LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy



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Message from the Director



The Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy is a unique programme designed to enhance the strategic vision of global leaders. The programme will provide you with the analytical tools to understand a changing world and the policy skills to operate within it.

You will learn how to deal with emerging threats and risks strategically and how to solve common problems by negotiating with stakeholders as well as adversaries.

While lectures provide the background to the issues, you will challenge conventional wisdom on these topics in sharply-focused seminars. Workshops and policy simulations on crisis management and diplomatic negotiations will provide you with practical insights into what has been learned from the lectures.

Chris Alden
Programme Director
Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy



Photo credit: US Department of State GPA Archive (CC BY 2.0)

A Unique Programme for Global Leaders

Globally Recognised for Social Sciences

LSE offers a unique opportunity to study the social sciences at a world-renowned university, while enjoying the cultural, social and recreational facilities of one of the world's most vibrant capital cities.

Study with LSE experts and policy practitioners

You will be studying with LSE academics and senior policy practitioners, sharing their experience at the highest levels of diplomacy and business.

Combine work with study

The programme is taught in four intensive weeks, 20 weekly evening sessions, and two 'policy weekend' retreats. This structure is designed to allow time-pressured professionals to combine their existing jobs with their studies.

High-calibre international participants

This one-year programme is intended for professionals in public, private or NGO sectors with at least four years of work experience, aiming to advance to senior positions. Places are deliberately restricted to ensure high calibre discussion and intellectual engagement.

Be part of a leading think tank

The Executive Programme is managed by LSE IDEAS, the LSE's foreign policy think tank. Benefit from IDEAS events and research and be part of a thriving intellectual community by studying at a world-leading think tank.

Watch the Programme video.
https://youtu.be/kSl7HEo-YbY

Executive Education in an Era of Strategic Competition

Policymakers are increasingly signalling that a new era of 'strategic competition' is defining international affairs today. The LSE Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy Programme is well-positioned to offer students the education needed to navigate this changing environment, having delivered high-level education in strategic and diplomatic practice for over a decade.

- Combining senior practitioner-led teaching with world renowned academic expertise
- A one-year MSc degree qualification from a world-leading university, the London School of Economics and Political Science
- Situated in LSE IDEAS, the Foreign Policy Think Tank of the LSE
- Delivered in a calendar designed for working professionals
- Two modes of participation options, residential or non-residential
- Access to a global Alumni Network of professionals in international affairs

Designed for working professionals with an international profile, applications are now open for the 2024-25 academic year.



Photo credit: Guy Jordan

Programme Calendar

- Registration
- Intensive Weeks
- Wednesday sessions
- Reading Weeks
- Policy Weekends
- Assessments

September 2027

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2027

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2027

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2027

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2028

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2028

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2028

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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12	14	15	16	17	18	21
19	21	22	23	24	25	28
26	28	29	30	31		

April 2028

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2028

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2028

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2028

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2028

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*dates are subject to change

Programme Journey

	Pre-Programme	Autumn Term (September to December)	Winter Term (January to April)	Summer Term (May to August)	Graduation (December) Post-Programme
Courses		**IR443E Strategy in a Changing World**	**IR442E Diplomacy and Challenges**	**IR444E Strategy in Action and IR496E Dissertation**	
Activities	• Registration and IT account setup • Review pre-programme readings • Access the programme Moodle Homepage	• How to Think Strategically first intensive week • Strategic Actors lecture and seminar series • First Policy Weekend • Strategic Economic Trends lecture and seminar series • Strategic Environment, Global South second intensive week	• Tools of Diplomacy third intensive week • Foreign Policy lecture and seminar series • Second Policy Weekend • Strategic Decisions fourth intensive week	• Dissertation research question selection in consultation with your Academic Mentor • Dissertation research design plan	• Graduation ceremony in December, date TBC by the School. • Alumni Network
Assessment		• Formative Essay • Summative Essay	• Formative Policy Memo • Summative Policy Memo	• One assessed Dissertation Plan with feedback • Dissertation	
Learning Outcomes		• Enhanced strategy formulation • Grasp of the global strategic environment • Understanding of IR theory of strategic behaviour	• Familiarity with the tools of diplomacy • Grasp of Foreign Policy challenges • Practice in negotiation and crisis management	• Enhanced analytical skills and ability to design and conduct an independent analytical research project	

World Leading Academics

The Faculty is comprised of world-renowned academics working in the fields of International Relations, International History and Economics. They provide the participants with the analytical tools to better understand the challenges of today's world.



Programme Director

Professor Chris Alden teaches International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science and is a Senior Research Associate at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).



Professor Robert Falkner is Associate Professor of International Relations at LSE and the Research Director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.



Professor Michael Cox is Emeritus Professor of International Relations and Senior Academic Programme Advisor for the Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy programme. He is a renowned international lecturer who has published extensively on the United States, transatlantic relations, Asia's rise, and the problems facing the EU.



Dr Nikhil Kalyanpur is an Assistant Professor at LSE's International Relations department. He researches topics at the intersection of business-government relations, global governance, and economic statecraft.



Professor Tomila Lankina is Professor of International Relations at LSE. Her expertise is on democratization, sub-national governance, Russia, Central Europe, Eurasia, India, and legacies of colonialism.



Professor Karen E. Smith is Professor of International Relations at the LSE. Her area of expertise includes foreign policy analysis, international organisations (particularly the EU and the UN), and human rights policies.



Dr Rohan Mukherjee is Assistant Professor of International Relations at LSE and Deputy Director of LSE IDEAS. Dr Mukherjee's research focuses on rising powers and how they navigate the power and status hierarchies of international order.



Professor Linda Yueh CBE was Visiting Professor at LSE IDEAS and Chair of the LSE Economic Diplomacy Commission. She is Fellow in Economics, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford and Adjunct Professor of Economics, London Business School.

* Note: Included faculty are subject to some changes each academic year.

Senior Practitioners

The team of practitioners is formed by experienced strategists, diplomats and civil servants.
Their strategic and diplomatic experience ranges from the Foreign Office and Number 10 to NATO and the EU, GCHQ and the UK National Security Council, and international business and finance. Through sharing their invaluable first-hand experience, they enable participants to develop a practical approach to the issues covered by the programme.



HEAD OF PRACTITIONERS
Peter Jones leads the team of practitioners. He is a Visiting Senior Fellow and Head of Global Strategies at LSE IDEAS, with over thirty years in the British Diplomatic Service, retiring from the FCDO in 2021. He held senior roles including Chief Operating Officer (2017–2020) and Director for Defence and International Security (2014–2017), and served in diplomatic posts in Vienna, Bonn, Rome, and Accra.



Professor Wang Jisi is Professor in the School of International Studies and president of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Peking University. He is honorary president of the Chinese Association for American Studies, and was a member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Committee of China's Foreign Ministry in 2008-2016.



General Sir James Everard KCB CBE is a senior British military leader who was Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (NATO) in his final appointment before leaving the Army in 2020. He joined the 17th/21st Lancers in 1983, spending his early years in the Army with tank units in the British Army of the Rhine. He then commanded The Queen's Royal Lancers, the 20th Armoured Brigade and the 3rd Division, and served as the Assistant Chief of the General Staff.



Dame Judith MacGregor DCMG LVO DL was the British High Commissioner to South Africa from September 2013 until March 2017. She was FCO Director for Migration in 2007, Ambassador to Mexico in 2009, and President of the FCO Women's Association from 2006, overseeing a significant increase in the number of women who became senior British diplomats.



Sir Richard Mottram GCB is an expert on defence, security, strategy and planning. He was one of Britain's top civil servants, heading several departments, including the Ministry of Defence, and Security and Intelligence in the Cabinet Office. His current roles include Chairman of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.



John Raine CMG OBE is Senior Adviser for Geopolitical Due Diligence at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, focusing on proxy warfare, non-kinetic power, and alternative approaches to conflict resolution. He served 33 years at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with postings in the Middle East and South Asia, and worked on defence strategy and operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Suzanne Raine served in the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office from 1995-2019. This included postings in Poland, Iraq and Pakistan. She specialised in counter-terrorism, holding a number of senior domestic appointments including Head of the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre from 2015-2017 and Director Counter Terrorism from 2017-19.

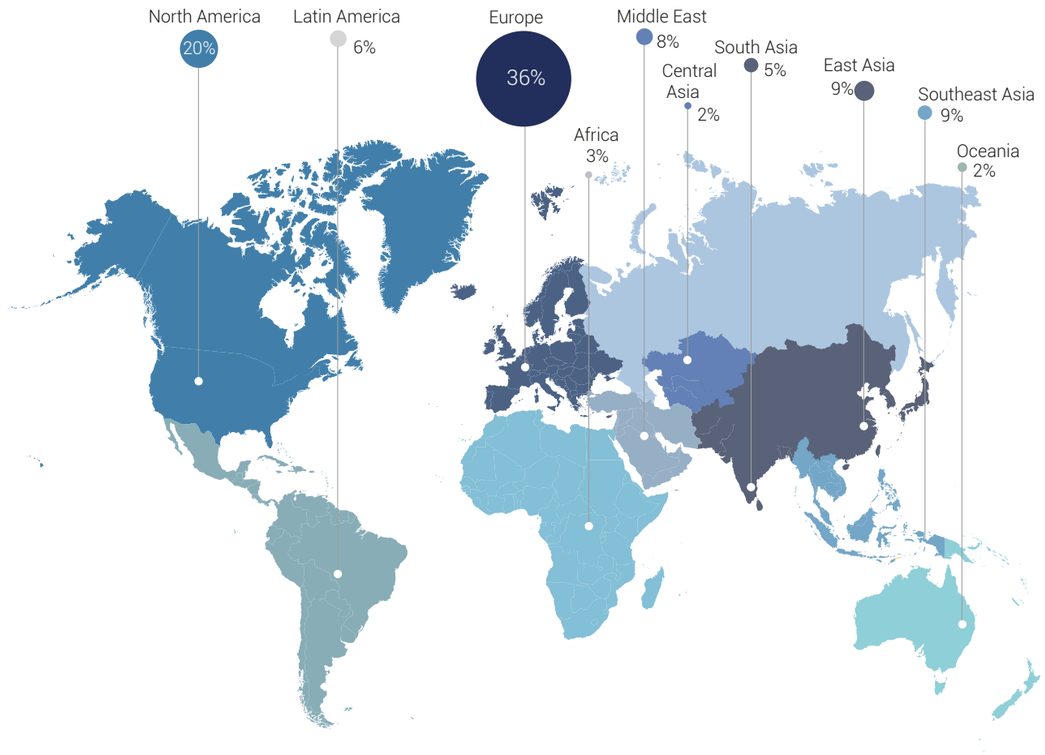


OBE Peter Watkins CBE is Senior Visiting Fellow at LSE IDEAS, an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), Visiting Professor at King's College London, and a Member of Council of Cranfield University. He was previously Director General Strategy & International in the Ministry of Defence from 2017 to 2019.

*Note: Included practitioners are subject to some changes each academic year.

Profile of Participants:

Geographical Breakdown



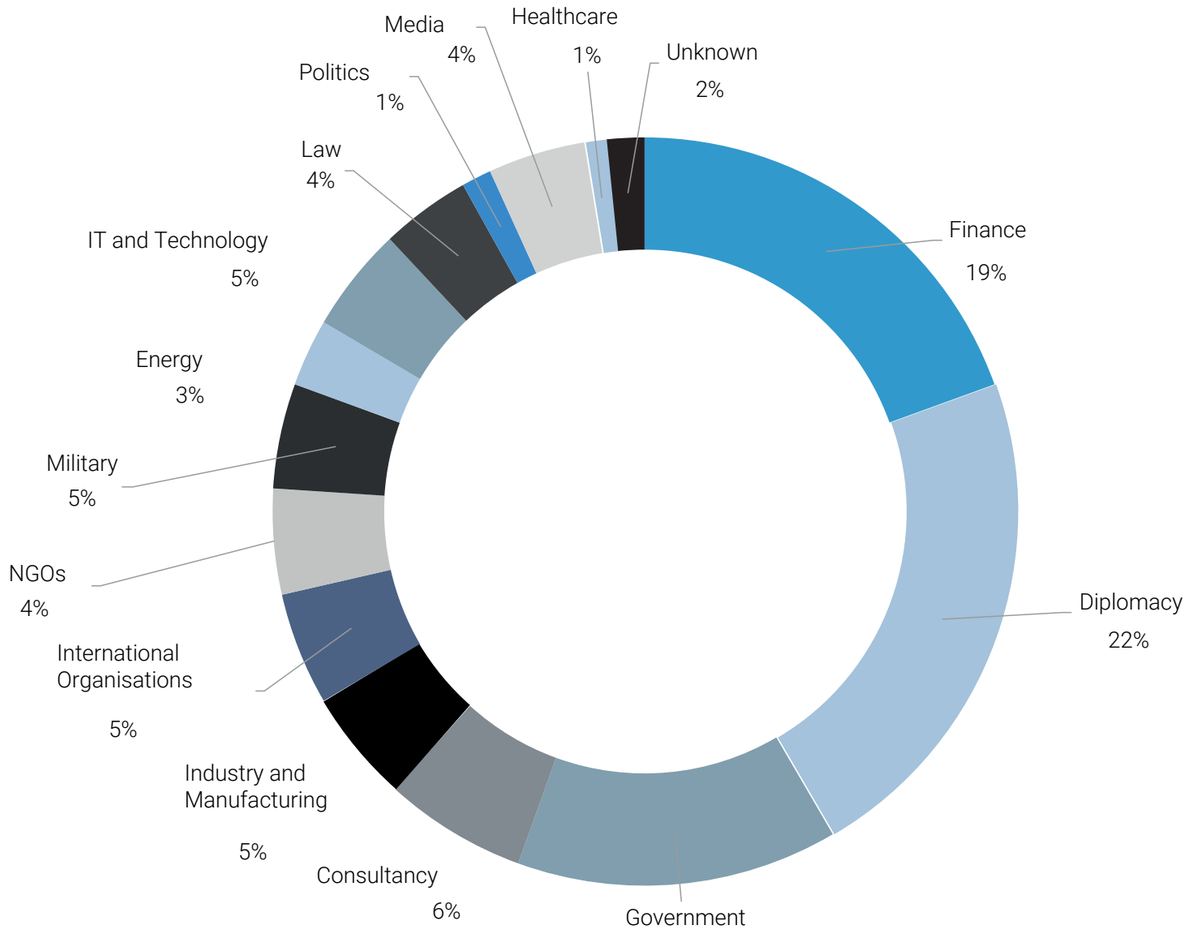
Percentages include both past and current participants.

73 Countries Represented

Afghanistan
Austria
Australia
Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Brazil
British Virgin Islands
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Macedonia
Malaysia
Malawi
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Singapore
Slovenia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Taiwan
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States
Uzbekistan
Vietnam

Student Profile:

By Profession



By Age

35

Average Age

24–59

Range

By Gender

59%

41%



Photo credit: Guy Jordan

Graduate Profiles



Dame Karen Pierce

UK Ambassador to the United States

"Right from the first week I was able to apply the lessons I had learnt to our operational and policy work and to coach my teams to look at issues differently."



Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque

High Commissioner, British High Commission, Canada

"You have to be prepared to have your own ideas challenged, even changed by other students from different backgrounds. I found that extremely stimulating. Having open and heated discussions about issues was really good for me to take back and encourage in my workplace."



Jim Emerson

Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance

"From my first contact with the faculty I knew this was the right course - I would be in a demanding academic environment that has a strong focus on applying knowledge in real situations. It was hard work; it was great fun."



Leah Hershey

International Engagement Analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense

"The in-depth and broad knowledge of international affairs that I gained from the course prepared me for my current role, and qualified me for positions that had previously been out of reach."



Toby Rumford

Security Policy and Operations, Ministry of Defence

"Bringing together the very best of academia and practitioner, the course provided me with the skills and deep understanding to deliver positive change in international security."



Walter Xiongwen Pan

Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P. R. China

"I was very impressed with the calibre of the inspiring lecturers, as well as the diverse backgrounds of the open-minded participants. As a career diplomat, I could easily relate what I learned from the programme with my own experiences and observations."

After the Programme

Whether you seek to move up within your current affiliation, change organisation within the same field, set up your own enterprise, or change your career entirely by moving into a new sector, the Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy will help you transform your career.

Not only will the course give you the skills and knowledge to benefit your career, it will give you access to a wide range of services and opportunities to help you prepare for future career challenges.

Careers

A new Professionals at LSE network will offer bespoke executive-level support abd career coaching for students. The team consists of experts with experience in executive management, and leadership challenges. The network will also offer opportunities to interact with other executive students at LSE, enabling you to optimise your time at the school through its impressive roster of professionals through cross-departmental collaboration.

Alumni Network

Upon graduation from the Executive Programme, students join the LSE IDEAS Alumni Network. As well as joining the dynamic LSE IDEAS community, LSE IDEAS alumni become part of a continually growing, diverse global network of leaders, professionals and experts. With close to 330 professionals, the Alumni Network is increasingly active, with regular new initiatives designed to help alumni share, connect and engage in discussions about international strategy, diplomacy and current affairs. With a unique insight into LSE IDEAS activities, our alumni are key to the life of the Centre, participating in public and exclusive events, delivering their expertise, and developing cutting-edge strategic updates. Over the past year, we have held a series of student and alumni meetings, public lectures, policy weekends and social events - all of which have helped further enhance the benefits of being a member of the Alumni Network.



Photo credit: Guy Jordan

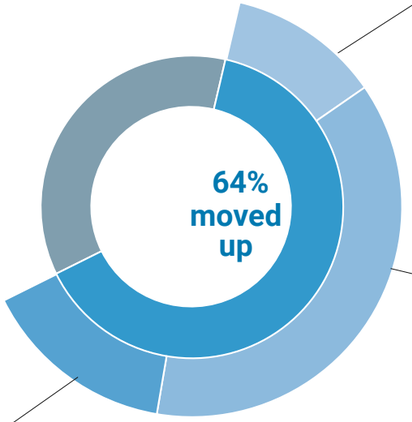


Alumni Career Progression

Over the past decade, our alumni have utilized the skills and knowledge gained from the LSE IDEAS Executive Programme to move up in their careers. Their testimonials and career paths illustrate how the Executive Programme can help in your career progression.

Approximately 64% of our alumni* have advanced their careers following graduation.

Within this group:



18.3%
moved up within the same organization

e.g. Moving from Third Secretary to Consul within an Embassy.

58.3%
moved up in a different organization within the same industry sector

e.g. Moving from Finance Manager in Bank A to Partner in Bank B.

23.4%
moved up in a different industry sector

e.g. Moving from Project Coordinator at a think tank to Analyst at the Department of Defense.



"The Programme provided me with a much broader vision on global strategy, risks, definition of problems and devising strategies to solve the problems or cope with the difficulties and uncertainties that governments/states face (...) This helped me to implement the methods I learned during the course in my career and supported me in being more resilient in approaching multi-lateral problems and cases where international cooperation and collaboration is vital."

–Ozden Alper
Office of the Turkish Prime Minister

*This data comes from 188 up-to-date profiles of the 267 alums that participated in the Programme between 2011 and 2020.

Application Process and Fees

Entry requirements

The programme is designed for senior and mid-level diplomats, civil servants, military officials, international NGO employees as well as executives from international firms and corporations (finance, consultancy, manufacturing, technology). You will be required to have:

- A 2:1 degree or equivalent in any discipline (preferably in politics, history, international relations or a similar discipline)
- A minimum four years' professional experience

If English is not your first language, you should possess an English language qualification such as IELTS or TOEFL, awarded within the last two years. Minimum scores required are:

- IELTS—overall score of 7.0 (7.0 in reading and 6.5 in listening, writing, and speaking), or
- TOEFL—overall score of 100 (25 in reading, 24 in writing and 22 in listening and speaking).

Note: if English is the language of instruction of your previous degree, you may be exempt from this requirement.

How to apply

Candidates are considered on a rolling admissions basis, as early as November for the following September intake. However, we recommend applying as early as possible as there is high competition for places.

To be considered for this programme, you will need to apply using the online application form. You will be asked to write a personal statement, setting out why you are interested in the programme, highlighting your relevant experience and suitability for the programme and your future plans. In addition, you will need to attach your university degree certificates and transcripts, and two professional or academic references.

lse.ac.uk/ideas/exec/apply

Approximately 30 places are granted each year.

Programme fees

Please check our website for the current fees.

lse.ac.uk/ideas/exec/faqs

Note: there are no internal LSE scholarships for this programme at present.



Programme Team



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The Executive Programme is managed by LSE IDEAS, LSE's foreign policy think tank.

Through sustained engagement with policymakers and opinion-formers, IDEAS provides a forum that informs policy debate and connects academic research with the practice of diplomacy and strategy. IDEAS hosts interdisciplinary research projects, produces working papers and reports, holds public and off-the-record events, and delivers cutting-edge executive training programmes for government, business and third-sector organisations.

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Cover image: istockphoto.com