

# International Security Management Knowledge Alliance (ISM-KA)

## Addressing Security Challenges in an Interconnected World



### ISM-KA Master Programme Descriptor

Deliverable Form	
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<b>Document description:</b>	This document provides detailed information on the programme's entry requirements, structure, teaching methods and learning outcomes.

## ISM-KA MSC PROGRAMME DESCRIPTOR

<b>Course Title</b>	ISM-KA MSc International Security Management
<b>Course Code</b>	55MS02926D
<b>Faculty</b>	Science, Technology & Arts
<b>Department</b>	Computing
<b>Course Leader</b>	Deborah Adshead
<b>Location of Study</b>	City Campus
<b>Collaborative Partner (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Standard Duration (in months)</b>	30 months
<b>Intermediate Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certificate (4 modules - 60 CAT points = 30 ECTS)</li> <li>- Diploma (all 8 modules excluding dissertation - 120 CAT points = 60 ECTS)</li> </ul>
<b>Modes of Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part time</li> <li>Distance Learning (with attendance)</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Subject Benchmark Statement (if applicable)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business &amp; Management</li> <li>Computing</li> </ul>
<b>Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<p>Normally you will require either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a 2.2 degree or equivalent plus two years managerial or operational experience;</li> <li>or</li> <li>significant managerial or operational experience, ideally in a role involving the security of people, goods, services or information, or the organisation you work specialises in security management.</li> </ul> <p>However, if you do not have the required academic qualifications, we may consider your application based on your personal, professional and work experience, and any other formal qualifications. We actively encourage applicants wishing to move into the security field from all backgrounds, communities, disciplines and industries.</p> <p>Overseas applicants also require an average IELTS score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in all skills, or equivalent. If your English language skill is currently below this level, we recommend you complete a Sheffield Hallam University Pre-sessional English course, which will enable you to achieve the required English level.</p>

	<p>You may be able to claim credit points based on previous learning or experiential experience, which can reduce the amount of time it takes to complete your qualification at Sheffield Hallam.</p> <p>We assess all applications on merit and may choose to interview candidates to ensure suitability for the course.</p> <p>We recommend that you contact the Course Leader or the Admissions team for guidance before applying.</p>
<b>Course Start Date</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>Date of Validation</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>COURSE SUMMARY STATEMENTS</b>	
<b>Course Summary</b>	<p>This Collaborative Master’s Course has been designed to meet the needs of individuals and organisations responsible for the security of people, goods, services, infrastructure or information. Offered part-time and as a blended learning experience, with a mixture of face-to-face teaching and supported remote online study, the Course has been designed to provide the flexibility required by those wishing to study whilst continuing to work.</p> <p>Ideally you will be in a security-related role that involves the management of or defence against physical and online threats or you work within an organisation that provides security-related and disaster management services and/or solutions.</p> <p>Throughout this Course you will be exposed to and use real-world case studies and evidence-based examples to develop the strategic leadership, innovation and problem-solving skills set needed within your own organisation and in the wider international security field. You will learn to manage the type of complex, multi-stakeholder threats and security risks, at local, national and international level, that modern-day societies face. Emphasis will be placed upon the application of the developed skills set and the enhancement of leadership skills.</p> <p>You will most likely be studying alongside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• security experts and professionals from private companies and those employed by public authorities;</li> <li>• employees of police services;</li> <li>• individuals working on the frontline of disaster management and natural disaster relief organisations; and</li> <li>• security solutions providers,</li> </ul> <p>to master the tools and techniques required for identifying, preventing and managing security risks and to acquire the knowledge and skills to enable you to provide leadership when confronted with complex, multi-stakeholder problems.</p>

	<p>You will acquire hands-on skills and practice-oriented up-to-date knowledge that can be applied within your own organisation to mitigate and manage security threats. You will be exposed to research and the most up-to-date operational knowledge on emerging issues and explore the intricacies of private-public collaborations. You will also become familiar with the legal and regulatory landscape that security professionals operate within and the international policy and standards frameworks utilised by industry as best-practice.</p> <p>On completing the Course, you will be able to recognise a variety of perspectives that complex problems present and the role that external constraints play in developing solutions. You will be a skilled collaborator, effectively co-creating interdisciplinary solutions that traverse organisational and national borders, for problems related to some of the more serious threats facing society today, such as organised crime; border security; illicit trade; human trafficking; terrorism and information and cyber security.</p> <p>This Course is a collaboration between three European Universities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), UK;</li> <li>• Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Erasmus University, Netherlands; and</li> <li>• Nova School of Business and Economics (NOVA), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal.</li> </ul> <p>As well as having jointly developed the Course curriculum, the course content is delivered in partnership by all three institutions.</p> <p>In addition to the educational establishments already mentioned, other international organisations from both the public and private sectors have also contributed to the creation of the structure and subject matter of the Course. This knowledge transfer partnership undertook significant research into the needs and requirements of the international security and disaster management sectors, the findings of which were used to inform the Course curriculum content. These include several European police authorities; national security organisations; public sector organisations; and private sector security, risk and disaster management companies.</p> <p>Teaching on the Course will be delivered by world-leading subject-matter experts from across the three international Universities. Course delivery will also be complemented by guest speakers and visiting lecturers selected from industry experts and practitioners.</p>
<p><b>Learning and Teaching</b></p>	<p>This is a part-time Course designed to take 30 months to complete, in order to allow you the required time to:</p>

- acquire and absorb new skills and knowledge in a way that does not negatively impact on your ability to continue working effectively;
- identify opportunities to apply learnt skills, techniques and problem-solving solutions within your workplace;
- allow the impact of applied learning to be felt in the workplace;
- adjust and adapt applied methods accordingly; and
- provide adequate time for self-reflection and improvement based upon taught material and tutor feedback.

Each module requires you to spend some time in the classroom learning alongside your peers on the Course. You will then complete the rest of the module online, which will include interacting with tutors and peers remotely.

The classroom-based learning takes place at the beginning of each Semester on campus at SHU. As such you will be required to attend the University in person for a minimum period of one week each Semester. There are two Semesters per year therefore you must be able to travel to SHU twice per year.

In order to pass the MSc you will need to acquire 180 CAT points. This is made up of 8 modules of 15 CAT points each and a dissertation worth 60 CAT points.

The two Semesters per year are: January to May, and September to December. Two modules are taught each Semester, with a total of four modules delivered in Year 1 and a further four in Year 2. A dissertation is a substantial individual research project that you are expected to complete in Year 3, with the support of a supervisor.

The Course has been designed to allow for the following exit points, should you need to leave early:

- Postgraduate Certificate (4 modules - 60 CAT points = 30 ECTS)
- Postgraduate Diploma (8 modules excluding dissertation - 120 CAT points = 60 ECTS)
- Full MSc (8 modules including dissertation - 180 CAT points = 90 ECTS)

Each module commences with classroom-based learning. After this initial face-to-face introduction to the topic and assessment processes you will continue your studies as a supported distance learner and have access to further study materials, module tutors, an Academic Advisor and peer support via our online remote study platform, Blackboard.

This blended approach to learning offers you a more informed holistic learning experience. It provides the opportunity before passing to the remote teaching phase of a module to:

- develop effective working relationships with peers, Academic Advisor and with the Course teaching team;
- acquire a greater understanding of the module content and the more complex aspects of topics;
- discuss assessment activities in detail to ensure you are clear what is being asked of you and within what timeframe;
- become familiar with the teaching materials and the teaching style of the tutors;
- familiarise yourself with the communication teaching strategy to be used in each module;
- ask any questions of your Module Tutor or Academic Advisor;
- network with peers within and across Course cohorts to develop an active alumni community of security professionals beyond the Course;
- attend guest speaker lectures; and
- input into Course review and revision activities, thus providing a feed forward input for continued course enhancement.

Each module uses a variety of online learning tools to provide content that you can access at a time to suit your work and home life schedule. These include forums; online workbooks; reading activities; live support and feedback drop-ins; pre-recorded lectures; screen-capture tutorials; live-streaming of assessment question and answer sessions; and the use of virtual reality tools.

As well as individual activities and assessments you will be expected to work as part of a team and elements of your assessments will be determined by how you and your team work together. This will also allow you to develop a more effective and efficient working relationship with your peer group over time, both remotely online and face-to-face while in the classroom. Emphasis will be placed upon the application of reflective practice as a means of self-development and improvement.

Topics to be taught on the Course include the following content:

- Introduction to international law, regulations, legal frameworks, theories and concepts relating to transnational investigations.
- Co-creating solutions to complex, multi-stakeholder, cross-discipline and cross-border security problems.
- Critical decision making and leadership in extreme, challenging and changeable circumstances.
- Utilising online intelligence sources to undertake investigations and develop solutions to problems such as counter terrorism, organised crime and illicit trade.
- Concepts, principles and theories relating to information security.

Assessment activities include:

- production of individual and group reports;
- individual research activities;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual and group presentations;</li> <li>• developing case study solutions;</li> <li>• essay writing; and</li> <li>• role play.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Employability</b></p>	<p>Completing this Course will increase your professional standing within the field of security. The organisations involved in the co-creation and delivery of the content of this Executive Masters have excellent reputations in their domain.</p> <p>Throughout the Course curriculum all activities wherever possible have been specifically designed to include real-world cases and related activities that when studied and applied offer valuable lessons that can then be related back to your place of work and the wider international security community.</p> <p>This case-based teaching and learning gives you the opportunity to understand security from a real-world holistic point of view. This will allow you to see first-hand how problems are managed within your own organisation and evaluate changes brought about by any solutions implemented by you.</p> <p>As a result of working with others to co-create solutions to existing security problems, you will significantly increase your interpersonal and collaborative working skills, particularly as the activities on the Course will require you to become skilled in communicating remotely, and in person, with individuals most likely from across the globe. This, in turn, will lead to enhanced communication with individuals within your own organisation.</p> <p>Working closely alongside others from within the field of security will expand your knowledge of how security management is implemented in other organisations. This offers the opportunity for your own organisation to benefit from best practice and failed solutions of others and for you to share your own experiences with others, thereby contributing to the shared collective knowledge of the wider security sector. You will be better equipped to implement adequate security management in your own organisation.</p> <p>Having the opportunity to evaluate how solutions may be implemented within your organisation and their likely impact, will help you to develop a broader and deeper understanding of your organisation and its processes and procedures. This ability to identify the causes of a lack of resilience to security threats and how best to mitigate against them, and showing the leadership skills to put more effective solutions in place, will help to position you well within your organisation for promotion to more senior management roles.</p> <p>In addition to enhancing your networking opportunities, possessing this enhanced skill set and improved knowledge of the wider security domain and its key players will also improve your career prospects with other organisations. Experts in the field of security, particularly those with leadership skills within a complex environment and a proven ability to collaborate</p>

	<p>effectively across disciplines, organisations and national borders, are very highly sought after.</p> <p>If you wish to progress your academic studies further there is a possibility to progress to a PhD in one of the three institutions collaborating in the delivery of this Course.</p>
<p><b>COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR MAIN AWARD (AS RELATED TO THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT)</b></p>	
<p><b>The following learning outcomes are also applicable to the available exit points of Certificate and Diploma as all awards are set at Level 7.</b></p>	
<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b></p>	<p><b>On completion of the course a typical student should be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. evaluate and critically analyse current and future security threats by applying the relevant principles, theories, methods and tools;</li> <li>1.2. synthesise knowledge in the interdisciplinary theories that are relevant for a holistic understanding of the security field, and apply this expertise to defend one's position and actively contribute to the further development of said theories;</li> <li>1.3. appraise and select the skills and techniques needed for recognising and describing threats and hazards.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Intellectual Skills</b></p>	<p><b>On completion of the course a typical student should be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. critically evaluate, and actively inform decision and policy making in the area of international security management based on an analysis of diverse perspectives, stakeholders and interdependencies;</li> <li>2.2. analyse and justify independent judgements concerning complex issues taking into account the validity and reliability of available evidence, and relevant consideration of social, legal and ethical responsibilities;</li> <li>2.3. synthesise and devise valid solutions for addressing well-defined and open-ended strategic problems;</li> <li>2.4. analyse, categorise and discriminate between multiple data flows, identifying misinformation, disinformation and valid sources.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Subject-specific and/or Professional/Practical Skills</b></p>	<p><b>On completion of the course a typical student should be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. co-construct, justify, apply and communicate valid practical security solutions in complex security environments across sectors, borders and communities;</li> <li>3.2. compare and critically evaluate the different paradigms of risk management between enforcement and prevention, policing and national security, and within the judicial system (penal, administrative, private and commercial);</li> <li>3.3. interpret and apply the theory of core security concepts, such as identification of risk, protection and classification of threats/hazards and their key features.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Transferable/Key Skills</b></p>	<p><b>On completion of the course a typical student should be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. deconstruct, evaluate and explain clearly and concisely complex problems and devise valid solutions;</li> </ol>

	<p>4.2. formulate valid plans for conducting independent research using a variety of appropriate sources to hypothesise and determine the validity of the research outcomes;</p> <p>4.3. demonstrate the ability to reflect and critically appraise their own work and the work of others, through written and verbal means as a vehicle for professional and personal enhancement;</p> <p>4.4. demonstrate the ability to lead and to work and communicate effectively and efficiently as a member of a team and as an individual within a team context (including remotely).</p>
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<b>COURSE STRUCTURE</b>				
<b>Modules for the Course, by Each Year and Stage of Course</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Mandatory or Elective</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Assessment Pattern e.g.CW50/EX50</b>
<b>PG Level 7</b>	International Security Landscape	Mandatory	15	CW100
	Security Innovation Lab - Stakeholder Co-Creation	Mandatory	15	CW100
	Counter Terrorism	Mandatory	15	CW100
	Security Innovation Lab - Complexity Leadership	Mandatory	15	CW100
	Internet Intelligence & Investigations	Mandatory	15	CW100
	Security Innovation Lab - Systemic Change	Mandatory	15	CW100
	Cyber Security: Theories & Practice	Elective	15	CW100
	Illicit Trade	Elective	15	CW100
	Situational Awareness and Critical Decision Making	Elective	15	CW100
	Dissertation & Research Skills	Mandatory	60	CW100
<b>Does this Course comply with the Academic Awards Framework? (if No, give details)</b>	Yes			
<b>Does this course comply with Standard Assessment Regulations? (if No, give details including approval of exemptions)</b>	Yes			
<b>Do any additional Regulations or Requirements apply to this Course (e.g. for accreditation purposes)?</b>	No			

<b>VALIDATION INFORMATION ONLY</b>	
<b><i>Does this course replace any existing provision?</i></b>	<i>No</i>
<b><i>Phasing</i></b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b><i>Date of Validation</i></b>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> September 2019</i>
<b><i>Course Start Date</i></b>	<i>September 2020</i>