



**Mona School
of Business &
Management**

The University of the West Indies, Mona



Master of Science in
National Security & Strategic Studies

Student Handbook

2024 - 2025

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Introduction

The Master of Science in National Security and Strategic Studies serves, not only to complement the professional training of the senior managers of the security sector, but in many instances, provides them with the opportunity of exposure to the rigours of Graduate Studies in a field very applicable to their day to day activities.

- The educational emphasis is placed on a policy oriented approach, as well as on critical examination of the theories and concepts that have influenced regional strategic, defence and anti-crime policies.
- Particular attention is paid to emerging strategic trends that pose long-term challenges to Caribbean security as a region and individual countries, and raise complex trade-offs for policy makers.

Programme Objectives:

The primary focus of the Master of Science in National Security and Strategic Studies programme is to provide professional graduate level academic training for students who are likely to occupy the most senior positions in the security sector agencies and allied organizations across the Caribbean, so that they may be better prepared to meet the challenges of their roles.

The programme will cover, inter alia, the following:

- agency roles and functions
- the domestic, regional and international settings of national security policy
- the concepts of military threats
- issues of crime and violence
- terrorism, particularly narco-terrorism
- crisis management
- military alliances
- "third level" human rights as security concerns
- national security policy and programme analysis

Admission Requirements

Entry Requirements

Candidates must:

- Hold a Bachelor's degree from a recognized university with a lower second class honors or above.
- Hold (or have held) a position at mid-management level in the security forces, government or private security firm. This translates to the rank of Superintendent in the Police Service and Major in the Military.

Mature Students

Academically qualified students who do not meet the requirements of service but have special attributes will be considered for admission based on the following:

1. Applicants who are members of the Security Services who do not have First Degrees but have completed substantial senior military and police courses at recognized International and Caribbean Institutions will be considered for admission.

OR

2. Hold a Bachelor's degree from a recognized university at the level of lower second or above.
 - Be recommended by his/her organization.
 - Have a minimum of three (3) years' experience in the line of work or within related areas.

An application is considered complete when the following documents have been received by the Graduate Studies & Research office:

- Completed application form;
- Application fee;
- Two Referee Reports (academic and professional);
- Official Transcripts from all colleges/universities attended.

Application Procedure

All applicants are encouraged to apply online early: https://sas.mona.uwi.edu/banndata1-srv_mona/uwm_adm.p_index

Interviews

As part of the selection process, MSBM reserves the right to interview applicants for further exploration of their qualifications and experience. You may therefore be called for an interview, possibly at short notice, in order to expedite the process.

Acknowledgement

Once your online application has been processed and you are successful, you will receive an offer online, from the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

Confirmation of Acceptance

Applicants who have been offered a place in the programme must confirm their acceptance online by the date specified in the offer. **NB:** If you are offered a place and you are unable to take up the offer, you will be required to defer or reject the offer online.

Registration

Before the start of the academic year students are required to register for Semester 1 and Semester 2 for that academic year. Students are required to register for Semester 3 in the Summer.

Identification Card

New students can obtain an identification card after paying the identification card fee. New students can register after obtaining an identification card.

The cost for identification card renewal is J\$1,000. The renewal fee is also applicable to students who change their enrollment status. The cost for identification card replacement is J\$1,150.

Student Requirements

- Students should have an active registration status until the completion of their degree. **Students who are not doing courses in a particular semester must request leave of absence** from the Office of Graduate Studies and Research for the inactive period.
- Students who are required to do prerequisites are allowed one sitting of the course without being charged.
- Students **must** submit a request for a third attempt of any graduate course at the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.
- Students who are doing a second sitting of a graduate course must inform the Coordinator in writing indicating their name, identification number, the course code, the name of the course, and the semester in which the course is being done.

Attendance Policy

It is important for students to attend lectures regularly on a timely basis and to work steadily throughout the semester to benefit fully from the programme. Students are required to sign the attendance register.

Any student who, having registered for a course and examination, fails to take the examination shall be deemed to have failed the examination. In cases of illness the candidate shall present to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, a medical certificate, as proof of illness, signed by the University Health Officer or by any other Medical Practitioner approved for this purpose by the University. The student shall send the medical certificate within (7) seven days from the date of that part of the examination in which the performance of the student is affected.

Students who are unable to attend lectures during the semester for any reason should apply for leave of absence. Requests for leave of absence should be sent to the Assistant Registrar, Graduate Studies and Research, indicating the reason for the request. Leave of absence is not automatic.

Cellular Telephones

The use of cellular phones for making and receiving while lectures are in session is prohibited. Students are also discouraged from leaving class to receive or place cellular calls as the constant movement is disruptive to the learning process.

List of Courses

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
NSSS6001	Management of Strategic Issues	3
NSSS6002	New Dimensions of Power and Security in the Caribbean	3
MGMT6120	Research & Quantitative Methods	3
NSSS6006	Caribbean Security Perspective – Deviance, Conflict and Social Management	3
NSSS6007	Security and Defense Economics	3
NSSS6010	National Security Policy and Programme Analysis	3
NSSS6005	International Relations and National Security Issues	3
NSSS6009	External and Internal Threats to Hemispheric Security	3
NSSS6004	Contemporary Governance	3
NSSS6003	Seminar: National Security Issues	3
NSSS6011	Research Paper	6

Sequence of Courses

PART-TIME

Year 1

Semester I (September to December)	
Course Code	Course Title
NSSS6002	New Dimensions of Power and Security in the Caribbean
MGMT6120	Research and Quantitative Methods
Semester II (January to April)	
NSSS6007	Security and Defense Economics
NSSS6005	International Relations and National Security Issues
Semester III/Summer Term (May to August)	
NSSS6004	Contemporary Governance

Year 2

Semester I (September to December)	
Course Code	Course Title
NSSS6001	Management of Strategic Issues
NSSS6006	Caribbean Security Perspective - Deviance, Conflict and Social Management
NSSS6011	Research Paper (Yearlong)
Semester II (January to April)	
NSSS6010	National Security Policy and Programme Analysis
NSSS6009	External & Internal Threats to Hemispheric Security
NSSS6011	Research Paper (Yearlong)
Semester III/Summer Term (May to August)	
NSSS6003	Seminar: National Security Issues

FULL-TIME

Year 1

Semester I (September to December)	
Course Code	Course Title
NSSS6001	Management of Strategic Issues
NSSS6002	New Dimensions of Power and Security in the Caribbean
MGMT6120	Research and Quantitative Methods
NSSS6006	Caribbean Security Perspective - Deviance, Conflict and Social Management
NSSS6011	Research Paper (Yearlong)
Semester II (January to April)	
NSSS6007	Security and Defense Economics
NSSS6005	International Relations and National Security Issues
NSSS6010	National Security Policy and Programme Analysis
NSSS6009	External & Internal Threats to Hemispheric Security
NSSS6011	Research Paper (Yearlong)
Semester III/Summer Term (May to August)	
NSSS6004	Contemporary Governance
NSSS6003	Seminar: National Security Issues

Course Descriptions

NSSS6001 – Management of Strategic Issues

Students will receive sound understanding of strategic management in the security sector and will have the ability to employ strategic and critical thinking skills in their work environment.

NSSS6009 – External and Internal Threats to the Hemispheric Security Environment

On the completion of this course students will be able to understand, analyse and disseminate intelligence on: terrorism, narco-terrorism, new crimes, social and political impact of security threats and the role of civil society in reducing crime and maintaining community safety.

NSSS6007 – Security and Defense Economics

The main objective of the course is to enable students to understand the economic processes that underlie various national security and defence resource allocation decisions, from budget-making and procurement to expenditures. At the end of the course, the student will be able to understand the economic analysis of public expenditure and institutional issues that impact national security.

Students will have:

- an understanding of national security and defence as a public good;
- an understanding of national security as a public choice mechanism;
- understanding of the economic analysis of the demand for security forces and of their supply.

NSSS6010 – National Security Policy & Programme Analysis

This course focuses on the national security policy process, and policy and programme analysis: understanding the institutions and procedures that should shape national security policy both regionally and by countries. The course will examine the current policy framework– the national interests and issues currently facing the Caribbean Region; examine the principal theoretical explanations for how the region as on the whole should make policy decisions; and then focuses on who are the players and what are the rules.

NSSS6003 – National Security Issues

To provide a better understanding of the issues affecting the security forces in the Caribbean. The seminar examines the regional security problems and will seek to provide solutions through the research completed by the students.

NSSS6002 –New Dimensions of Power and Security in the Caribbean

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the origin and evolution of security as well as providing the theories and debates within security studies which can be used as a framework for analysing issues in international politics. In tracing the development of security studies, the course will seek to demonstrate the widening and deepening of the concept of security, which at the core will determine how

it is being interpreted and studied. The scope of the course's content captures traditional notions of state security as well as the unorthodox theories of security which have emerged in the post-Cold War era. It will focus on the offensive and defensive realist perspective on anarchy, the security dilemma, arms race, and offensive-defensive theory. The unorthodox theories of security focuses on the Copenhagen School (Securitization Theory), Social Constructivism, Critical Security Studies, Feminist Security Studies, Post-structural Security Studies and Human Security. It concludes with an important security threat affecting the Caribbean – drug trafficking – and explores the impact of globalisation on this problem.

NSSS6005 – International Relations and National Security

The objective of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of aspects of international politics and foreign policy that are deemed relevant to the National Security sector.

NSSS6004 – Contemporary Governance

This course provides the opportunity for a variety of interventions in relation to government and politics in the contemporary age. Focus will be placed on Jamaica and the Caribbean in the contemporary global environment and will critically explore alternative governance options for the future in light of experiences of the post-independence era.

NSSS6006 – Caribbean Security Perspective—Culture, Deviance and Social Development

The course focuses on isolating, understanding and analysing the various structural contexts that produce conflict, deviance, violence, and ultimately, divide societies. It also gives simultaneous attention to the peculiarities in those contexts that inevitably work to prevent or discourage peace.

NSSS6011 – Research Paper

The research paper will be an opportunity to perform substantial analysis on a current security situation and to develop solutions.

MGMT6120 – Research and Quantitative Methods

The main objectives are (i) to develop and transmit knowledge about research methodologies for postgraduate study in the social sciences and related disciplines, and (ii) to encourage critical thinking as a foundation for subsequent study, employment, and personal development. Specific competences to be developed include quantitative, problem-solving, written and oral communication, information technology, and lifelong learning skills. The course is designed to introduce students to the elements of social research, both quantitative and qualitative, and demonstrate its relevance to the business community.

After taking this course the student should be able to (i) conduct research in their chosen field where the research design is internally consistent and based on a theoretical framework, (ii) understand the nature of methodologies, methods, and processes for the purpose of undertaking research in tourism and related areas, and (iii) develop specific skills for the purpose of conducting a small, independent, original, quality research at the graduate (Masters) level.

Course Work Assignments

Course work assignments should be handed in on the due dates and within the time specified by the lecturer. Each student submitting an individual assignment will receive a receipt. For group assignments one receipt will be issued to the group. Course work assignments once receipted will not be released to students.

The student identification number must be used to identify the student(s), submitting the course work assignment. Names must not be placed on course work assignments or on examination scripts.

After grading, course work assignments will not be returned to students. Graded course work can be viewed briefly. Students will not be allowed to take away the graded course work. The facility for viewing graded course work will be available immediately after the course work marks have been placed on MSBM's ELS (Executive Learning Space). Course work marks will not be given out over the telephone or to third parties.

Examinations

All examinations for MSBM graduate programmes are regulated by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research and the UWI examinations Section.

Final examination marks will not be given out to students who visit the office, to students who telephone or to third parties. If you wish to view your final mark for a course you must do so online (unofficial transcript). Final examination marks will be disseminated by the Examinations Section of the UWI Mona and not by MSBM

GPA for Course Work/Exam

A student who fails an element of a course that counts towards the final grade (either course work or final examination) will be deemed to have failed that portion of the course. They will be assigned the grade FC or FE (Fail Course work, Fail Exam) if they obtain an overall mark of 50% or higher. **In order to pass a course you must pass both the course work and the final examination.** You must re-sit the section of the course (course work or final examination) you failed. If you fail both sections you must re-sit the entire course (course work and final examination).

Marking Scheme

The marking scheme for Higher Degrees is as follows:

GRADE	MARK%
A+	90-100
A	80-89
A-	75-79
B+	70-74
B	65-69
B-	60-64
C+	55-59
C	50-54
F1	45-49
F2	40-44
FC	0-39
FC/FE	≥50

Where graduate students write undergraduate examinations for postgraduate credit those examinations shall be graded in accordance with the above scheme.

Learn more: <https://www.uwi.edu/postgradgpa/how-it-works>

The Award of Distinction and of High Commendation

The University's requirements of a minimum GPA for Postgraduate taught programmes is 2.0. Students who matriculate to the University in August 2021 and after must earn this minimum grade point average in their taught programmes. It does not apply to continuing postgraduate students. Note that individual department, college, school or programme requirements may exceed this minimum. All other existing requirements, both faculty and university, that are based on any calculated GPA will apply accordingly.

GPA	CATEGORY
≥3.70	DISTINCTION
3.30 – 3.69	MERIT
2.00 – 3.29	PASS
<2.0	FAIL

1. Based on overall programme GPA
2. Research project will be considered another course for the calculation of programme GPA
3. Failure / repeating of any course(s) will NOT disqualify from 'distinction' if overall GPA ≥ 3.70
4. Professional doctorates: Distinction = ≥ 3.70 in Courses + High Commendation in Research

Plagiarism

The unauthorized and/ or unacknowledged use of another person's intellectual efforts, ideas and creations under one's own name is regarded as a form of cheating. If a student is found guilty of plagiarism, the student will be awarded a fail grade in the course concerned and may also be subject to other disciplinary actions.

Graduate Coursework Accountability Statement

All students registered for postgraduate courses in the Faculty of Social Sciences, are required to attach a signed coursework accountability statement to the front of any document submitted as a component of coursework save that when coursework consists of an invigilated examination no accountability statement is required and where the submission is entirely in electronic form, the student shall make an equivalent declaration electronically.

Learn More:

<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/postgrad/sites/default/files/postgrad/uploads/Graduate%20Coursework%20Accountability%20Statement.pdf>

Tuition

See Graduate Tuition Guidelines on the MSBM website for fees and schedule of payments:

<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/msbm/sites/msbm/files/inline-files/Graduate%20Tuition%20Fees%202023-2024.pdf>



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