

ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SECURITY SCIENCES

Internal Security Institute

CURRICULUM

Level of education	Master's, joint curriculum
Name of the curriculum in Estonian	Hübriidohtude vastu võitlemine
Name of the curriculum in English	Countering Hybrid Threats
Curriculum code on EHIS	
Curriculum group	Internal security
Volume of studies	90 ECTS
Nominal period of study	1.5 years
Forms of studies	Full-time studies, module studies
Language of instruction	English
Other languages necessary for the achievement of the learning outcomes	No
Name(s) of the academic degree(s) granted upon graduation	Master's degree
Curriculum Coordinator	Head of the Internal Security Institute
This curriculum shall be applied for the students admitted from the academic year of 2026/2027.	

1. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The curriculum aims to develop students' strategic thinking skills to be able to comprehend and cope with challenges and controversies related to hybrid threats in the internal security area in the light of European Union policy and societal contexts.

The curriculum provides a platform for exchanging experiences and enhancing competence by offering up-to-date knowledge, critical analytical and administrative capacity at the strategic level, which is essential for making complex management decisions in a changing society.

Upon completing the Master's studies curriculum, the student:

- has a systematic overview and broad knowledge of contemporary hybrid threats, forms of their appearance, risks, challenges and trends arising from globalisation and their influence on regional and national internal and border security;
- promotes respect for fundamental rights, professional and ethical standards, while ensuring internal security;
- designs solutions, elaborates methods of social resilience and protection to respond to hybrid threats;
- applies strategic and crisis communication skills in the context of hybrid threats with regard to ethical values and evaluates their efficiency;
- collects and systematises empirical data to solve research problems and carries out independently small-scale scientific research in the field of hybrid threats;

- demonstrates the capacity to work in positions requiring strategic thinking, comprehends and copes with challenges and controversies related to hybrid threats, and maintains a commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

2. CONDITIONS FOR COMMENCING THE STUDIES

The target group of the curriculum comprises of citizens of the Nordic and Baltic, Schengen and Associated countries, as well as other European Union Member States and third countries who wish to acquire a broader knowledge of European Union internal security and hybrid threats.

The person applying for a student place on the curriculum has to hold:

- Bachelor's degree (BA) or Diploma of Professional Higher Education or a corresponding qualification;
- 2 years of professional work experience in internal security or a related field;
- English proficiency at B2 level;
- motivation and willingness to study in an international environment.

3. CONDITIONS FOR COMPLETION OF STUDIES AND THE DOCUMENTS ISSUED ON COMPLETION

The studies end with the defence of the Master's thesis. The prerequisite for the defence of the MA thesis is the completion of the curriculum prior to the defence. Curriculum is considered completed when all modules of the curriculum are completed.

A student who has completed the curriculum will be awarded a Master's Degree on Social Sciences (MA).

Upon graduation, the student is issued a diploma of the Master's studies as well as a diploma supplement in English. The graduation documents will be issued by the leading partner of the consortium. The joint diploma will be signed by the leaders of the higher education institutions conducting the studies.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

	Name of the module/subject	ECTS	E/C
1	Hybrid threats phenomena: concepts, strategies, policies, legal frameworks	10	E
2	Characteristics of hybrid threats, modes and geopolitical perspectives	10	E
3	Research methodology and academic writing	10	E
4	Increasing resilience and bolstering societal and institutional capabilities to hybrid threats	10	E
5	Prevention and cooperation in countering hybrid threats	10	E
6	Strategic and crisis communication	10	E
7	Data analysis	5	E
8	Management in the context of hybrid threats and hybrid crises	10	E
9	Master's thesis	15	E

5. LIST OF MODULES, THEIR VOLUME AND SHORT DESCRIPTIONS

Name of the module/subject	ECTS	E/C
1. Hybrid threats phenomena: concepts, strategies, policies, legal frameworks	10	E
Aim of the module: the student develops a critical understanding of how hybrid threats can affect global and European security, ability to identify phenomena of hybrid threat in national and global environment. Upon completing the module, the student: - critically analyses hybrid threats in the context of global, European and national security; - analyses the security strategies aiming to ensure sustainable security concepts in the contemporary hybrid threats environment; - discusses international and European Union policies and legal framework responding to hybrid threats, considering provisions of fundamental rights. Assessment is module-based.		
2. Characteristics of hybrid threats, modes and geopolitical perspectives	10	E
Aim of the module: the student develops skills to design solutions for responding to specific hybrid threats. Upon completing the module, the student: - critically analyses tendencies of contemporary warfare regarding hybrid threats; - critically analyses cases of information warfare and their impact on fundamental rights; - identifies problems related to hybrid threats and develops and designs solutions to respond to hybrid threats. Assessment is module-based.		
3. Research methodology and academic writing	10	E
Aim of the module: the student acquires the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct social science research and the principles of composing academic texts. Upon completing the module, the student: - analyses the possibilities for using various research strategies and methods in research in social studies and draws up a qualitative and quantitative research instrument; - implements a broad-based and purposeful reference search in scientific and professional databases, critically evaluating the relevance of the sources and drawing up accurate entries and references; - draws up the MA thesis plan selecting the appropriate research and data collection methods pursuant to the topic and aim of the research; - uses the appropriate style and vocabulary for writing the research pursuant to good academic practises. Assessment is module-based.		
4. Increasing resilience and bolstering societal and institutional capabilities to hybrid threats	10	E
Aim of the module: the student develops skills to elaborate methods of social resilience and protection against hybrid threats. Upon completing the module, the student: explains the tools and possibilities of the state and non-state actors for fostering resilience to hybrid threats;		

- explains the role of protection of fundamental rights in preparation for responding to hybrid threats, including in cooperation with civil-military and other stakeholders; - selectively identifies and presents practices related to the protection of critical infrastructure and strategic objects and proposes measures to protect infrastructures and mitigate hybrid threats. Assessment is module-based.		
5. Prevention and cooperation in countering hybrid threats	10	E
Aim of the module: the student develops skills to manage tools and possibilities for prevention and cooperation in countering hybrid threats. Upon completing the module, the student: - explains the specifics of modern crimes of hybrid nature, relevant criminal procedure concepts and their connection with the principles of fundamental rights; - identifies problems, recommends and elaborates tools and methods of protection against hybrid threats by working in a team; - explains the risks related to cybersecurity and business continuity and the possible infringement of fundamental rights, provides guidance in mitigating risks; - critically analyses the importance of using relevant tools and means of cooperation in preventing and countering hybrid threats . Assessment is module-based.		
6. Strategic and crisis communication	10	E
Aim of the module: the student acquires the knowledge and skills to apply strategic and crisis communication skills in case of hybrid threat situation, taking into account different groups of society. Upon completing the module, the student: - explains the basic theories of media and communication and connects theoretical concepts with hybrid threats environment; - explains the basic principles of communication ethics while managing threats of hybrid nature; - implements appropriate communication approaches with different groups of society; - applies different communication strategies in a hybrid context based on ethical values and evaluates their efficiency. Assessment is module-based.		
7. Data analysis	5	E
Aim of the module: the student acquires the necessary knowledge and skills to apply qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods in conducting research. Upon completing the module, the student: - applies the techniques of conducting interviews and observations as well as text and discourse analysis; - explains possibilities to use standardised questionnaires and performs a one-dimensional and multi-dimensional analysis, choosing the most suitable coefficient for investigating relationships between phenomena; - selects the most suitable data analysis method based on the research objective and generalises qualitative and quantitative data. Assessment is module-based.		
8. Management in the context of hybrid threats and hybrid crises	10	E

Aim of the module: the student develops competencies of leadership and management in a hybrid environment.

Upon completing the module, the student:

- critically analyses the European Union's external dimension in countering hybrid threats, internal and border security management and the role of fundamental rights in it;
- critically evaluates actions countering information advocacy and influence activities;
- proposes combined approaches for management and leadership for encountering modern security challenges and threats based on modern theories, considering professional ethics, fundamental rights, and principles of equal treatment of diverse groups;
- employs appropriate tools and techniques to strategically manage civilian, human and technical resources, makes decisions in case of hybrid crises, and critically evaluates their own and peers' problem-solving performance.

Assessment is module-based.

9. Master's thesis

15

E

Aim of the module: to develop students' ability to independently and creatively formulate issues and research questions related to hybrid threats, and to solve them with appropriate research methods, thereby creating new, applied knowledge in the field of internal security.

Upon completing the module, the student:

- conducts research and applied studies, analyses and interprets their results, including independently formulates and solves problems;
- can synthesise the theoretical and empirical approach by means of scientific methods;
- conducts analyses and research related to trends and indicators affecting hybrid threats;
- present the research work and solution in an argumentative and persuasive manner in accordance with academic practices.

Assessment is module-based.