

# Education for Senior Self-Defense Forces

## Educational programs at the National Institute for Defense Studies

The NIDS offers two educational programs —the National Security Strategist Studies Program and the National Security Senior Strategist Studies Program —which are conducted annually for senior Self-Defense Forces officers and senior administrative officers of the Ministry of Defense (MOD). These programs emphasize developments which are key abilities to organizing, analyzing, and structuralizing strategic issues; to formulate and test theories and creatively present strategies; and to communicate and implement persuasive strategies. Over the years, these programs have produced many security strategists.

**Note:** Starting with the programs in FY 2024, NIDS has renamed and restructured the previous Regular Course to become the National Security Strategist Studies Program, and the Special Course to become the National Security Senior Strategist Studies Program.

Name of Educational Program		National Security Strategist Studies Program	National Security Senior Strategist Studies Program
Period		10 months	About 3 weeks
Participants	[Internal personnel]	Senior Self-Defense Forces officers (Colonel/Captain-level), Administrative officers (Assistant Director level in internal bureaus of the MOD), etc.)	Senior Self-Defense Forces Officers (Major-general/Rear-admiral or Colonel/Captain-level) and Administrative Officers (Director-level in internal bureaus of the MOD)
	[External personnel]	Staff of national government agencies, local government employees, employees of private companies, and international students, from foreign countries (including military officers of Colonel/Captain or Lieutenant Colonel/Commander rank), etc.	Staff of national government agencies, local government employees, employees of private companies, etc.

# Officers and Executive Personnel

## | National Security Strategist Studies Program

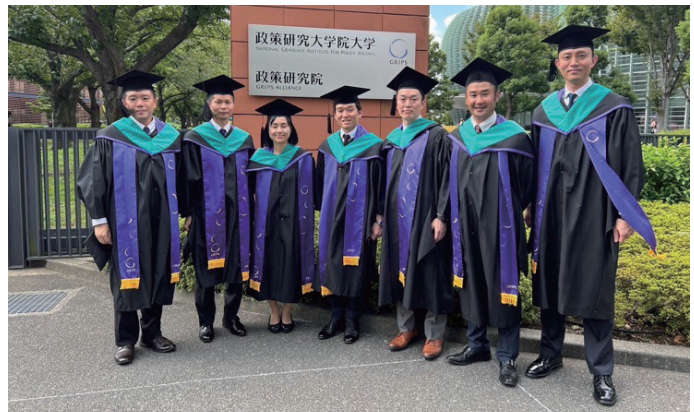
In the National Security Strategist Studies Program, participants acquire comprehensive and extensive knowledge of security through approximately 20 academic courses (about 150 lectures) delivered by both internal and external experts, and further deepen this knowledge through about 30 seminars focused on specific themes.

Alongside these lectures and seminars, the program also includes policy simulations to enable participants to put into practice the knowledge they have attained. This helps reinforce the knowledge they have gained while enhancing their strategic planning and execution abilities. Furthermore, the program includes domestic and international onsite training, as well as opportunities for listening to the views of Diet members from different political parties on security policies.

Additionally, the program offers the Strategic Studies Program (SSP), which grants a Master's degree in Policy Studies upon completion of this course and the fulfillment of certain credit requirements at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). Each year, approximately 10 participants are awarded this degree.



Onsite Training Outside Japan



GRIPS Graduation Ceremony

## | National Security Senior Strategist Studies Program

In the National Security Senior Strategist Studies Program, participants gain knowledge through approximately 10 academic courses (about 20 lectures) delivered by both internal and external experts under the training themes based on the latest security policy issues.

In addition, the program also includes small and full-group discussions, policy simulations, and other activities based on the knowledge acquired, aimed at reinforcing this knowledge and sharpening skills in strategy formulation and execution.



Lecture



Graduation Ceremony for the 1st National Security Senior Strategist Studies Program