

# Roles of the National Institute for Defense Studies

The National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) is a think tank of the Ministry of Defense (MOD), and is Japan's only national academic research institute concerned with security. In addition to conducting research on security and military history, NIDS is responsible for preserving military history documents and making them available to the public. As an educational institution equivalent to national defense universities in other countries, NIDS also provides education to senior officials in the MOD and Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and personnel from other ministries.

The National Defense Strategy approved by the National Security Council and the Cabinet in December 2022 states, "The Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces will review and enhance their research capabilities and functions as intellectual infrastructure, with the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) playing a central role." In addition, the Defense Force Development Plan states, "The Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces will expand their networks and organizational collaboration with research and education institutions, universities, and think tanks in Japan and overseas in order to further enhance their research and educational functions, with the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) playing a central role." The Defense Force Development Plan also states, "NIDS will enhance the content and structure of education and research, including in the cyber domain, in order to secure and produce excellent human resources capable of serving as the core of Japan's forces."

More recently, in August 2021, NIDS was designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a research institute under the Guidelines for Handling Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, enabling research fellows at NIDS to apply for grants. This is expected to improve the institute's research capabilities and further contribute to the scientific community.

NIDS will continue to promote various initiatives to generate discussion on security and defense, and to provide policy support for national security.



Entrance lobby of NIDS Building F1



Main Entrance of NIDS Building F1