

## Research School for War and Defence is up and running!

### BACKGROUND

We are pleased to inform you that the international Research School for War and Defence is up and running!

The core objective of the school is to strengthen the doctoral education in areas relevant for the armed forces and to provide a strong international network of soldier-scholars (i.e. military officers with a doctoral degree). Additional objectives are to promote long term development of knowledge within the armed forces and strengthen research in important areas of professional military practices.

The research school is open for military officers from member universities (and their armed forces), enrolled in a PhD programme and provides jointly organised educational activities at the doctoral level, such as courses, workshops and seminars.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Seminars and workshops

Member universities can offer seminars and workshops as a part of the research school. Seminars and workshops will be selected by the steering committee. The research school also offers workshops and activities for supervisors. The Steering Committee can decide on additional activities within the research school.

#### Soldier-scholar conference

Once a year, the research school organises a conference for military officers currently enrolled as well as for soldier-scholars who have completed their doctoral education. The conference is mandatory for the doctoral students and provides an opportunity to present their research for other military doctoral students, soldier-scholars, member universities and the armed forces. The conference also offers workshops and activities for supervisors.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Week 14, April:** elective course  
*The Practice of Soldier Scholars (7,5 ECTS)*
- **16 May:** PhD Defence, [Peter Bovet](#)
- **22 May:** Doctrinal workshop  
Eight prominent scholars on military doctrine convene to discuss the current state and future prospects of doctrinal research. Speakers include Professors Benjamin Jensen, Antulio Echevarria II, Harald Høiback and more.
- **23 May:** PhD Defence, [John Nisser](#)
- **September:** Soldier-scholar conference  
(dates will follow on our website)
- **Week 41, October:** elective course  
*Research in Sensitive Contexts: Ethics and Secrecy (7,5 ECTS)*

### Network and mentorship programme

The research school will have an alumni network of soldier-scholars and a mentorship programme. The main purpose of the mentorship programme is to connect alumni and the doctoral students of the research school in a meaningful way, thereby creating mutual benefit, and cementing a stronger relationship between all involved: the doctoral student, the alumni and the research school.

### Visiting scholarship

Doctoral students who are not enrolled at the Swedish Defence University can apply for a visiting scholarship. The Swedish Defence University has a well-developed PhD program and a research environment within several subjects (War Studies, Political Science and Military History). The doctoral student is expected to participate in research seminars and other activities at the Swedish Defence University during the scholarship.

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### **Organisation**

The research school is hosted by the Department of War Studies at the Swedish Defence University and is governed by a steering committee and a director.

### **Director**

The director of the research school is appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the Swedish Defence University, at the suggestion of the head of the host department, and after the hearing of the Research and Education Board (FoUN).

The director is responsible for the overall operations and the quality assurance of the daily activities of the research school. The director is supported by a deputy director and a coordinator.

### **Steering Committee**

The steering committee is chaired by the Head of Research at the Swedish Defence University, and also consists of one representative from each member university, one representative from the Swedish Armed Forces, and a doctoral student representative.

The steering committee determines the strategic direction as well as the yearly budget and operational plan of the research school, including the choice and number of courses, workshops and other activities offered by the school.



Director Professor Antulio Echevarria



Deputy director Kersti Larsdotter



Coordinator Lydia Lundgren



Head of Research, Malena Britz

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### **Elective courses for 2025**

The courses will be open for all military doctoral students of the research school. Additional places will be offered to civilian doctoral students at member universities. Initially, two courses will be offered each year by the Swedish Defence University. There are still places available on both courses!

#### **The Practice of Soldier Scholars (7,5 ECTS)**

Like many other practitioners that conduct research, military officers with a PhD are often confronted with conflicting identities. Military officers, supposedly, are hierarchical, collective-minded, and rigid whereas researchers are supposed to be critical, individualistic, and nuanced. Although certainly a caricature, the course aims to introduce and develop analytical tools to better deal with and reflect over these dual identities.

Do you become a better researcher on war and military operations if you are an officer and do you become a better officer if you are a researcher? How do these roles and identities interact in the research process as well as in the military profession?

The course is primarily, but not exclusively, catered for military PhD candidates and runs with weekly seminars on Zoom with a concluding on-site in Stockholm workshop to also further networking among international soldier-scholars.

The course runs during weeks 14-18 and there are still places available.  
Eligible students are welcome to sign up via the application form on our [website](#).



Course director professor  
Jan Ångström



Course director professor  
Maria Eriksson Baaz

#### **Research in Sensitive Contexts: Ethics and Secrecy (7,5 ECTS)**

This course focuses on research ethics in sensitive contexts – specifically, research on topics related to national, societal, and human security conducted under challenging and precarious circumstances. It approaches research ethics as an open-ended question, shaped by multiple relationships: with research subjects, society at large, colleagues, and authorities that enable research, as well as the sensitive environments in which research takes place. Additionally, it encourages researchers to reflect on integrity, honesty, and ethical responsibilities.

The course consists of six thematic seminars that are divided into two parts. In the first, an invited researcher shares personal experiences and insights in conversation with doctoral students. In the second, students engage in a seminar discussion based on course readings.

The course runs during weeks 41-45 and there are still places available.  
Eligible students are welcome to sign up via the application form on our [website](#).