The National Security Institute (NSI) is dedicated to finding real-world, practical answers to hard national security law and policy questions.

We are looking for partners that share a vision that supports a robust American national security posture.
OUR HISTORY
NSI was founded in 2017 to fill the gap in institutions identifying practical solutions that enable a robust national security posture and safeguard our constitutional liberties. Since then, NSI has worked alongside industry and government experts to shape the debate on critical issues.

OUR MISSION
NSI aims to strengthen American national security and global leadership by educating future leaders and advancing actionable solutions based on practical experience.

OUR FUTURE
NSI remains committed to supporting a strong and consistent American foreign policy leadership abroad to ensure a more unified and secure nation. In doing so, NSI has established a new center, the NSI Cyber and Tech Center, which will focus on technology and cyber issues as they relate to national security.

CONNECTION WITH DECISION MAKERS
Positioned within the D.C. metro region, NSI will leverage its experts’ multi-faceted backgrounds in government, industry, and academia to produce cutting-edge programming to bridge the gap between the technology, innovation, and national security communities.

A LEADING INSTITUTION
NSI plays a central role in educating the next generation of national security leaders at the Scalia Law School at George Mason University by offering compelling courses and creating opportunities for students to gain real-world experience.

DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES
NSI will champion individual and intellectual diversity in the national security community by collaborating with GMU and other educational institutions to provide programming, professional development, and mentor opportunities for students of all backgrounds.

CYBER AND TECH CENTER
The NSI Cyber and Technology Center (CTC) will take on and expand NSI’s current efforts to promote American leadership in technology innovation and engage with policymakers on critical issues at the intersection of technology and national security.
Since 2017, NSI has shared expertise with policymakers in the Executive Branch and in Congress on critical national security topics ranging from technology and innovation policy issues to a diverse spectrum of global and security challenges.

IMPACTING POLICYMAKERS

NSI focuses on impacting Congressional policymakers and has built strong relationships with key lawmakers and their staff. NSI staff and experts participate in a range of off-the-record Congressional briefings, provide direct legislative feedback to Capitol Hill offices and members at their request, share vital testimony to Congress on critical and timely policy issues, produce topical policy events for Hill staff, and host networking and social engagements.

CONGRESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NSI produces policy materials aimed at addressing the needs of senior policymakers and their staffs in the Executive Branch and Congress. These timely, hard-hitting short-form written analysis focus on timely national security issues at the nexus of law, policy, and technology.

WRITTEN MATERIALS

To better engage with and support policymakers and industry, as well as to inform the public, NSI hosts events and programming throughout the year that feature thought-provoking content from well-regarded scholars, industry leaders, and national security policymakers.

NSI EVENTS

These projects feature events, papers, and other policy engagements that strive to address the most timely and critical threats to U.S. interests.

Sharpening Our Cutting Edge: Protecting American National Security by Making Us Competitive

Amid growing competition from adversarial nation-states, NSI will highlight how technology innovation promotes critical U.S. economic and national security interests and shapes the global balance of power and the key ways in which the U.S. can continue to lead in this important space.

Fighting Global Repression: The Importance of Defending Values for American National Security

As China and other countries conduct oppressive tactics both at home and beyond their boarders, NSI will shed greater light on new means of oppression, highlight the aggressive expansionist actions taking place globally, and proposes serious solutions that bolster U.S. national security.
THE NSI APPROACH

NSI draws on the expertise of its all-volunteer group of experts and leverages a small but effective staff footprint to address the immediate needs of key policymakers.

OUR EXPERTS

NSI's diverse group of experts have having held senior positions in the intelligence, defense, technology, and law sectors.

Our Advisory Board provides important strategic guidance and useful insights on new programs and academic initiatives to connect students, government, and industry.

Our Fellows generate actionable policy solutions and advance NSI's mission through their research, public engagement, and work with key policymakers and business.

Engage with NSI. To connect with our experts, email us at nsi@gmu.edu.
ADVANCING THE DEBATE

NSI strives to provide timely and thorough analysis on the latest breaking national security news. Our team of Advisory Board members, faculty, and fellows have decades of combined experience in breaking down complex issues and policies and providing informative commentary to wide audiences.

THE SCIF
NSI’s blog, The SCIF, provides concise, to-the-point, and thoughtful analysis from NSI experts on breaking news and national security issues such as cybersecurity, geopolitical competition, technology and innovation, economic security, and others, with recommendations for how policymakers can tackle these concerns.

70+
Fellows, Advisory Board member, and staff authors

60K+
unique views to date

25K+
unique reads to date

MEDIA
NSI experts provide comprehensive, timely, and insightful analysis on national security stories across all media platforms and have been featured in interviews on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and more, along with articles published in The Hill, POLITICO, The Washington Post, and The New York Times, among others.

PODCASTS
NSI hosts three podcasts: Fault Lines, NSI’s flagship podcast, is a hard-hitting, three-times a week show that quickly highlights pressing national security and foreign policy issues and debates; Iron Butterfly, co-produced with the Amazing Women of the Intelligence Community (AWIC), which explores the unique stories of America’s heroines from the Intelligence Community; and NSI Live, which allows listeners to relive NSI’s recorded virtual and in-person events.

150K
Fault Lines has aired more than 150 episodes, been downloaded over 100,000 times, and has reached audiences in 150 countries.

40K
Iron Butterfly has accumulated more than 50,000 listens with over 50 episodes and has reached listeners in over 100 countries.

Rep. Will Hurd, former Congressman, TX-23

To learn more about NSI, visit nationalsecurity.gmu.edu
EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS

NSI is dedicated to educating future leaders by providing students with a wide range of experiences in the national security arena.

OUR FACULTY
NSI’s faculty members are a powerhouse combination of academic talent, real-world experience, and thought leadership. Their range of expertise allows them to develop and offer educational experiences in and outside the classroom that better prepare the next generation of national security leaders.

OUR COURSES
NSI uses the insights of its experts to design a curriculum that provides an in-depth study of core national security law issues and examines emerging questions raised by our increasingly connected world.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES
NSI offers research opportunities, on-campus national security related programming, internship and externships with leading public and private sector employers, and other professional development opportunities with lawyers and policymakers for all GMU law students.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY
NSI has made a firm commitment to building a diverse group of national security practitioners by collaborating with key educational institutions to provide programming, and professional and mentorship opportunities to students with diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and viewpoints.

NSI SUMMER PROGRAM
Each year, NSI hosts an international program with courses taught by a U.S. Supreme Court Justice and NSI Founder and Executive Director Jamil N. Jaffer on the separation of powers and interbranch conflicts in national security. Past programs have been held in Padua, Italy, and Reykjavik, Iceland.

NSI provides students with the skills necessary to engage in rigorous analysis of key issues and offers them opportunities to work on cutting-edge legal and policy matters.

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM

CYBER, INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY LAW LL.M.
NSI established and oversees the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Cyber, Intelligence and National Security Law, which provides graduates with the expertise to navigate the emerging policy, legal, and constitutional issues in these key areas.

JURIS MASTER (JM) PROGRAM
NSI directs the National Security, Cybersecurity & Information Privacy Concentration of the Law School’s Juris Master (JM) Degree Program, a program designed for professionals who interact with lawyers and legal issues regularly in the course of their careers.

To learn more about how NSI is educating future leaders, visit nationalsecurity.gmu.edu