The Institute for Security Governance (ISG) is a Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) schoolhouse and the Defense Department’s Center of Excellence for Institutional Capacity Building (ICB). ISG advances national security and foreign policy objectives by building partner institutional capabilities, advancing knowledge, and enhancing the conduct of the ICB field to address security challenges. The ISG approach is oriented to meet partner institutional capacity and capability, education, and professional development needs, is grounded in American values and approaches, and tailored to meet partner requirements.

The development of functioning, accountable, and effective defense and security institutions is critical to enabling the long-term success of security cooperation and partner capability development, is a focus across the security cooperation enterprise, and is foundational to ISG. The Institute’s programs are a critical component of the DSCA security cooperation toolkit and support a full-spectrum approach to strengthening allies and enabling partners.

**Advising: Building Institutional Capacity**

ISG’s advising efforts enable partners to address specific institutional challenges and meet shared objectives. Expert teams work with institutions and personnel to find partner-oriented approaches, with a broad focus on cultivating security and defense governance, operational planning, and resource management. Through long-term engagement, partner institutions are strengthened to maintain, sustain, and use key capabilities and achieve mutual security objectives.

**Education: Expanding Knowledge and Strengthening Capability**

The Institute’s tailored education and professional development programs empower students with holistic knowledge and strengthen capabilities to confront complex security and defense issues. Delivered in the United States or abroad in a short-course format, these programs bring applied learning practices into the bilateral or multilateral classroom environments. Participants are encouraged to engage in open, peer-to-peer learning, and will form long-term international and interagency networks.
OUR EXPERTISE

The Institute has 40+ full-time faculty with a broad background of professional, military, academic, and non-government experience, and draws on an extensive network of faculty and affiliated subject matter experts from across the Defense Department, US Interagency, non-government organizations, the commercial sector, and international allies and partners. ISG’s primary areas of concentration are oriented to advancing the principles of good governance and management, civil-military relations and professionalized forces, and accountable and effective defense and security institutions.

GLOBALLY ENGAGED

With participants in over 160 countries, ISG operates alongside critical partners around the world. Highlighted nations have participated in ISG engagements in the last five years.

Institutional Advising activities are typically 1-2 weeks in length, with a team of 3-5 personnel focused on a targeted functional line of effort. Advising approaches vary, but all activities seek to engage with partners in the practice of their work, and to enable them to strengthen institutional capability and capacity. Advising activities are part of a multi-activity project and will typically be conducted over a multi-year period.

Resident Education programs are primarily 2 weeks in length and are developed and taught by a diverse faculty team. Courses are typically limited to no more than 30 students and are primarily held onsite at ISG in Monterey, California. Courses are conducted in an adult-learning style, with breakout groups, interactive exercises, student-led presentations, and related approaches. Resident courses are generally global in nature, though several iterations each year are regionally focused and/or conducted with simultaneous interpretation.

Mobile Engagement Teams conduct short-course activities tailored to the national and regional context at partner locations. Mobile activities are typically one-week or two weeks in length, with a student composition that varies by topic and delivery-method. ISG conducts mobile events in working group, workshop, seminar, and similar approaches.