



Federal Academy
for Security Policy

6 to 24 October 2025

European security in this watershed era

The 2025 Security Policy Course for Senior Officials

South Asia – partnerships, lines of conflict and optimism about the future





Overview

The Security Policy Course for Senior Officials is targeted at high-level executive personnel from political institutions, authorities, the scientific community, the business world and social organisations. Each year, a different geographical region of particular significance for security policy is studied.

Promoting political foresight and strategic thinking

Structurally processed, strategic questions along with the special opportunity to enter into direct dialogue with key actors and decision-makers in the region, not only help the participants of this course to gain political foresight, but also enhance interministerial strategic thinking and understanding of complex constellations of interests.

Invitations for the nomination of course participants are issued personally by the Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Tasks.



Time frame

This year's Course for Senior Officials will be held from **6 to 24 October 2025**. It will be conducted both in Berlin and at the course study tour's stops in South Asia. Travel is planned to India and Bangladesh. The course will be held in German and English, and all participants are required to attend the course for its full three-week duration.

Target audience

With detailed study of this region's specific crises and conflict parameters, the course offers a highly exclusive forum for the interministerial, interdisciplinary and cross-industry exchange of views on security-related topics of relevance for the future with experts and political officials, both in Berlin and on a course journey to the region.

Schedule

The course is divided into three phases:

Introduction

In the first part of the course, held in Berlin, participants will primarily explore the historical, cultural, political and economic background of the region and discuss current developments with experts. In view of the strategic interests on the part of many different stakeholders (including the US and China as major powers), participants will develop their own positions on options for political action.

Experience in the region

The positions developed will provide the basis for discussions in the second part of the course with further experts and decision-makers in the region itself. In New Delhi and Dhaka, the participants will engage directly with the ambitions, interests, constraints and sociocultural contexts of the players involved.



Destinations: Travel is planned to India and Bangladesh.

Reflection

In the third part of the course, back in Berlin, the participants will once again reflect critically on their experiences and positions. The course will close with discussions between the participants and high-level German decision-makers on what positions and strategies Germany and Europe should adopt and pursue regarding the region in the future.



India is a key partner for Germany with shared values, as is also evident in military exercises. Here, a helicopter from the Indian frigate Triakand is landing on the frigate Bayern during its 2021 passage through the Indo-Pacific.

Contents

Tensions between China and the US in the Indo-Pacific region have been increasing for some time, which also affects Germany and the European Union in terms of consequences in security and trade policy. The German government sees enhancing Germany's partnerships with India and Bangladesh as an opportunity to secure energy and raw material supplies, diversify supply chains and develop sustainable trade policy to the benefit of all. India is considered a key partner with shared values in the Indo-Pacific. It has great economic and geopolitical importance as the most populous country in the world and the largest democracy, the fifth largest national economy – which continues to have dynamic growth – a voice of the Global South and the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. Germany is linked to Bangladesh through key issues such as combating poverty and hunger, handling refugee and migration movements, protecting natural resources and fighting the climate crisis. These fundamental German positions are reflected in both the National Security Strategy and the German government's policy guidelines on the Indo-Pacific region.

Bangladesh and India are linked by complex economic and political ties. For many years, India worked closely with the government of Bangladesh under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Since she was ousted in the July Revolution of 2024, however, the two countries' relations have worsened because New Delhi has few partners in Dhaka. At the same time, there are increasing religious tensions between the Hindu minority and the Muslim majority in Bangladesh. The Indian government is concerned about these developments because it fears consequences for its own country due to social tensions or migration movements. In light of India's ongoing tensions with Pakistan, New Delhi is also wary of the improved relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan with the first direct sea route opening between the two countries. Historically, India has greatly influenced Bangladesh, but the neighbouring country's closer relations with Pakistan could call this status quo into question. India will have to fundamentally reorient its foreign policy with regard to Bangladesh.



== The Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) ==

The Federal Academy for Security Policy is the German government's central interministerial institution for further education in the field of security policy. As a place of strategic thinking and security policy training, it promotes a broad understanding of Germany's long-term security objectives and Integrated Security in practice. Its courses, conferences and opportunities for discussion are aimed at experts, senior officials and leaders from politics, government agencies, academia, business, civil-society organisations and the general public.

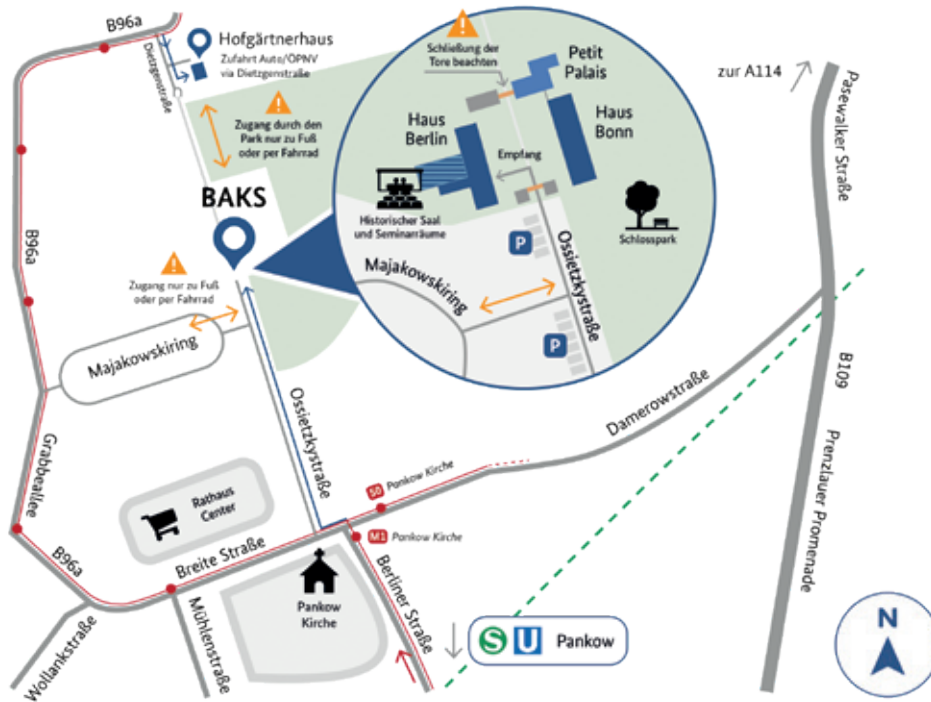
The Federal Academy for Security Policy's tasks are divided into three areas: teaching/training, consultations and communication. The teaching and training area also includes the Centre for Strategic Foresight.

The Board of Trustees is the Federal Security Council chaired by the Federal Chancellor. Organisationally, the Academy is an independent agency within the area of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Defence. An Advisory Board established by the Federal Ministry of Defence advises the Board of Trustees on course contents and further development.

The President of the Federal Academy for Security Policy is Major General Wolf-Jürgen Stahl. A team of 70 personnel from all bodies represented in the Federal Security Council work together at the Federal Academy for Security Policy. The Academy was founded in Bonn in 1992. It has been based on the premises of Schönhausen Palace in the Pankow district of Berlin since 2004.



GETTING TO THE FEDERAL ACADEMY FOR SECURITY POLICY (BAKS)



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