

SECURITY & DEFENCE **PLUS**

PARTNERSHIP PROSPECTUS

IN COLLABORATION WITH





The PLoS Alliance

The PLoS Alliance is a longstanding partnership combining the strengths of three leading research universities on three continents - Arizona State University, King's College London and UNSW Sydney - to solve global challenges.

The Security & Defence PLoS Initiative of the PLoS Alliance expands upon this partnership, advancing research, education and policy to support statecraft in the spirit of AUKUS.

The AUKUS Partnership

AUKUS - the partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced on 15 September 2021 - will strengthen diplomatic, security, and defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region by promoting closer information and technology sharing as well as deeper integration of security and defence-related science and technology.

Initial efforts will focus on nuclear-powered submarines and other advanced capabilities, including cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic measures.

Security and Defence PLoS aims to enhance the statecraft and technology of the countries within the AUKUS Partnership by utilizing each university's unique approach to academic scholarship and research.



Our Vision

Security & Defence PLoS redefines the partnership between universities and with government and industry partners. Recognized and trusted across all lines of strategic influence in the US, UK, and Australia, our academic alliance enables the acceleration of trilateral, full-spectrum collaboration for security and defence in the spirit of AUKUS.

Our Mission

Security & Defence PLoS will focus on generating transformative, strategically impactful education, research, and public discourse aligned with the shared security and defence priorities of our respective governments, armed forces, and defence industries, all with a view to strengthening a safe and free world.

The Opportunity for Defence & Industry Partners: Harnessing the power of three global universities

Security & Defence PLuS combines the reputation and expertise of Arizona State University, King's College London and UNSW Sydney to generate impact. Our research, innovation and education programs are consistently rated amongst the top performing universities globally.

University	Our Rankings
Arizona State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st in the US for innovation• 1st in the US for transdisciplinary research• 1st in the US and 2nd globally for global impact in research, outreach and stewardship - Times Higher Education Ranking• Fastest growing research university in the United States, with \$677.3M in research expenditures ranked 6th overall among institutions without a medical school - National Science Foundation HERD Ranking FY21
King's College London	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 32nd globally in 2022 - Aggregate Ranking of Top Universities (ARTU) Rankings• 35th globally in 2023 - Times Higher Education Ranking• 37th globally in 2023 - QS World University Ranking• 6th in UK for Research Power (Research Excellence Framework 2021)• Academic provider for UK Joint Professional Military Education since 1997• One of the largest multi-disciplinary communities of scholars in the world engaged in the teaching and research of all aspects of conflict, war, defence and security
UNSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNSW is one of the worlds top 50 Universities• 45th globally in 2023 - QS World University Ranking• 50th globally in 2022 - Aggregate Ranking of Top Universities (ARTU) Rankings• 70th globally in 2022 - Times Higher Education Ranking• UNSW Engineering is ranked 1st in Australia - QS and THE• UNSW Canberra at ADFA has been the official education provider of the Australian Defence Force since 1967

Security & Defence PLuS Programs

The Security & Defence PLuS Initiative brings together key decision makers, experts, and thought leaders from across academia, Defence, government and industry to accelerate opportunities in the spirit of the AUKUS Trilateral Security Agreement.

No single government or industry player has the horsepower to meet the emerging challenges inherent in the deteriorating strategic landscape. Nor can any single university provide the expertise and knowledge exchange required to support both the government and defence industrial base.

The power of Security & Defence PLuS lies in its ability to combine the efforts of government and industry with three distinct academic traditions, cultures and research capabilities to an unparalleled new level. The Initiative will focus on aggregating and amplifying world-leading capabilities through key education and research programs.



*The three PLuS Alliance Presidents from left to right:
Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor and President, UNSW Sydney
Professor Michael M Crow, President and Principal, Arizona State University
Professor Shitij Kapur, Principal and President, King's College London*

Research & Development – Accelerating from Concepts to Deployed Capabilities

Security & Defence PLuS will pursue new research opportunities with Defence, government and industry in Australia, the UK and USA, with a focus on bringing trilateral research teams together to accelerate capability in the shared national security interests.

Built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to collective national defence and security interests, Security & Defence PLuS will connect Defence, industry and academia and align with AUKUS-focused policy, statecraft, research and technology requirements.

Security & Defence PLuS enables member universities to bring respective research strengths to bear in solving complex defence problems and in translating world-class research into competitive advantages for AUKUS partner nations, with a view towards accelerating the defence concept to deployed capability cycle.



The Security & Defence PLuS Initiative universities excel in key defence and security research areas including:

- Nuclear engineering
- Hypersonic and counter-hypersonic measures
- Undersea capabilities
- Quantum materials, technologies and computing
- Information Warfare
- Advanced Cyber Security
- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotics, Autonomous Systems, Machine Learning
- Electronic Warfare
- Space
- Human Performance, Protection and Behaviours
- Engineering, Materials and Manufacturing
- Signal Processing and Data Fusion
- Power Generation and Control
- Critical supply chain
- Applied military history
- Ethics and leadership
- Competitive statecraft
- Global Order and Grand Strategy
- Climate security
- National security strategy
- Defence policy, doctrine and procurement
- Deterrence strategy and practice
- Regional security
- Social sciences
- Military health
- Aerospace medicine
- Sensors, Communications and Micro Electronics

Research projects based on the above capabilities will aim to inform policy-makers, accelerate technological development in respective defence departments, defence forces and defence industries and enrich academia by harnessing the complementary strengths of the three universities.

Workforce Development – Professional Education for Defence, Industry & Government

Security & Defence PLuS Universities are globally ranked leaders in the provision of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional development education. We're building and delivering our programs using curriculum and experience from all three partner universities: Arizona State University, King's College London, and UNSW Sydney.

Our educational programs will provide Defence personnel, as well as defence industry, national security and government professionals with the opportunity to complete stackable short courses, executive education and advanced degrees from world-leading universities designed to expand knowledge of the AUKUS agreement and related defence and national security themes.

Executive and professional education courses will be delivered across all three universities, and postgraduate programmes will be developed in a range of fields, including:

- Applied Military History
- Competitive Statecraft
- Ethics & Leadership; and
- Climate Security & Non-Traditional Threats



Short Course Offerings

By leveraging a dynamic partnership between academia and industry, short course options will offer a comprehensive range of professional development opportunities designed to enhance capability across Defence, as well as the wider security and defence industry workforce. Our goal is to create unique and diverse educational experiences that enrich individual and organisational learning.

AUKUS in Context: Security and Strategic Implications for the Indo-Pacific and Globally

Taught by leading security experts, this online four-day course will further your understanding of the AUKUS security alliance between Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom and its potential impact on regional and global security. Through a mixture of live sessions, expert-led briefings and an online wargame, you'll explore the focus, opportunities and challenges of this security alliance, and learn about the joint development of nuclear submarines and other advanced technologies.

This course was first delivered in May 2023.



Why partner with Security & Defence PLuS?

Security & Defence PLuS brings together the collective strengths and capabilities of three world-leading universities to help advance and support statecraft, research, and policy in the spirit of the AUKUS partnership. We will contribute to achieving the goals of the alliance by leveraging our deep partnerships with Defence, defence industry and government and other key agencies and stakeholders.

Working in partnership with Security & Defence PLuS will enable Partners to access world-class researchers, teaching resources, laboratories and facilities to create impact and amplify efforts across all three nations in the spirit of AUKUS. Some of the benefits of partnering with the Security & Defence PLuS Initiative include:

- Contribute to security and strategy for the Indo-Pacific and globally
- Solve some of the most significant defence technology challenges
- Access, engage and participate in leading research and development projects
- Accelerate R&D concept development and translational research
- Enable entrepreneurship, commercialisation and workforce development
- Access to global talent including researchers and subject matter experts
- World-class facilities and laboratories at Arizona State University, Kings College London and UNSW
- Professional development short courses, executive education and other workforce upskilling opportunities to support global talent requirements

We actively encourage partnerships with industry to strengthen the collective impact of AUKUS. Reach out for further information on opportunities to work together with Security & Defence PLuS.

Our Defence & Security Capabilities

Each of the PLuS Alliance Universities possess unique capabilities to support Defence and defence industry, along with dual-use technologies for commercial applications.

The following resources provide further information on our respective defence and national security strengths and capabilities:



[Global Security Initiative](#)

[Future Security Initiative](#)

[Competitive Statecraft Initiative](#)

[Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab](#)



[School of Security Studies](#)

[Department of War Studies](#)

[Defence Studies Department](#)

[King's Institute for Applied Security Studies](#)



[UNSW Defence Research Institute](#)

[UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy UNSW](#)

[Capability Systems Centre](#)

[UNSW Institute for Cyber Security](#)

SECURITY & DEFENCE

CONTACT US

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SECURITY & DEFENCE PLUS, THE PLUS ALLIANCE, OR ARE INTERESTED IN PARTNERING WITH THE INITIATIVE, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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