



Department of Police and Security Management

M.A. in International Security Management

**Apply Now:
Application Period
1 October to 15 December**

<https://www.hwr-berlin.de/ism>

Why choose the M.A. in International Security Management?

An interdisciplinary approach

The M.A. in International Security Management aims to prepare students for careers in international security management by helping them to develop the critical, interdisciplinary understanding and practically-oriented skills relevant for an evolving and fast-paced industry.

The curriculum is interdisciplinary and internationally-oriented. Its content draws on numerous academic disciplines including law, economics, politics, psychology, criminology and sociology. The programme is underpinned and supported by leading research and practical knowledge. Students will be taught by academic experts in risk and crisis management; criminological analysis, security and international and comparative law, applied psychology, human rights standards and accountability via a variety of methods including team-teaching, expert guest presentations and field trips.



People of all ages and backgrounds study at the BSEL Department for Police and Security Management and they do so for a range of reasons. These include:



Reasons to study the M.A. in ISM

Gaining an academic qualification

Broadening existing skills

Enhancing career prospects

Changing career

Seeking new challenges

Studying in Berlin

Employability

The M.A. in ISM is tailored to ensure that our students are prepared to meet global security challenges and to enter employment in the security sector as educated professionals with practical and relevant skills. Our students will graduate with capabilities which will equip them for employment in security management-related positions in the commercial, public and civil society sectors.

The M.A. ISM is aimed at graduates who already have a good undergraduate degree in risk and security management OR in related subjects such as public administration, law, social science, as well as tourism, logistics, facility management or information technology. The M.A. ISM is a FULL-TIME postgraduate programme. During the teaching period (April-July and October-mid-February), students are expected to be in Berlin. It is not suitable for those in full-time employment. If you are a security professional who wishes to study for a postgraduate degree part-time, we recommend our distance-learning M.A. in Security Management, which is taught predominantly in German (www.berlin-professional-school.de).

Key Facts

Degree	Master of Arts (M.A.), 120 credit points
Duration	2 year full time (campus-based), Start: April
Organisation	<p>The M.A. ISM programme is structured over four academic semesters as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Semester 1: Introductory phase to focus and expand the current knowledge base➤ Semester 2: In-depth instruction phase with the possibility for specialization➤ Semester 3: Six-month internship to develop the theoretical knowledge into practical skills while obtaining invaluable professional experience and contacts.➤ Semester 4: Research phase accompanied by a colloquium as part of the master thesis.
Admission Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An internationally recognised undergraduate degree (Bachelor, Diploma), with at least 180 ECTS credit points• Very good knowledge of English (equivalent to Level B2 of Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Languages)• CV and letter of motivation
Fees	<p>There are no tuition fees for this programme. Students are required to pay a semester fee for each semester of study. This is currently € 303.39.</p> <p>The semester fee includes a ticket for Berlin public transport.</p>
Cost of Living	<p>Students are responsible for paying their own living costs. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) estimates that a student requires a monthly budget of € 864 to study in Germany</p>



Module Overview

Module 1 - Research and Methodology (Semesters 1 to 3 or 4)

This is a research theory and research skills focused module and is taught over three semesters. Each section of the module will address a different stage of research, and research methodology in theory and practice. Students develop skills in research methodology, and they are trained to design own research. In the final section of this module students receive support and feedback on the research conducted for their Master's thesis, in order to prepare them for the writing phase of the thesis.

Module 2 - Globalisation, Security Challenges & Governance (Semester 1)

This module deals with the globalisation of security. It is comprised of three sections each of which addresses a different dimension of the global security environment. In the first section, students will become familiar with analysing risks and threat scenarios that are related to the international political environment. The second section focuses on the economic dimension of global security. In order to be a good security manager in a company or an organisation, it is necessary to have an understanding of the external market environment and the internal governance guidelines, structures and processes. In the third section students will learn about the international regulatory frameworks that have been devised to address and manage global security risks.

Module 3 - International Management of Risks and Crises (Semester 1)

By exploring different conceptual and theoretical strands in academic literature combined with the in-depth study of empirical cases, students will examine the main concepts, processes, challenges and dilemmas of crisis management. Special attention will be paid to the effects of globalisation on effective crisis management, the role of leadership (crisis unit), state-private cooperation during crises, citizen responses to crisis situations and the evaluation and learning cycle once a crisis has been dealt with. Students will deepen their knowledge of crisis management by differentiating between the command and control style of crisis management and the resilience approach. Students will consider the importance of developing effective risk and crisis communication strategies and concepts and how best to communicate them.

Module 4 - Organisation, Leadership and Economics of Security Management I (Semester 1)

An organisation must handle an ever-changing set of risks and security problems, both on a day-to-day basis and in its strategic planning. The way in which these are managed depends on the type of organisation, the organisational structures and processes, and the conditions for management and leadership embedded in the context of society in times of globalisation.

One Component of this module treats the nature and dynamics of an organisation, focusing especially on the culture of an organization to guarantee the successful realisation of safety and security-management. The other focuses on the personality of a leader, trying to understand the interaction forces between leadership and the organisational structures.

Module 5 - Normative Theories, Ethics and Accountability in International Security Management I (Semester 1)

This module reflects on the ethical and normative dimensions of international security management. The first section starts from a philosophical viewpoint. Students gain knowledge about the main approaches in ethical theory and are invited to consider controversial issues in the field of security management from moral perspectives. The second section deals with international security from a normative political science point of view. The section develops normative and critical security studies for international security management. Both, cooperative and emancipative approaches are evaluated for the production and maintenance of security, from the global down to the local level.

Module 6 - Crime Control in a Global Environment (Semester 1)

This module covers the major criminal threats to corporations and other organisations operating in an international setting. These threats may stem from individuals, other organisations or state agencies. Perpetrators can be both internal and external parties or the organisation itself.

Module 7- Organisation, Leadership and Economics of Security Management II (Semester 2)

This module builds on Module 4 “Organisation, Leadership and Economics of Security Management 1” in which students have developed in-depth knowledge of core themes, concepts and theories of organisation and leadership. The module deals with leadership in an international context and the social competences which are needed to be a successful leader. This section addresses the issues from a (social) psychological perspective. In order to be a good manager and a leader in a company, an institution, or an organisation with responsibility for security management, it is necessary to have a basic understanding of Economics and Business Administration. Strategic and selected topics in these areas are therefore introduced in the second section.

Module 8 - Information, Knowledge Protection and Cybersecurity (Semester 2)

This module creates an understanding of the role of information for security management and in knowledge-based societies in general. State agencies and private companies use mass data generated by the use of electronic devices for surveillance and marketing purposes. The protection of human rights, especially of privacy and data protection, has therefore become highly relevant in using information.

The global interconnection of information infrastructure is an important security issue. The internet facilitates international communication, but also makes it vulnerable. This has made cybersecurity another major issue.

Module 9- Normative Theories, Ethics and Accountability in International Security Management II (Semester 2)

Human rights present an ongoing and important challenge for international security management. As the regulatory framework expands to address the human rights responsibilities of international security companies and their clients, this module continues the reflection on the ethical and normative dimensions of international security management and institutional settings for holding security management accountable.

Module 10 - Current Issues of International Security Management (Semester 2)

This module reflects on current issues in international security management. Security issues and the challenges for security management in an international environment are quickly evolving. Recent research results and newly emerging problems lead to new questions needing to be addressed in international security management. Students learn to apply the knowledge gained in the programme to newly emerging fields and problems.

Module 11- Elective A: Mobility and Transport (Semester 2)

In a global world, the international transport of goods and the worldwide mobility of persons are crucial. Not only since 9/11 do criminal and terrorist attacks on transport and mobility by land, sea and air constitute the dark side of the economic and personal advantages of mobility

This module focuses on the legal framework and the respective risk management tools for international transport of goods and supply chain security, aviation safety and security, and maritime safety and security. Multi-level regulation is crucial in each of these three main sectors of international transport and mobility, and so the module will examine regulation at the global and EU levels.

Module 11 - Elective B: Event Security (Semester 2)

In this module, students develop their knowledge and practice-oriented planning skills in the field of event security. The module considers the importance of events and event security in contemporary societies and students will develop advanced skills in security concepts focusing on event parameters, critical infrastructures and environmental conditions. This includes consideration of the diversity of actors that might be involved in event security, different cultural contexts and incentive structures and the frictions that can arise between them. Beyond developing the skills necessary for standardised security planning, students also practice taking on the role of a security manager in challenging crisis situations that require out-of-the-box thinking.

Why study at the Department of Police and Security Management?

Effective and professional security management is of increasing importance for both commercial competitiveness and global economic and social stability. Consequently, there is a growing demand for highly-skilled and knowledgeable security management professionals with a cutting-edge understanding of the field. In response, the Department of Police and Security Management at Berlin School of Economics and Law (BSEL) has developed an internationally-focused MA programme in International Security Management (ISM) in conjunction with security experts from the public and private sectors.

In Germany, BSEL has an unparalleled teaching and research profile in the field of security management. The Department of Police and Security Management has over ten years of experience in providing specialised undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes focusing on security in both the public and private sectors, at national and international levels. With 50 academic staff-members and almost 1,500 students, the faculty is one of the largest departments of its kind in Germany. Our academic staff are engaged in globally recognised research on public and private security and the department works closely with specialists, professionals and policy-makers from the government, the security industry and civil society.

The use of modern teaching and learning methods is given a wide scope. In addition to seminar lessons, the entire course is supported by the e-learning platform "Moodle".



Networks and Partnerships

In 2013 academics in the department founded the Berlin Institute for Safety and Security Research (FÖPS Berlin). The members of FÖPS Berlin conduct research on a broad range of public and private security topics and lead multiple nationally and internationally-focused research projects.

The Department and staff also have strong links with the national and international security sectors including more than 80 companies, administrative bodies with security ties from the local region and beyond, and regulatory bodies. Links to the German private sector include the Bundesverband des Sicherheitsgewerbes (BDSW) and prominent companies such as Siemens, Daimler, Vattenfall Europe, Deutsche Bahn, BASF, Securitas, Gegenbauer, Bayer and HiSolutions. In the national and public law sectors, the Department works closely with the Berlin Police Department and several Senate Administrations of the City of Berlin. Internationally, our academic staff work with international security companies, governments, policy-makers and civil society. They also have working relationships with the International Code of Conduct Association for Private Security Providers, the UN and EU as well as NGOs such as the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

Our academic expertise in teaching and research with an emphasis on security practicalities combine to create a state-of-the-art M.A. in International Security Management.



Academic Staff Profiles

Students will be taught by renowned academic experts and competent referents of practice.

This creates a balanced relationship between theory and practice, while at the same time ensuring a high scientific claim.



Prof. Dr. Hartmut Aden

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Aden has been professor of German and European public law, public policy and public administration since 2009. He also serves as data protection commissioner for the BSEL. His research focuses on accountability, human rights, data protection, police law, right of assembly, law and technology, and environmental law and policy. His research projects primarily examine the interfaces between law, politics, and administration from a national as well as European and international perspective (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Oesten Baller

Prof. Dr. Oesten Baller has been professor since 1997. In his teaching and research, he concentrates on the subjects of security law as well as constitutional and administrative law in Central and Eastern Europe. He is also director of the Institute for Cooperation with Central and Eastern European Countries in Public Reform (IMO) at the BSEL and was involved in major consulting projects, among others in Russia, Ukraine and Afghanistan (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Sigrid Betzelt

Prof. Dr. Sigrid Betzelt has been professor for Social Sciences – specialising in the sociology of work and organisations since 2009. She is an expert for Labour market and social policy at the national level and from a European comparative perspective as well as their effects on social rights, inequality and gender. She is also a member of the Harriet-Taylor-Mill Institute for Economics and Gender Studies and of the Institute for International Political Economy. (For further information click [here](#)).



Dr. Raphael Bossong

Dr. Raphael Bossong is a research associate at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, where he is responsible for EU Justice and Home Affairs. He previously worked at the European University Viadrina, the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg and at the Global Public Policy Institute, Berlin. His research interests span the spectrum of non-military security policy, with a focus on counter-terrorism, border security and disaster management. (For further information click [here](#))



Prof. Dr. Anna Daun

Prof. Dr. Anna Daun has been Professor for political science at the Berlin School of Economics and Law since 2016. Her teaching and research fall within the subfields of International Relations and Security Studies. She is especially interested in security cooperation, fragile states, intelligence and civil protection. Before joining the Berlin School of Economics and Law she worked for the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in the subject areas of risk perception and risk communication (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Antonio Esposito, LL.M. (Adelaide)

After practising law as a public prosecutor for many years Dr Antonio Esposito became an academic. His fields of expertise are Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law. Before he was appointed as a Professor at the BSEL in 2019 he was engaged at the Police Academy of Lower Saxony (Hannover). From 2013 to 2016 he was employed with the German Federal Ministry of Justice as a legal expert on criminal investigation. He taught International Criminal Law in Kiev, Sarajevo and Istanbul. (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Thomas Gil

Prof. Dr. Thomas Gil has been Professor for philosophy at the Technical University of Berlin since 1998 after having held the Chair of Philosophy at the University of Sankt Gallen (Switzerland) and the Chaim Perelman Chair at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). He has also been visiting professor at the University of Murcia (Spain), at the City University of London and the State University of New York at Albany (USA). He is author of several books and articles on ethical judgments and normative structures, scientific research and practical reasoning, human action and rationality (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Klaus von Lampe

Prof. Dr. Klaus von Lampe has been a professor of criminology at BSEL since 2018. He was previously a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. His research focuses on empirical manifestations of transnational and organized crime, the dynamics of illegal markets, the prevention of crime, and international law enforcement cooperation.



Prof. Dr. Vincenz Leuschner

Prof. Dr. Vincenz Leuschner has been Professor of Criminology and Sociology at BSEL since 2017. Prior to that, he was a professor at the University of Applied Education in Berlin and a research associate at the Free University of Berlin. His main research interests are in the field of research on violence (amok, terrorism), social problems, developmental criminology, crime prevention and sociology of social relations (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Wim Nettelstroth

Prof. Dr. Wim Nettelstroth has been Professor of Psychology (Human Resources Management) at BSEL since 2012 and Quality Officer of Department 5 since 2014. Outside the university, he worked at Daimler AG in the field of psychological customer and product research. His main focus of his work and research is in the fields of personnel and organisational psychology, in particular personnel selection, communication/conflict, leadership and organisational diagnosis (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Janine Neuhaus

Prof. Dr. Janine Neuhaus has been professor of psychology and research methods since April 2017. Previously, she was working as a research consultant at Potsdam University (2015-2017) and as a research associate within several third-party-funded research projects at Free University of Berlin (2004-2015; in cooperation with the Berlin Criminal Investigation Department/ LKA Berlin, Volkswagen-Foundation etc.). She is an expert on crime prevention, youth violence, intervention research, evaluation research and gender research. (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Jan Dirk Roggenkamp

Prof. Dr. Jan Dirk Roggenkamp is Professor of Public Law at the BSEL. His current research agenda focuses on IT Law, especially the legal implications of police work and information technology (e.g. data retention, monitoring and surveillance of IT, use of social networks, data protection and privacy). Prior to joining the BSEL in 2017, Roggenkamp was a Professor at the Police Academy of Lower Saxony (For further information click [here](#)).



Dr. David Rubens DSyRM, CSyP, FSyI, CEO of Deltar Training Solutions and Director of the Institute of Strategic Risk Management

Dr. Rubens is a leading authority on the strategic management of complex organisations operating in complex environments, and particularly in terms of preparing for and responding to crisis events. He currently runs certificated training programmes for strategic risk and crisis managers around the world, delivering training in fifteen countries in SE Asia, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Europe since January 2017.



Karsten Schulz, Dipl.-Komm.wirt, B.A., M.A., MBA

Karsten Schulz has been lecturer in the fields of business administration, management and marketing at BSEL since 2005. He is involved in the conception of several innovative study courses and the formation of cooperation schemes and networks with international universities.



Prof. Dr. Birgitta Sticher

Prof. Dr. Birgitta Sticher has been professor of psychology and leadership studies at the BSEL (formerly FHVR Berlin) since 1998, and since 2007 she has been internship coordinator for the Security Management programme at the BSEL. The focuses of her research are public involvement in disaster protection, investigative interviewing and the examination of pro-social behaviour in times of crisis/catastrophe (For further information click [here](#)).



Prof. Dr. Tarik Tabbara, LL.M. (McGill)

Prof. Dr. Tarik Tabbara is Professor of Public Law, especially National and European Security Law at BSEL. He was appointed in September 2018 after working many years in several positions in the German Federal Government (inter alia Chancellor's Office, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety) and in the German Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag). His legal expertise covers a wide range of topics in national as well as European and Public International Law, especially migration, citizenship and police law and human rights with a special focus on religious freedom. (For further information click [here](#))



Prof. Dr. Juergen Weichselgartner

Prof. Dr. Juergen Weichselgartner has been professor of crisis and risk management at HWR since 2019. Prior appointments include renowned science centres, such as Harvard University, the University of Tokyo, and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). His expertise lies in analysing societal transformation and the rich array of responses to risk and global change processes. He has authored several books and articles on risk-related aspects, contributed to various international reports and serves as a reviewer for the IPCC (For further information click [here](#)).

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