST** possess a Top Secret/SCI clearance.
8. Family Participation. Fellows are encouraged to have their families accompany them. By US policy, family members are authorized to accompany the IMS on the same visa type as the IMS at the discretion of the US Embassy (A-2, NATO-2, etcetera). There is an active program spouses and children may participate in throughout the course of the year.
9. Description.
 - a. The year-long program allows selectees to participate in:
 - i. The core curricula consist of extensive reading, written and oral requirements, culminating with a capstone research study project on a topic of relevance to the student's area of expertise, operations, country, or organization;
 - ii. NDU's expansive elective program;
 - iii. Seminars and panels with U.S. and international civilian and military leaders;
 - iv. Field studies to military, cultural and industrial locations;
 - v. The Summer Preparatory Course – Fellows are scheduled to arrive approximately six weeks prior to the start of the University's academic year –for reception, orientation, administrative processing, and review of the academic and research programs (unlimited library, internet, and email access is provided). Most significantly, they will participate in a condensed, credit-bearing American Studies Course to familiarize them with key aspects and historical background on U.S. institutions, systems and process, governance, culture, and society.
 - vi. Upon enrollment into one of the colleges, International Fellows may qualify for a Master's Degree. Inclusion and awarding of degree in the Master's Program require attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or proof of equivalency and maintenance of appropriate grade point average.

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**JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE
JOINT ADVANCED WARFIGHTING SCHOOL (JAWS)**

Location: Norfolk, Virginia

1. The JAWS AY27-28 Program reports Monday, 14 June 2027, starts Monday, 21 June 2027, and is projected to end Friday, 9 June 2028.
2. JAWS began with the vision of Congressman Ike Skelton in 1992, who noted that a professional joint military education advanced studies program like the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies was "an idea worthy of study." The Chairman approved JAWS on 9 April 2004 and the first class began that year.
3. JAWS' mission is to produce graduates who can create campaign-quality concepts, plan for the employment of all elements of national power, accelerate transformation, succeed as joint force operational/strategic planners and be creative, conceptual, adaptive, and innovative.
4. The program intent is to provide Combatant Commands with planners who are experts in joint planning processes, capable of critical analysis in the application of all aspects of national power across the full range of military operations, and capable of combining existing and emerging capabilities in time, space, and purpose to accomplish operational or strategic objectives. It is the only institution whose core purpose is education aimed at mastery in planning the employment of joint forces at the operational level of war.
5. JAWS is an eleven-month program, from July to the following June, for Service war college board selected US O5 and O6 officers, as well as interagency civilian professionals, and O6 officers (O5 requires waiver) from FVEY partner nations. JAWS awards resident Senior Level Education credit as well as certification for joint Professional Military Education Phase II. JAWS students also earn a Master of Science in Campaign Planning and Strategy. For FVEY partner nations, the officers report 1 month early for preparatory course.
6. Each class consists of up to sixty students. The class is divided into four seminars, each arranged with a mixture of military services, ranks, experiences, and specialties.
7. The JAWS faculty consists of joint qualified senior officers from all Services, as well as civilian professors with appropriate academic credentials and experience in the defense establishment. Students also have frequent contact with Senior Fellows who are retired flag/general officers, ambassadors, and other senior government officials, as well as other distinguished scholars and subject matter experts.
8. The JAWS curriculum includes four Fields of Study, carefully woven together to enhance the relationships between the subjects and improve student learning, and a JAWS Synthesis.
 - a. The Theory and History Field of Study prepares students to develop a three-fold set of skills: critical thinking about warfare; understanding the characteristics of the operational and strategic environments; and versatility in applying history to operational planning. It prepares planners and strategic thinkers able to use history effectively to frame complex problems, evaluate the operational design of a campaign, and create effective operational plans.
 - b. The Strategy Field of Study develops strategically minded professionals who can synthesize the theories and concepts of strategy; assess the strategic environment and discern its context; apply refined critical thinking skills to complex, ill-defined strategic problems; apply creative thinking skills to develop practical approaches and solutions to those problems; and most importantly to clearly and effectively communicate their analysis, assessments, approaches, and solutions to senior leaders across the national security enterprise.

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- c. The Operational Art and Campaign Planning Field of Study integrates the strategic vision developed in the Strategy Field of Study and the appreciation of historical campaigns and theories of war into a joint operational planning construct to solve strategic to operational problems and further national interests, policies, and strategic objectives. Inherent in the operational art is critical and creative thinking, as well as insight, knowledge, and an understanding of the historical experience of the operational level of war. These skills are essential to both leaders of planning efforts and commanders.
- d. The JAWS Synthesis Course consists of unique lessons and field research events which enable the student to synthesize all elements of the JAWS curriculum through thoughtful study and reflection. Contained within this course is the Overseas Field Research Trip, which provides unique opportunities for students to analyze the operational level of war in historical, practical, and realistic contexts. The Capstone Exercise provides an opportunity for students to display their knowledge and synthesis of the JAWS course material by analyzing, framing, and developing options that adequately address the kind of complex problems they will face in the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment of their future assignments.
- e. Student individual original research, analysis, and writing culminates with the completion of a Master's Thesis, written on a strategic/operational or interagency topic, normally within the scope of their assigned research seminar.

9. Prerequisites. Selected personnel must:

- a. Be an active-duty military officer of any Service (or a civilian employed in the country's national defense/security architecture);
- b. Be serving in the equivalent rank of a US colonel (Navy captain);
- c. Have completed a US or equivalent staff college;
- d. Have completed 15 years of military or government service;
- e. Have attained a baccalaureate degree or equivalent;
- f. Have served in high-level command and staff or management experience;
- g. Have achieved a score of **90** or higher on the English Comprehension Level (ECL) test for countries in which English is not the native language. Refresher training in the United States does not substitute for an ECL of **90**. This is a demanding course, so English language waivers are discouraged but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- h. Possess and maintain a Top Secret/SCI clearance
- i. Complete the JAWS Preparatory Course (MASL: B171060)

10. Family Participation. Family Participation. Fellows are encouraged to have their families accompany them. Family members may join on the same visa type as the IMS at the discretion of the US Embassy (A-2, NATO-2, etcetera).

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11. Description.

- a. The year-long program allows selectees to participate in:
 - i. The core curriculum of JAWS.
 - ii. NDU's expansive elective program;
 - iii. Seminars and panels with U.S. and international civilian and military leaders;
 - iv. Field studies to military, cultural and industrial locations. Fellows are scheduled to arrive in sometime after mid-June – approximately six weeks prior to the start of the University's academic year – for reception, orientation, administrative processing, and review of the academic and research programs (unlimited library, internet, and email access is provided).
 - v. The Preparatory Course which is mandatory for all selectees.
- b. International Fellows who qualify may compete for a Master of Arts degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy. Inclusion and awarding of degree in the Master's Program requires attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or proof of equivalency and maintenance of appropriate grade point average.

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COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (CISA)

JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS (JSOMA)

Location: Fort Liberty, North Carolina

1. **Timeframe.** The NDU CISA Joint Special Operations Master of Arts Program (JSOMA) in AY27-28 reports Saturday, 10 July 2027, starts Monday, 12 July 2027, and ends Friday, 2 June 2028.
2. **Overview.** JSOMA's eleven-month Fellowship Program for International Students is sponsored by US Special Operations Command under the guidance of the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict. The JSOMA curriculum offers a strategic-level perspective on the global threat environment, including the rise of newly empowered and politicized ideological movements; the relationships between political objectives, strategy, and all instruments of national power; and the roles of power and ideology. Through seminar participation, independent study and research, and a combination of both theoretical and empirical coursework, students will develop strategies for addressing the emerging threat environment in combination with other agencies and partner nations, for developing and implementing national and international security strategies in peace, crisis, and war. Upon completing the program, students will award a Master of Arts in Strategic Security Studies.
3. **Academic Environment.** Fellows are assigned to different seminars alongside U.S. representatives from each of military services and various interagency partners. This allows every U.S. student a chance to interact with one or more of the Fellows throughout their experience. Fellows are encouraged to correspond with former and current Fellows as well as their U.S. classmates throughout their careers, thereby capitalizing on the relationships made during their study in the United States.
4. **Objectives.** The broad objectives of the program are identified as follows:
 - a. Enrich the educational environment of NDU and JFK Special Warfare Center;
 - b. Provide an understanding of factors and considerations that shape U.S. security policy and strategy;
 - c. Develop firsthand knowledge of the social, political, and economic factors that shape U.S. institutions;
 - d. Provide an understanding of the factors and considerations that affect strategic decision-making in the development and implementation of national and international security strategies for use in conditions of peace, crisis and war;
 - e. Develop strategies for key strategic security issues that encompass working across military services and with other governmental and civilian agencies, and partner nations;
 - f. Further develop professional qualifications.
5. **Selection.** Country participation by sponsorship of RDFP funding is determined under the guidance of ASD (SO/LIC) and in coordination with the Geographic Combatant Commanders (GCC). Countries may petition via GCC to participate in the course using non-RDFP funding, such as IMET, FMF, or FMS.

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6. Prerequisites. Selected personnel are expected to meet the same minimum prerequisites as U.S. students attending. Specifically, those selected must meet the below listed criteria.
 - a. Be an active-duty military officer of any Service (or a civilian employed in the country's national defense/security architecture);
 - b. Rank O4 and above or equivalent civilian rank with 10 years of experience in combating terrorism; a waiver for rank will be entertained on a case-by-case basis; approval authority lies with SATFA, but informed by NDU's assessment;
 - c. Attained a university baccalaureate degree or military academy degree equivalent to a BA/BS degree (4 years of post-secondary education) and/or a Master's Degree;
7. Achieved a score of 90 or higher on the English Comprehension Level (ECL) test for countries in which English is not the native language (refresher training in the U.S. does not substitute for a score that does not meet the requirements); Candidates with a slightly lower ECL will be considered on a case-by-case basis as approval authority lies with SATFA, but informed by NDU's assessment; but DLI for candidates with less than an ECL of 82 **are not advisable** due to the difficult level of academic work. It will be impossible for him/her to achieve the working use of English (regardless of making a target ECL) to perform to program standards. This is a thesis-producing course that requires very high-level English skills. Defense Language Institute PME courses (including the DLI Marshall course) and TOEFL prep courses are additional courses an IMS may attend to improve his or her English language skills prior to the NDU start date. These courses are **NOT** required.
8. Family Involvement. Fellows are encouraged to have their families accompany them.
9. Description.
 - a. The year-long program allows selectees to participate in:
 - i. The core curriculum of CISA-JSOMA. There are extensive reading and written requirements in the core curriculum, with the final project being a thesis on a topic of relevance to the student's area of operations, country, or organization;
 - ii. JFK Special Warfare Center's elective program;
 - iii. Seminars and panels with U.S. and international civilian and military leaders;
 - iv. Field studies to military, cultural and industrial locations.
 - b. International Fellows who qualify may compete for a Master of Arts in Strategic Security Studies. Admission requires that the following requirement be met:
 - i. Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent. Provide copies (plus English translation) of all academic credentials, including diplomas, transcripts, and other course documentation, as well as a résumé or curriculum vitae, to NDU (Office of Academic Affairs) to verify successful completion of a U.S. – or equivalent – baccalaureate program.
 - ii. The TOEFL is not required.



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REFERENCE GUIDE (As of July 2026) FOR INVITATIONAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS MASL IDs



FORT MCNAIR, D.C.

College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC) – B171036

Additional MASL Requirements:

- 1) American Studies – B171818
- 2) IF Preparatory Course – B171805

College of International Security Affairs (CISA)

RDFFP Funded Candidates Only: B171073

IMET/FMS/FMF Funded Candidates: B171798 & B171790 (CISA Prep)

Eisenhower School (ES) – B171806

Additional MASL Requirements:

- 1) American Studies – B171818
- 2) IF Preparatory Course – B171805

National War College (NWC) – B171801

Additional MASL Requirements:

- 1) American Studies – B171818
- 2) IF Preparatory Course – B171805

NORFOLK, VA

Joint Forces Staff College—Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS) - FVEYs Only

B171027 & B171060 (JAWS Prep Course)

FORT LIBERTY, NC

College of International Security Affairs—Joint Special Operations Master of Arts (JSOMA)

RDFFP Funded Candidates: B171075

IMET/FMS/FMF Funded Candidates: B171808