



**Mona School
of Business &
Management**

The University of the West Indies, Mona



Master of Science in
National Security & Strategic Studies

Student Handbook

2026 - 2027

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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;
- Two Referee Reports (academic and professional);
- Official Transcripts from all colleges/universities attended.

Application Procedure

All applicants are encouraged to apply online early: https://ban.mona.uwi.edu:9077/ssb8x/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 each semester, students are required to register for the courses that they will be pursuing.

Identification Card

Once you have registered for your classes, you will be able to obtain your ID card. Your Programme Coordinator will provide the necessary instructions.

The cost for identification card renewal is J\$1,350. The renewal fee is also applicable to students who change their enrollment status. The cost for identification card replacement is J\$1,500.

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 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.

Dress Code Policy

All students enrolled in MSBM graduate programmes are expected to adhere to a **business casual or smart casual dress code** while attending classes or participating in any school-affiliated events. Students are expected to dress in a manner that is professional, appropriate and respectful of the academic environment. This standard of dress reflects the professional environment MSBM seeks to cultivate and prepares students for meaningful interactions with faculty, corporate partners, and industry professionals.

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
NSSS6002	New Dimensions of Power and Security in the Caribbean	3
NSSS6005	International Relations and National Security Issues	3
NSSS6007	Security and Defense Economics	3
NSSS6012	Academic Writing for Graduate Students	2
NSSS6013	Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodology	3
NSSS6014	Global Issues Impacting National Security	3
NSSS6015	Deviance, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism	3
NSSS6016	National & Citizen Security: Policy Analysis & Development	3
NSSS6017	Contemporary Security Studies and Sustainability	3
NSSS6018	Cyber Security and Cyber Crime	3
NSSS6019	Professional Ethics and Accountability	3
NSSS6020	Intelligence-Led Policing & Military Intelligence Strategies	3
NSSS6021	National Security Capstone Project	3

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
NSSS6012	Academic Writing for Graduate Students
Semester II (January to April)	
NSSS6007	Security and Defense Economics
NSSS6019	Professional Ethics and Accountability
Semester III/Summer Term (May to August)	
NSSS6013	Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodology
NSSS6014	Global Issues Impacting National Security

Year 2

Semester I (September to December)	
Course Code	Course Title
NSSS6005	International Relations and National Security Issues
NSSS6020	Intelligence-led Policing & Military Intelligence Strategies
Semester II (January to April)	
NSSS6016	National & Citizen Security: Policy Analysis & Development
NSSS6018	Cyber Security and Cyber Crime
Semester III/Summer Term (May to August)	
NSSS6015	Deviance, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism
NSSS6017	Contemporary Security Studies and Sustainability
NSSS6021	National Security Capstone Project

FULL-TIME

Year 1

Semester I (September to December)	
Course Code	Course Title
NSSS6002	New Dimensions of Power and Security in the Caribbean
NSSS6007	Security and Defense Economics
NSSS6012	Academic Writing for Graduate Students
NSSS6014	Global Issues Impacting National Security
NSSS6016	National & Citizen Security: Policy Analysis & Development
Semester II (January to April)	
NSSS6005	International Relations & National Security Issues
NSSS6013	Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodology
NSSS6015	Deviance, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism
NSSS6017	Contemporary Security Studies and Sustainability
NSSS6018	Cyber Security and Cyber Crime
Semester III/Summer Term (May to August)	
NSSS6019	Professional Ethics and Accountability
NSSS6020	Intelligence-led Policing & Military Intelligence Strategies
NSSS6021	National Security Capstone Project

Course Descriptions

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.

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.

NSSS6012 – Academic Writing for Graduate Students

This course is designed to reinforce writing skills and introduce students to the practice of report writing for academic purposes. Some emphasis will be place on the skills and practices required to evaluate academic sources, formulating research questions, developing thesis statements and carrying out different types of analysis.

NSSS6013 – Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodology

This course provides the students with the skills in conducting research, and insight into the research process. Most importantly they will establish a critical foundation for enquire upon which to build in subsequent courses. They will also acquire the skills in finding and using research output, which has become crucial in an information-rich society.

NSSS6014 – Global Issues Impacting National Security

This course provides the students with the fundamental necessary to understand the key problems in international security. They will develop a clearer understanding of global security and the multiple security-related issues facing the world, the causes of these issues, and the available tools to address them. The course will focus on areas such as global threats to national security, environmental security, global terrorism, global crime, global inequality and poverty, weapons proliferation, human rights, cultural clashes, conflicts, promoting democracy and globalization.

NSSS6015 – Deviance, Terrorism and Counter-terrorism

The course offers a thorough examination of the fundamental causes of terrorism, encompassing grievances, marginalization, political instability, religious extremism, as well as social, political, economic, and cultural factors. This course will also focus on preparing student to secure a country from internal and external threats.

NSSS6016 – National and Citizen Security: Policy Analysis and Development

This course focuses on the national security policy process, and policy and programme analysis: understanding the institutions and procedures that should shape security policy both regionally and nationally. The purpose of this course is to enhance the national security knowledge of student as well as their techniques in strategic planning and decision-making.

NSSS6017 – Contemporary Security Studies and Sustainability

This course offers a comprehensive overview of contemporary security studies and the key theories of contemporary issues in the field. Features of the course include terrorism, inter-state armed conflicts, cyber-security, health care, and transnational crime.

NSSS6018 – Cyber Security and Cyber Crime

This course provides an overview of cyber security and cyber crime including protection across computer networks. This course equips individual with the knowledge and skill needed to understand, identify, and mitigate these threats effectively. Some topics covered are, Computer Security, Software Security ,Cryptographic Algorithms, Internet Security. Additionally, student are exposed to the cyber crime prevention processes, policies, procedures, and governance activities.

NSSS6019 – Professional Ethics and Accountability

Professional ethics comprise personal and corporate standards of behavior expected of professionals. It offers a set of guidelines that teams or organizations can use to make decisions in the workplace. Specific topic covered will include but not be limited to, Moral Foundation, Professional Responsibility, Coe Values, Codes of Conduct, Ethical Dilemmas, Organizational Consequences, Liability, and the importance of Critical Thinking.

NSSS6020 – Intelligence-led Policing and Military Intelligence Strategies

The course presents a thorough overview of crime analysis as well as how police departments can incorporate specific decision-making models in a targeted way for the purpose of reducing, eliminating, and preventing specific crimes in the community. Today, Intelligence-led Policing and Military Intelligence Strategies are essential in adapting to modern threats. By integrating intelligence into policing and military operations, these approaches enhance security, prevent threats, and promote collaboration across agencies and sectors.

NSSS6021 – National Security Capstone Project

This course provides students with the opportunity to synthesize and consolidate their learning from various courses within the programme. It allows them to apply theoretical concepts, analytical frameworks, and practical skills to real-world challenges in the field of national security. It allows them to tackle authentic problems, conduct original research, and develop innovative solutions under the guidance of faculty mentors and industry experts.

Course Work Assignments

All assessments will be administered through the MSBM-ELS. The assignment must be uploaded to the drop box in the course container but a copy must also be submitted at the MSBM Reception desk.

- Submit your completed assessments within the timelines specified on the course outline and examination schedule.
- All coursework grades can be accessed via MSBM's Executive Learning Space (ELS).
- Coursework 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 course. They will be assigned the grade FWC or FWE (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

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

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 course.

They will be assigned the grade **FC** or **FE** (Fail Course work, Fail Exam), even if they obtain an 'overall' mark of 50% or higher.

A student who passes an element of a course but does not obtain an overall mark of 50 or higher, will fall into the grade category in accordance with the mark achieved i.e., F1, F2, F3.

Learn more: <https://www.uwi.edu/postgradgpa/degree-requirements>

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/Graduate%20Tuition%20Fees%202026-2027.pdf>



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