

Safety and Security Management Studies

Safety & Security Management Studies

Inbound Exchange Students

2026-2027



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THE HAGUE
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

Safety and Security Management Studies

Safety & Security Management Studies

Faculty Public Management, Law and Safety

NOTE: this academic guide is still subject to change.

Author

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[versie]

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Foreword

The Faculty of Public Management, Law & Safety is one of the largest faculties at The Hague University of Applied Sciences. The faculty contains six programs, three of which are full-time English streams, namely International Public Policy & Leadership (IPPL), International and European Law (Law) and Safety and Security Management Studies (SSMS). Please note that it is only possible to choose courses within one programme. Combining courses from different programmes is not possible.

In making the decision to study here, you will choose to be part of a dynamic and multicultural community where personal growth and intellectual stimulation are prioritised. In this programme, we teach our students to be analytical, to question, to engage in 'out of the box' thinking, to ask challenging questions and to use their imagination in solving real world problems. So that you return to your home country a changed individual, equipped to make a difference in society.

If this sounds exciting to you, then you will definitely thrive in The Hague, world's capital of Peace, Justice and Safety, and you will enjoy your time with us.



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Your Exchange Programme at SSMS

Safety and security are high on the agenda in our contemporary global community. In various fields, ranging from politics to private businesses, there is an increasing need for professionals with the ability to understand the challenges and interests at stake. Beyond the "insecurity frame" resulting from environmental, criminal, and industrial threats, the safety of the citizens, employees, buildings and facilities pose critical challenges. Working in this field requires you to keep a cool head and bring parties together for successful cooperation. You need to assess and analyse risks and defuse critical situations where necessary. The SSMS programme focuses on these various angles and issues by exploring academic source material, practising skills in workshops, and working in teams during projects.

In the academic year 2024-2025, SSMS offers the possibility to choose between a semester or a full-year exchange programme. A semester programme should add up to 30 ECTS and a full-year programme up to 60 ECTS. For clarification, at THUAS 1 ECTS represents a workload of 28 hours (contact hours + self-study).

SSMS is a fulltime English stream programme. All minors and courses are taught in English and require physical attendance.

Courses Overview

Course title	ECTS	Semester 1 Term 1	Semester 1 Term 2	Semester 2 Term 3 + 4
Minor Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	15		x	
Minor Intelligence Collection & Analysis	15	x		
Minor Crime, Safety & Security	15	x		
Minor Human Security	15		x	
Research Consultancy Project	15			x
Cyber Security Lab	15			x

Semesters are divided up in terms:

- Term 1: End August – mid-November
- Term 2: Mid-November – early February
- Term 3: Early February – mid-April
- Term 4: Mid-April – mid-July

Semester 1 – Course descriptions

MINOR Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism		Back to main table
Credits	15 ECTS	
Code	SSMS-TCT-24	
Entry requirements	Good command of English (oral and written)	
Semester	1, term 2	
Method	Lectures, research and exercises	
Lecturer(s)	Dr. K. Voss	
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students can distinguish between different types of terrorist activities and terrorist groups on the national, international, and transnational level. 2. Students can apply different theoretical approaches to the underlying socio-economic, ideological, and political root causes of both home-grown (domestic) and foreign terrorism. 3. Students can explain different tactics and “best practices” of both terrorist and counterterrorist actors in a variety of geographical and cultural settings. 4. Students can apply different models and paradigms of (counter-) terrorism studies to address concrete (fictitious or historical) problems and challenges they are confronted with. 	
Recommended or required reading/tools	Nacos, B. L. (2019). Terrorism and counterterrorism (6th ed.). New York: Routledge.	
Assessment methods	Individual research proposal (P/F), Individual research report (45%), Group simulation (15%), Written exam (40%), Reading quizzes (P/F), Attendance (P/F).	
Level	First, second, third or fourth year (for regular bachelor student)	
Course content	<p>Interdisciplinary approach on terrorism and counter-terrorism. The SSMS minor Terrorism and Counterterrorism aspires to bridge the gap between practitioners and academia by integrating theoretical approaches to the topic with practical elements. Such practice-oriented components of the course include exercises in counterterrorist decision-making, introductions to weapons and tactics, and exposure to experienced practitioners in fields like military force protection, police counterterrorism, or CBRN counterproliferation.</p> <p>On a more abstract level, students will learn how to categorize terrorist groups and their organizational structures, learn about models of radicalization and de-radicalization, and examine military doctrines like counterinsurgency. They will also study specific phenomena, such as lone wolf attacks, the terror-crime nexus, or ISIS and their recruitment of so-called foreign fighters.</p>	

On a more general level, the minor will also help students to chart counterterrorism as a field of employment and gain greater awareness of career opportunities in this area.

What will you do?

These are the main elements addressed in this course:

1. We will focus on the essence of terrorism as an instrument to achieve certain goals, in addition to an exploration of this phenomenon and the difficulties in defining it. It critically assesses conventional wisdom, theories, and assumptions that have emerged in recent years. It will also provide an overview of the state of the art in (counter-)terrorism studies.
2. We look more in-depth at the different types of terrorists. Moreover, it will examine the possibilities and implications for policymaking including its practical applications at an international level.
3. Different historical and regional cases will also be addressed in the minor. Although media primarily focus on Jihadi terrorism, the phenomenon of terrorism exists beyond the Islamic world in great variety and severity.
4. There will also be a focus on how to conduct research within the field of terrorism studies. Researchers, as well as other actors linked with this field, encounter various problems at different fronts. It is therefore crucial to explore different channels and methods in order to gain further insight into how terrorism may possibly develop in the near future and how it should be dealt with.

MINOR Intelligence Collection & Analysis		Back to main table
Credits	15 ECTS	
Code	SSMS-ICA-22	
Entry requirements	Familiarity with the basics of security studies, Good command of English (oral and written)	
Semester	1, term 1	
Method	Lectures, research and exercises	
Lecturer(s)	Dr. K. Voss	
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students can use international key terminology from the field of intelligence studies. 2. Students can explain the universal tools and basic models of intelligence tradecraft, such as the intelligence cycle, the collection plan, and the gathering disciplines. 3. Students can employ specific key methodologies from the fields of criminal intelligence, military intelligence, financial intelligence and counterintelligence. 4. Students can apply selected structured analytic techniques (SATs) for intelligence analysis. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Students can compare and contrast different national approaches to intelligence and counterintelligence work. 6. Students can develop their own case studies and scenarios for intelligence analysis on the basis of international academic literature. 7. Students can professionally operate at least one OSINT cyberintelligence tool.
Recommended or required reading/tools	Dover, R., Goodman, M.S, & Hillebrand, C. (Eds.). (2015). Routledge companion to intelligence studies. London: Routledge
Assessment methods	Report (35%), Group presentation (25%), Written exam (45%), Reading quizzes (P/F), Attendance (P/F).
Level	Third year
Course content	<p>No matter whether they work for investment firms, international organisations, NGOs, private security companies, government intelligence agencies, the military or the police – intelligence analysts are the true experts when it comes to making the best use of limited available information. This minor covers various aspects of intelligence work in both domestic and international contexts, including the major fields of political, military and criminal intelligence.</p> <p>What will you do? Students will be familiarised with basic techniques of espionage and surveillance, counterintelligence, and technologies used for the collection of information. They will understand how foreign intelligence services operate, how the military analyses aerial photography, and how intelligence-led policing is used in the battle against organized crime. Practical exercises in information analysis are based on the same structured analytic techniques that are employed within the international intelligence community.</p> <p>The Minor Intelligence Collection & Analysis encourages students to apply skills and methods of intelligence collection and analysis in a multitude of professional contexts. The curriculum covers many topics and problems of paramount contemporary relevance from an intelligence perspective. These issues include terrorism, maritime piracy, money laundering, human trafficking, privacy issues, civil wars, and peace operations. In the end, students will have achieved a profound understanding of the benefits of intelligence tradecraft in a variety of security-related working environments.</p> <p>The course content comprises of the necessary theoretical background to intelligence, including the connected academic disciplines of intelligence studies and intelligence history. However, the emphasis is upon intelligence methodology and the practical application of intelligence analysis to international security, foreign policy, and law enforcement. In this context operational case studies are presented and sessions are devoted to intelligence lessons learned.</p>

MINOR Crime, Safety & Security		Back to main table
Credits	15 ECTS	
Code	SSMS-CSS-21	
Entry requirements	Good command of English (oral and written)	
Semester	1, term 1	
Method	Lectures, research and exercises	
Lecturer(s)	Dr. A. Matczak	
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students can explain the relationship between crime, safety & security. 2. Students can compare, analyse and discuss the criminological issues raised in the course and situate them in various international contexts. 3. Students can explain and apply crime prevention techniques [practiced in the course]. 4. Students can discuss and apply criminological topics as policy issues. 5. Students can express criminological issues through creative outlets and media. 	
Recommended or required reading/tools	T.B.A	
Assessment methods	Written exam (45%) minimum pass rate 5.5, Policy brief (25%) minimum pass rate 5.5, Creative assignment (25%) minimum pass rate 5.5.	
Level	First, second, third or fourth year (for regular bachelor student)	
Course content	<p>Crime is a very dynamic and context-dependant concept. There is more to our understanding of crime than just that it should be seen as a violation of formally implemented laws. Crime is socially constructed which means that the criminalisation and decriminalisation of a certain act/behaviour is determined by social processes, and these vary among countries. Crimes routinely dealt with in the criminal justice system are only the tip of the iceberg to all the harms and wrongdoings committed in societies and its nature is changing rapidly also due to technological advances.</p> <p>The purpose of the minor is to help students acquire a more sophisticated understanding of major contemporary debates in comparative criminology with reference to sexual violence, transnational organised crime, drug and human trafficking, crimmigration, corporate crime, safety crimes, environmental crime, plural policing, restorative and criminal justice and learn how to apply relevant criminological issues to policy questions. Each week of the minor completes with one of the following practical exercises: crime script analysis, social network analysis, situational crime prevention, multi-agency policing exercise in relation to domestic violence, mock trial and restorative justice conference.</p> <p>What will you do? Week 1 – Topics: Introduction to the minor, An uneasy relationship between crime, safety and security, crime script analysis (exercise).</p>	

	<p>Week 2 – Topics: Sexual violence, domestic violence, online grooming, multi-agency response to domestic violence (simulation).</p> <p>Week 3 – Topics: Transnational organized crime, Netherlands as a narco-state, drug and human trafficking, crimmigration, social network analysis (exercise).</p> <p>Week 4 – Topics: Crimes of the powerful, the corporate criminal, situational crime prevention (film analysis + exercise).</p> <p>Week 5 – Topics: Environmental crimes, wildlife and waste crimes, the implications of climate change and green criminology.</p> <p>Week 6 – Topics: Policing, state police, the role of private sector in policing, policing humanitarian emergencies (case studies: Hurricane Katrina, Ebola outbreak, Fukushima disaster).</p> <p>Week 7 – Topics: Seeking justice, sentencing, criminal and restorative justice, the role of probation in criminal justice, mock trial and restorative justice conference (simulation).</p>
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MINOR Human Security		Back to main table
Credits	15 ECTS	
Code	SSMS-HS-23	
Entry requirements	Good command of English (oral and written)	
Semester	1, term 2	
Method	Lectures, research and exercises	
Lecturer(s)	Dr. T. de Rijck van der Gracht	
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student can contrast the human security approach with conventional state-centric approaches in tackling past and current problems, including health, food, economic, political and conflict related issues presented in the minor. 2. The student can apply formats and strategies, related to citizen engagement, to address current global and local security issues. 3. The student can demonstrate critical and conceptual thinking on local and global cases and phenomena, based on theories and frameworks, including from the United Nations, taught in the minor. 4. The student can formulate security management strategies for human rights, development, and humanitarian aid workers, using risk assessment and other relevant security tools, presented in the minor. 5. The student can distinguish the different and interconnected roles of various stakeholders, including civil society, government and policy 	

	<p>makers, security sector agents, and private actors, in security related issues.</p> <p>6. The student can cooperate effectively and constructively in a team.</p>
Recommended or required reading/tools	<p>Gaspar D. & Gomez O.A. (2022). The Position of Crisis in Human Development Processes and Thinking: Using the Human Security Perspective in an Era of Transitions. UNDP Special Report on Human Security Background Paper No.3-2022.</p> <p>Gladius, M (2008). Human Security from Paradigm Shift to Operationalization: Job Description for a Human Security Worker. Security Dialogue 39: 31, 31- 54.</p> <p>Schirch, L. (ed.) (2016). Handbook on Human Security: A Civil-Military-Police Curriculum. The Alliance for Peacebuilding, GPPAC, Kroc Institute.</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme (1994). Human Development Report. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme (2022). New threats to human security in the Anthropocene – Demanding greater solidarity. Retrieved from UNDP website: https://hs.hdr.undp.org/pdf/srhs2022.pdf</p> <p>Other literature to be determined.</p>
Assessment methods	Exam (30%) minimum pass rate: 5,5, Portfolio (50%) minimum pass rate: 5,5, Creative Assignment (20%) minimum pass rate: 5,5, Attendance: Pass/Fail.
Level	First, second, third or fourth year (for regular bachelor student)
Course content	<p>What will you do?</p> <p>Human security, a people-centred approach to security, was first introduced by the United Nations Development Programme in 1994. Ever since, it has been embraced as a useful framework that addresses local and global security issues in a preventative and comprehensive manner, engaging a multitude of stakeholders to formulate solutions that are sustainable and leave no one behind.</p> <p>The main goal of this minor is to enrich and broaden student perspectives on complex security issues and how to analyse and tackle these. Human security offers an alternative approach to security, with practical tools and methodologies, that can complement or replace existing practices. The minor covers a wide range of issues such as the climate crisis and migration, technology and threats to democracy, militarization and the war on drugs. We question current responses and power relations to aim for alternative solutions that address the root causes of insecurity.</p> <p>Once students have explored the main approaches that underlie human security, they will learn how to apply these to existing case studies and scenarios. Students will learn directly from practitioners in the field, from refugee case workers and international human rights activists to government representatives and humanitarian aid workers. Through field visits, public events and guest lectures, they will experience what it means to be a human security practitioner.</p>

Semester 2 – Course descriptions

Research Consultancy Project		Back to main table
Credits	15 ECTS	
Code	SSMS-3P1-23	
Entry requirements	Good command of English (oral and written)	
Semester	2	
Method	Lectures, research and exercises	
Lecturer(s)	E. Gomez-Llata, M. Trigo de Sousa, M. Abanes	
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student executes applied research for a local and international client. 2. The student coordinates with a client in a professional and structured manner. 3. The student presents sound conclusions and applicable recommendations. 4. The student develops an implementation plan from the recommendations. 	
Recommended or required reading/tools	NA	
Assessment methods	Research proposal 30%, Research report 50%, Presentation 20%, Attendance P/F.	
Level	First, second, third or fourth year (for regular bachelor student)	
Course content	<p>In this project, students practise and experience the conceptualisation, design, practice and valorisation of applied safety and security research. Students focus on a specific problem in the field of safety and security management. They stay directly in touch with their assigned clients to work on problems that may have affected their respective organisations and that pose potential security and safety risks to their operations. After contextualising the problem students then develop their own research strategy to address the problem. Through a combination of lectures, interactive workshops, desk research, external appointments, interviews, and group discussions students will learn how to design, conduct (field) research and write a research report.</p> <p>Moreover, students take up the role of proactive consultants, rather than mere researchers, that are ultimately tasked with providing viable approaches to the problem taking into account various angles as well as the short- / long-term consequences for the 'client'. They use knowledge and skills that they have acquired during previous modules, e.g. professional and presentation skills, research skills and others. These knowledge and skills will be of added value for this project, which constitutes a crucial exercise in preparation for the Year 4 thesis as well as internship experience.</p>	

	<p>What will you do?</p> <p>The Research Consultancy Project will touch on various elements from previous SSMS projects, courses including risk assessment, problem analysis in combination with clear and effective communication skills, and research methods. Additionally, this project will present students with real-life conditions that safety and security professionals must handle effectively, particularly regarding dealing with potential clients.</p> <p>Ultimately, based on research findings, the students must develop effective but realistic and practical recommendations that best fit the character and expectations of the 'client'. Students will produce research proposals, conduct data collection and analysis, and deliver the final report and presentation at the end of the semester.</p>
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Cyber Security Lab ¹		Back to main table
Credits	15 ECTS	
Code	SSMS-3P2-24	
Entry requirements	Good command of English (oral and written)	
Semester	2	
Method	Lectures, research and exercises	
Lecturer(s)	Klaas Voss, Anna Matczak, others	
Learning outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students conduct a structured security assessment of a PC system. 2. Students develop security interventions against different types of cybercriminals targeting a fictitious organization/company. 3. Students explain the landscape of cyberthreats to European critical infrastructure and national security. 4. Students connect examples of cybercrimes, cyberattacks and cyberdefense with both human and technological factors. 	
Recommended or required reading/tools	NA	
Assessment methods	Standard written exam, Individual operational security portfolio, cyber risk assessment for a fictitious organization.	
Level	First, second, third or fourth year (for regular bachelor student)	
Course content	The Cybersecurity Lab is a practice-oriented course offered in cooperation with the THUAS Cyber Security Center of Expertise. The emphasis lies on managing contemporary security challenges in the information technology field. Risks and threats are treated from dual perspectives: the offensive	

¹ Please note that this course is currently being designed. The information provided in this manual is provisional and subject to change.

perspective of “cybercrime” is contrasted with the defensive perspective of “cybersecurity”; the human factor is juxtaposed with technological vulnerabilities.

What will you do?

The course is structured into three sub-units (the “micro-“, “meso-“, and “macro-level”), which escalate in scope: On the micro-level, we will focus on individual-centric issues, such as applied operational and system security, digital fingerprinting, privacy protection and types of cyberattacks, such as social engineering, phishing and scamming. On the meso-level, we will shift the focus to the organizational level and corporate security aspects. This includes topics such as network security, encryption and data storage in organizations, policing cybercrime, IT forensics, and the economic aspects of cyber risk management in organizations - e.g., policies, structures, security operation centers (SOCs), etc. Lastly, on the macro-level, we will emphasize the role of the nation-state and examine international and societal challenges, such as critical infrastructure attacks by advanced persistent threat actors (APTs), hybrid warfare and disruptive technologies or hacktivism. Completing this course requires passing three assessments – one for each sub-unit. These consist of an individual operational security portfolio, a structure cyber risk assessment for a fictitious organization and a standard written exam.

Practical Information

Location Main Campus

The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS)
Faculty of Public Management, Law & Safety
Johanna Westerdijkplein 75
2521 EN The Hague
The Netherlands

How to Apply & accommodation

For practical information on how to apply and also on accommodation, please see THUAS' website: <https://www.thehagueuniversity.com/programmes/other-courses/exchange-programmes/practical-information>

Contact

If you would like more information about the exchange application procedure, deadlines, accommodation, visa/permits, bank account, health care insurance, please contact our International Office at: internationaloffice@hhs.nl / +31 (0)70 – 4458505

Enquiries about the academic information of the Safety & Security Management Studies Programme, please contact the Exchange Coordinator, Ms. Laura Díaz or Ms. Irene van der Wal at exchangeBRV@hhs.nl

Exchange Information page

All relevant information needed to start at our SSMS programme will be posted on the student portal on the Exchange Information page. The content will be posted nearer the date and exchange students will get access as soon as they have activated their THUAS student account.

Note: the exchange information page will be updated in May/June 2025.

Facilities

THUAS's state-of-the-art facilities are designed to enhance your university experience. From modern lecture halls to an extensive library offering a wealth of resources, you'll find the perfect environment to excel in your studies. Additionally, our recreational spaces, including sports facilities and student lounges, provide opportunities to unwind and connect with fellow students.

Library

The library boasts an extensive assortment of books, nearly 900 magazines, both Dutch and international newspapers, and a large collection of graduation essays. With its digital catalogue and outstanding electronic resources, the library offers exceptional amenities to students and faculty alike. The Library is located on the first floor (entrance/exit, self-service unit for borrowing and returning items, Study Plaza) and ground floor (books, periodicals, silent study area). Most library services come at no cost. While books, graduation essays, and videotapes are available for borrowing, magazines are not, but can be copied using provided facilities.

There is also a digital library accessible anytime from any computer, which encompasses international databases, E-journals, a standards database, E-books, THUAS theses and publications, information on copyright regulations, and tools for reference management.

If you want to know quickly whether a book is available, you can use the Library App. You can also set that you receive an alert when the lending period has almost expired. The Library app can be downloaded for Android (Google Play) and iOS (App Store).

The IT Front Office

The IT Front Office provides, integrated accommodation and facilities and IT support for the whole of THUAS, striving to meet the highest service standards. Its aim is to use the latest technology, offer differentiation in services and structure and have an international outlook. The focus lies on taking pressure off users in terms of logistics and ensuring that a safe physical and digital environment is in place.

The Front Office will be happy to help you with all IT related questions. Here you can borrow audio-visual equipment if for example, you need to shoot a video for a class. In the iFrontoffice self-service portal you will find manuals and you can submit requests. You are also welcome with any questions about your Campus card.

Campus Card

THUAS makes use of an electronic purse system for printing, accessing lockers (during exams), and buying food and drinks. You can pick up your Campus Card by presenting valid ID at the IT Front Office of your THUAS campus. Alternatively, during the Introduction Day, we will assist you with its procurement. To load money onto the card, you need to have a PayPal account or a Dutch bank account. It is not possible to charge it with foreign bank cards unfortunately.

Academic support and facilities for students with a disability

THUAS provides numerous facilities and arrangements to accommodate students with functional impairments or disabilities.

To get started, schedule an appointment with your programme's student counsellor as soon as possible. The Exchange Coordinators will assist you with this. Together, you will determine which facilities and arrangements are necessary to enable or facilitate your studies. Arrangements may include extra time to write an exam, additional counselling, and the use of an adapted resting space.

Canteen

There are various food providers and vending machines at THUAS. The main cafeteria offers the largest selection, including halal meals, hot meals, sandwiches, soups, and salads. For a quick bite, stop by the Salad & Sandwich counter right across this central restaurant. There is also a lunch canteen on the 3rd floor of Slinger. West 75, by the main entrance, is everyone's favourite cafe.

Please note that the university does not accept cash or credit cards. Payments can be made only via the Campus Card or a Dutch (European) Maestro bank card.

There is also a small grocery store outside the main building called "Albert Heijn To Go", which sells a selection of meals and snacks and drinks. There are also various vending machines with drinks and snacks on multiple floors of the university.

Study areas

There are a number of study areas scattered throughout the building. Feel free to make use of any of them to work on your assignments, meet with a group, or catch up with friends.

Sports Centre & Gym

The main campus features a Sports Centre and a gym as well. Here, you can take group lessons, access the fitness area, and even receive personalised guidance from instructors. The pass also gives you discounts at certain sports clubs in The Hague and the municipality swimming pools.