The Johns Hopkins University Center for Advanced Governmental Studies (CAGS) encompasses a set of graduate programs designed to build knowledge and skills to prepare our students to be leaders in the government, including security and intelligence, and in the nonprofit or private sectors as well. In addition, CAGS is involved in a number of government and private sector partnerships. The overall mission of all the Center’s programs and initiatives is to provide a strong foundation of knowledge upon which innovative policy programs and promising leaders can develop.

Based at the Johns Hopkins University Washington, DC center in Dupont Circle, CAGS is a vibrant learning environment both for our onsite and online graduate programs and also as a forum for policy discussions which are usually offered onsite and virtually as well. The Center provides a venue for unbiased, nonpartisan efforts to expand knowledge of the U.S. government and the policymaking process and apply analytical tools to assess the impacts of governmental action. Both training in and assessment of the best management practices in the nonprofit and private sectors as well as in the government are also a focus of CAGS programs.

Graduate Degrees and Certificates

The graduate degree programs of the Center bring together theory and practice in the study of government and its impacts domestically and abroad, while preparing individuals for leadership positions in the public and private sectors. At CAGS, students use their graduate education to better inform their professional work and find that their practical work experience often augments their graduate studies. While our degree programs are designed as part-time studies, students have the option of accelerating their course of study by attending at a full-time pace.

The Center is comprised of seven (7) master’s degrees and three (3) certificate programs. These are: MS in Data Analytics and Policy, MS in Geospatial Intelligence, MA in Global Security Studies, MA in Government, MS in Intelligence Analysis, MA in Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Management, and MA in Public Management; and Certificate in Government Analytics, Certificate in Intelligence, and Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

In addition, students have various options for combining our master’s degrees with our certificates in intelligence, nonprofit management, or government analytics, allowing them to graduate with two credentials after pursuing a concentrated and efficient course of study. These dual degrees and combined programs are: MA in Global Security Studies/Certificate in Intelligence, MA in Government/Certificate in Intelligence, MA in Government/MBA, MS in Government Analytics/Certificate in Intelligence, MA in Public Management/Certificate in Government Analytics, MA in Public Management/Certificate in Intelligence, and MA in Public Management/Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

International Study

The Center offers degree-seeking students frequent opportunities for intensive international study. The basic format is several intensive course meetings and readings with JHU professors before the students leave; spending one week to 10 days abroad with classes about 4.5 hours a day and field trips, site visits, or other exercises, and a research project or major paper due after students return. Past courses have included “The Birth of Modern Democracy” (Scotland and France), “China’s Place in the 21st Century,” “Command and Leadership in Modern War: Operation Overlord,” (United Kingdom and France), Politics, Security and Culture in Israel; Politics, Security and Culture in India; Environmental Governance, Climate Change and Energy Security in Europe and America (Belgium and Germany); Policymaking in the U.S. and Latin America: Perceptions and Misconceptions (Mexico); and Sustainable Cities in France and Germany: Lessons for the United States (Germany and France); European Security: Russian Challenge, Western Response (Belgium, Ukraine, and Estonia); and Nature Conservation and Sustainability in Cuba. Each summer CAGS students can apply to a course, International Security and Intelligence, offered in partnership with the Cambridge Security Institute in England.