

# Advanced Strategic Maritime Course





# Advanced Strategic Maritime Course (ASMC)

## Presentation

In the comprehensive framework of the Advanced Strategic Maritime Course (ASMC), four distinct modules will be delivered to provide participants with a thorough understanding of critical aspects in the realm of maritime affairs.

The first module, “Globalization, Militarization, Navalization,” delves into the interconnected dynamics of globalization, militarization, and naval strategies, exploring their implications on contemporary

maritime security. Following this, “Evolving Maritime Seascape, Legal, and Economic Aspects” examines the shifting landscapes of maritime domains, while delving into the legal and economic dimensions that shape maritime policies and practices. Next, “The Innovation Imperative and the Future of Naval Operations” explores emerging technologies and innovative strategies driving the evolution of naval operations in the 21st century. Lastly, “Strategic Leadership” focuses on cultivating effective leadership skills

tailored to the complexities of naval environments, equipping participants with the acumen needed to navigate strategic challenges with confidence and proficiency.

Through these modules, participants will gain comprehensive insights and strategic competencies crucial for navigating the multifaceted realities of maritime security and leadership.

## Format teaching

To tackle these different strategic subjects, the modules rely on an original and interactive method. Each of these modules is divided into two parts: lecture-debates courses delivered by academics and a committee work delivered by professionals

- **Lecture-debates** are designed to provide latest information to the audience, followed by an interactive discussion of the issues addressed in the framework of the course.
- **Committee works** are facilitated by professionals and experts in the field to work on concrete and applied case studies.
- **Learning expedition:** In partnership with some stakeholders in the Defense industry, it provides insights into technical aspects of the Maritime Defense on the ground.

## General framework

- **Teaching language:** English.
- **Training locations:** Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.
- **Timing of the training:** 20 hrs per module.
- **Professional certificate:** In the framework of the CEC, a professional certificate will be delivered to the students who attend the full training.
- **Partnerships:** French Navy College (Ecole Navale), Marine National (FRench Navy), Ocean Institute at Sorbonne University and Defense industry in the UAE.
- **Academic Credits (policy size similar to General framework):** this executive certificate contributes to the Sorbonne Master's degree in International Law Spaces and Sovereignty. For professionals interested in pursuing a Master's degree, credits can be allocated to validate specific courses or semesters. Professional experience is also taken into account when determining eligibility and credit allocations.



# MODULE 1

## Globalization, Militarization, Navalization

(September 15th-19th, 2025)

### Course objective:

This introductory module will examine geopolitical strategic issues pertaining to the Indian and Pacific Oceans region, with a particular emphasis on the impact of globalization on defense and security challenges.



## Lecture-debates

| Academic institutions  | Objectives  |
|--|---|
| <div>French Naval Academy</div> <div>-</div> <div>Dr. Emmanuel Véron</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Globalised oceans:</b> Exploring the concept of globalized oceans, analyzing the interconnectedness of maritime spaces. Examine the economic, environmental, and security dimensions, understanding how globalized oceans shape international relations.</li><li><b>Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific:</b> Analysing the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific region, examining geopolitical dynamics, key players, and emerging challenges. Explore the impact on global affairs and regional stability.</li><li><b>Navies and Indian Ocean strategies:</b> Analyzing naval strategies in the Indian Ocean, assessing the role of maritime forces in regional security. Examine how naval power shapes geopolitical dynamics and influences strategic decision-making (India, China, Gulf...)</li><li><b>NATO’s maritime posture, EU maritime strategy related initiatives:</b> Investigating NATO’s maritime posture and the EU’s maritime initiatives, exploring their roles in collective security and regional stability. Evaluate the collaborative efforts and strategic implications for the maritime domain.</li><li><b>Pacific Sea Power in the IO:</b> Examining the influence of Pacific Sea Power in the Indian Ocean, considering naval capabilities, alliances, and regional power shifts. Assess the implications for geopolitics and security in the broader maritime context.</li><li><b>Proliferation:</b> Investigating maritime proliferation challenges, focusing on the spread of naval capabilities, weapons, and technologies. Assess the impact on regional stability, global security, and potential counterproliferation strategies.</li></ul> |

## Committee work

(practical application in an operational environment)

| Academic institutions                  | Subjects  |
|--|---|
|  | <i>EU strategy in the Indian Ocean and ATALANTA operation and Indo-Pacific militarization in context</i>  |
| <div>Operational Senior Officers</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>EUNAVFOR ATALANTA</b> French SNR representative</li><li><b>DIRPLANS</b> Combined Maritime Force in Bahreïn</li></ul> |





## MODULE 2

### Evolving Maritime Seascape, Legal and Economic Aspects

(November 3rd-7th, 2025)

#### Course objective:

The main purpose of this module is to assess the strategic consequences of the evolution of maritime activities, with a specific focus on emerging conflicts and challenges of legal and economic context with their consequences.

## Lecture-debates

| Academic institutions                       | Objectives   |
|---|--|
| University of Brussels - Prof. Eric Franckx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Maritime Security:</b> Contributing to a comprehensive understanding of maritime security, law, and sustainable energy transitions.</li><li>• <b>Illegal Maritime activities:</b> Tackling issues related to illegal trafficking and smuggling in maritime domains. Legal framework (UNCLOS, MARPOL, UNTOC, Palermo Protocol...)</li><li>• <b>International Maritime Law:</b> Analysing the safeguarding maritime sea routes and straits while addressing challenges to UNCLOS,</li><li>• <b>Maritime Economic challenges:</b> Exploring offshore and underwater mineral resources within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Strategic developments in merchant shipping</li><li>• <b>Maritime resources:</b> Delving into fisheries and aquaculture in the Indian Ocean, covering resources, practices, conflicting interests, and biodiversity protection.</li><li>• <b>Maritime Sustainability:</b> Examining sustainable development at sea, international relations, and climate change strategy for "blue growth" and "blue economy,"</li></ul> |

## Committee work

(practical application in an operational environment)

| Academic institutions       | Subjects   |
|-----------------------------|--|
|                             | <i>Illicit trafficking in the Indian Ocean or Legal Matters of International Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific</i> |
| Operational Senior Officers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ALINDIEN MARSEC</b> (French naval base) – FFEAU/J3/J2</li></ul>             |



# MODULE 3

## the Innovation Imperative and the Future of Naval Operations

(January 11th-16th, 2026)

### Course objective:

This module will address the impact of technological changes over security and-defence challenges at sea.

| Lecture-debates  |  |
|--|--|
| Academic institutions  | Objectives   |
| Sorbonne University & French Naval Academy<br>-<br>Dr. Jean-Marie Kowalski | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Digitalization:</b> tackling issues related to cyber defence at sea and maritime big data in naval operations and ship design.</li><li>• <b>Autonomous systems:</b> comprehensive understanding of unmanned and autonomous systems, but also naval applications of artificial intelligence.</li><li>• <b>New technologies for new naval assets:</b> analysing the research and innovation processes in the naval industry and the introduction of new technologies. Consequences for force design. Interactions between civilian and naval shipyards.</li><li>• <b>Designing the future of naval operations:</b> assessing the contemporary spectrum of maritime operations (from humanitarian aid and law enforcement to blue waters operations, counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, lessons learned from recent conflicts...)</li><li>• <b>Naval assets and human resources:</b> anticipating the consequences of fast technical disruption over manpower and the creation of new skills within the navies. Assessing the future of education and training of crews.</li></ul> |

| Committee work<br>(practical application in an operational environment) |   |
|---|---|
| Academic institutions   | Subjects  |
| Defense Industries Experts  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Defense against autonomous system</b> in future naval operations</li><li>• <b>AI, Big Data and e-maintenance</b> in future naval operations</li><li>• <b>Naval Cyber Security</b> Challenges</li></ul> |





# MODULE 4

## Strategic Leadership

(March 15th -20th, 2026)

**Course objective:**

This module serves as an introductory course to Strategic Leadership, particularly within the context of Naval affairs. Its purpose is to assist participants in nurturing their leadership capabilities, refining their critical thinking abilities, and deepening their comprehension of the Profession of Arms as they progress into staff and command leadership roles in the future.

| Lecture-debates                                |  |
|--|--|
| Academic institutions                          | Main topics<br>(leadership in the Profession of Arms)  |
| French Naval Academy<br>-<br>Prof. Richard Pin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Decision-Making Abilities:</b> Equip participants with the skills to make informed and effective decisions under pressure, considering strategic implications and ethical considerations.</li><li><b>Collaborative Leadership:</b> Encourage a leadership style that promotes teamwork, communication, and collaboration among diverse teams in naval operations.</li><li><b>Strategic Vision:</b> Enable attendees to develop a long-term perspective and anticipate future challenges and opportunities within the naval domain.</li><li><b>Understanding of Naval Operations:</b> Expand participants' knowledge of naval strategies, tactics, and operations, enabling them to lead with confidence in various maritime environments.</li><li><b>Adaptive Leadership Skills:</b> Prepare participants to adapt to dynamic and complex situations, leveraging innovation and agility to lead effectively in evolving maritime challenges.</li><li><b>Ethical Leadership:</b> Instill a strong sense of integrity, accountability, and ethical behavior in attendees, emphasizing the importance of upholding professional standards in the naval profession.</li></ul> |

| Committee work<br>(practical application in an operational environment) |   |
|---|---|
| Academic institutions   | Subjects<br><i>Carrier Battle Group and Multinational Command Operation</i>   |
| Defense Industries Experts & Operational Senior Officer                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Executive Assistant of Strategy and Politics Office to the Cabinet of the Naval Chief of the Defense Staff – STRATPOL</li></ul> |

# MODULE 5

## Learning Expedition

(April 12th-18th, 2026)

### Course objective:

To complement the advanced maritime strategic course, including visits to naval bases and defense industry sites, a practical learning expedition would be beneficial for professionals. These expeditions offer an invaluable opportunity for participants to translate theoretical knowledge into practical understanding by engaging directly with operational contexts and industry practices. Through hands-on experiences, such as observing naval operations firsthand and witnessing the production processes of defense technologies, attendees can deepen

their comprehension of strategic maritime concepts and gain insights into the complexities of modern naval warfare. Additionally, these expeditions facilitate networking opportunities and foster collaboration among professionals from diverse backgrounds, enriching their learning experience and preparing them for the multifaceted challenges of maritime security and strategic leadership.

**Duration:** 1 week

## Learning expedition programme

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | <b>French Navy (Toulon)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French Submarine School</li> <li>Visit to a French SSN (Nuclear-Powered Attack Submarine)</li> </ul>   |
| Day 2 | <b>French Naval Base and Naval Group site visit (Ollioules)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit to the French surface ship simulator facilities</li> <li>Tour of the French FREMM Destroyer</li> <li>Demonstration of new CMS (Combat Management System) capabilities</li> <li>Presentation on autonomous system capabilities</li> </ul>   |
| Day 3 | <b>Naval Air Base &amp; ASM (Brest)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morning: Naval aviation focus with GAN conference. Visit to the Naval Air Base and presentations on naval aviation operations at the Naval Academy. Focus on NH90-ASW and binôme (FREMM/NH)</li> <li>Afternoon: Visit to a FREMM Destroyer. Presentation on Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) activities or presentation on Thales' Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) industrial activities.</li> </ul> |
| Day 4 | <b>FDI (Lorient)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit and discussions with the executives of the Fusiliers and Commandos base</li> <li>Lunch at the ALFUSCO base with senior officers.</li> <li>Visit to the FDI (Destroyer Defense and Intervention) construction site.</li> </ul>   |
| Day 5 | <b>Ocean Institut (Paris)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program management by the Ocean Institute</li> <li>Welcome at Sorbonne University, at the International Conference Center. Theme: Navy operations - representatives from ALOPS, CPCO, and DGRIS.</li> <li>Theme: Industrial innovation. Presentations on plans/programs, DGA, AID, digital agency.</li> </ul>  |

## Tuition Fees and Scholarships

**38,000 AED**

Discounts are available for this programme\*:

•5 %– 15% corporate rate

\*Conditions apply  
Visit the v page on our website for more information

### **For more information, please contact:**

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# Why Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi?

In today's world, it has become a necessity to broaden possibilities, improve capacities and develop leadership skills.

The Continuing Education Center at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi offers specialised programmes that are designed for individuals and entities to enhance professional development and career growth. These programmes are tailored to the current market needs and can be also developed upon the request of private and public entities.

All programmes are prepared in collaboration with the academic teams of the Sorbonne University in Paris in order to meet the standards of excellence offered by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

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