

The Section for International Politics

The International Politics (IP) section has a successful research track record of international quality publications and prestigious external grants. It holds responsibility for the *management and development* of the Center for War Studies (CWS), which encourages interdisciplinary research and brings together staff from political science, law, history and culture to contribute to the major debates on the past, present and future of war, and its societal impact. The IP section plays a pivotal role in ensuring a positive work environment and enhancing the reputation, impact, and relevance of our research, education, and societal engagement activities.

The 2022-2026 research strategy of the IP section serves as the foundation for us to work towards the realization of CWS becoming the premier war studies research environment in the European Union. This entails becoming internationally renowned for research on issues of war, conflict, and international order. We aim to achieve this through the following: by producing high-quality research and publication in BFI-2 journals and prestigious publishing houses as well as publication in influential applied journals of relevance to international security and war studies, by the members of CWS securing high-profile research funding (DFF; ERC, Horizon Europe, Grundforskning), and through cultivating a theoretically and methodologically pluralist engagement with significant research problems.

Our educational programme is based on a classical, problem-driven approach that focuses on how different conceptualizations of problems affect prospective solutions, providing opportunities to engage with the work of leading international scholars, supplemented by research-led teaching from the IP staff members. The primary goal of the IP section in this area is to deliver excellent programmes in international politics and security that will give our students an appreciation of the problems facing international society and global civil society.

We also aim to maintain a sustainable number of students in our specialist master's in International Security and Law programme as well as in our new Professional master's degree in Intelligence and Cyber Studies. Finally, and related to the previous goal, we want to provide inspiration to students to study International Politics and increase the retention of our undergraduate students in both of our postgraduate programmes, Political Science and International Security and Law.

The International Politics group actively seeks to strengthen its societal relevance through engagement with the wider society, primarily via the academic platform generated by the interdisciplinary Center for War Studies, providing input and advice to international organizations and national ministries, publishing in international and national media, engaging in outreach activities with students and local and regional associations, and providing academic and popular content to our social media platforms.

The primary goal of the international politics group with regard to societal relevance is to ensure we have a visible presence in the public sphere and that we build and nurture national and international partnerships and networks. Our presence in the public sphere and our partnerships and networks serve several independent goals, including to increase our student numbers and enhance their employability through awareness of our research group and educational programmes, to ensure that our research has societal relevance and, where relevant, that our research has societal impact by providing a public good, and to increase our reputation within the academic world.

While our researchers are individually excellent and independently connected to a wide range of

networks and stakeholders, our goal is to create a work environment where there is a focus on cooperative and supportive practices, group success and sustainability. All wins by individuals will be considered wins by the group, avoiding any zero-sum logics between group members.

We also want to construct a research environment that trains highly competitive doctoral candidates and junior staff. While each PhD candidate has a primary and (often) secondary supervisor who is directly responsible for the training of the candidate, there is also a shared responsibility among all members of staff for the training, support and development of all PhD candidates in the section. This includes ensuring that we work to retain junior staff through both inclusion in projects and formal hiring when this possibility arises.

Finally, our goal is to be a leader in developing and empowering women in research positions in war studies and security studies by continually considering potential gender biases and particular challenges women face at all stages of their careers.

Research

Goal	Actions
Be a leader in War Studies in the European Union	Support the development of research streams within the Center for War Studies that can serve as a basis for grant applications, events planning and organization, and in-depth peer review. Maintain and develop existing research relationships with Danish (FAK, DIIS) and international (War Studies Network) universities and centres, promoting bilateral and multilateral collaborations and partnerships on research topics of mutual interest.
Produce high-quality research	Continue to actively support each other's research and research interactions in formal (research meetings, reviews, strategy development) and informal (social events, brown bag meetings and relationship building) ways. Promote interaction with CWS colleagues within (and beyond) the research stream structure.
Secure high-profile grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to organize dedicated ad hoc research meetings for the review of grant applications. • Continue effort to recruit potential MSCA applicants. • Use the CWS stream structure to develop interdisciplinary research projects.
Cultivate a pluralist engagement with significant research problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage researchers to reflect on tradeoffs between different theoretically and methodologically perspectives and welcome all theoretical and methodological positions when making hiring decisions.

Education

Goal	Actions
Provide high-quality education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold an end of semester IP teaching meeting to discuss best practices, common problems, new teaching ideas, and alignment of courses running next semester.
Work to maintain a sustainable number of students in our study programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and promoting the programme to the best students. • Working with RIO to improve relations with the Danish private sector and better utilize our expanding alumni network. • Continue to monitor our student body for potential problems with the dropout rate and average time to completion. • Continue to promote our programme in the Nordic area to increase the number and therein the quality of applicants.
Increase student retention into postgraduate programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased emphasis on marketing the international politics 'pathway' particularly identifying talented undergraduate students and suggesting that they take the IP pathway. • Increased scrutiny on student feedback in classes along the IP pathway to ensure quality teaching.
Develop the MICS programme to be, at a minimum financially neutral, and provide a high level of academic quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing research strengths and their potential applicability to the MICS programme. • Hiring of additional staff with specialized research knowledge in either intelligence or cybersecurity. • Development of outreach and advertisement campaigns to attract students from both the public and private sphere.
Support and empower women in the undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement to take face-to-face meetings with talented students on career development and educational opportunities. • Mandatory training in gender sensitivity for all staff members (SDU-offered course).

Societal Relevance

Goal	Actions
Promote engagement in public and political debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, stress the development of a publication strategy for public dissemination for every research project.
Promote International Politics at SDU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new relevant relationships within the Danish and international organizations to foster research dissemination and communication.
Develop our societal engagement internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the CWS platform to develop relationships with relevant international organizations and stakeholders. • Leverage our relationships with alumni from MOISL and in time from MICS.

Work Environment

Goal	Actions
Develop individual researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a mentoring programme for non-tenured employees at the postdoc or assistant professor level. Support the development of three-year research and publication plans for each employee that takes into account the specific career development needs of each individual, reviewed at the EDD.
Emphasize group success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile data based on the Qualification Matrix (research, education, external revenue, outreach) present them to the group as a collective achievement each year.
Provide training (supervisor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum supervision requirements: PhDs can request meetings up to once per month during the semester (minimum two supervision meetings per semester), exclusive of project team meetings. Renewed focus on planning the development of core competencies such as teaching, supervision, applying for external funds, administration and engagement in public debate.
Provide training (group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority access to non-tenured staff to have their work reviewed at research meetings. Compulsory staff attendance at all PhD checkpoint meetings. Consideration of PhD candidates close to completion in all funding bids. Continue to involve PhD candidates in the process of reviewing MSCA applications. Provide teaching and mentoring for PhD students.
Support and empower women in research positions in the section (group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing consideration and support for the particular challenges that women face at all stages of their career and how gender biases might affect group dynamics. Zero tolerance for use of sexist language and behaviour in the interaction between colleagues and with students.
Maintain gender balance in the section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce the need to have identified women candidates in all job calls before hiring can proceed.