



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Curiosity Unleashed. Your Future in Shaping Tomorrow's Security

A guide for future innovators, thinkers & leaders.

Thank you for joining us for today's debate on the future of UK defence. Did it spark your imagination? Did it make you ask bigger questions? Good. Because that's where your journey begins.

Beyond the Headlines – Your Role in Global Security

The world is changing faster than ever, and so is what *defence* truly means. It's no longer just about soldiers and tanks; it's about safeguarding our way of life, our digital future, our planet, and our values. This isn't just a job for seasoned experts. It's a field hungry for fresh perspectives, diverse talents, and the kind of innovative thinking you could bring.

Defence isn't defined by a single career path. The debate you just heard proves it: we need everyone from artists to engineers, lawyers to political scientists, business leaders to coders. The biggest challenges require the brightest, most diverse minds.

Unlock Your Potential. Why Interdisciplinary Thinking Matters

You might be thinking, "I'm not even an undergraduate yet. How can I contribute to something so big?" The answer lies in the power of interdisciplinary thinking – the very heart of the world's biggest challenges.

No Single Answer

Problems like cyber warfare, climate security, or ethical AI can't be solved by one discipline alone. They demand insights from technology, the sciences, law, ethics, social science, and even art and design.

Future-Proof Your Skills

By learning to connect different fields, you develop a skillset that is incredibly adaptable and highly sought after – critical thinking, problem-solving, ethical reasoning, and communication across diverse groups.

Real-World Impact

You don't just learn theories; you apply them to real, pressing global issues that affect everyone. This is about making a tangible difference.

Big Questions to Spark Your Thinking (And Your Future Studies)

The future of UK Defence isn't just about military might – it's about smart policy decisions, ethical choices, and where we choose to invest our time and resources as a society. These "Big Questions" will show you how everything from technology to economics connects to building a more secure future.

Technology & Ethics

When an autonomous system makes life-or-death decisions, is the ultimate responsibility with the code, the human who designed it, or the public policy that allowed its deployment?

Connecting: Computer Science, Philosophy, Law, Public Policy

Digital Battlegrounds & Public Trust

If the next war is fought with misinformation online, should we invest more in digital literacy and public resilience, or in traditional military hardware?

Connecting: Politics, Sociology, Digital Media, Cyber Security, Public Policy

Climate Defence & Resource Allocation

As our planet changes, how do we balance defence spending with vital investments in climate resilience and aid, to protect communities both at home and abroad from environmental crises?

Connecting: Environmental Science, International Relations, Public Policy, Economics

Beyond Borders

If a cyberattack from anywhere can cripple our nation, how do international law and public policy define an act of war, and what's the fair way for a country to respond?

Connecting: International Law, Political Science, Global Security, Public Policy

Data & Democracy for Public Safety

How can public policy ensure new technologies protect society from threats without sacrificing the fundamental freedoms they're meant to defend, especially concerning our personal data?

Connecting: Human Rights Law, Data Science, Ethics, Public Policy

Defence Innovation & Societal Impact

Who should drive the next generation of security innovations: engineers in labs, or imaginative thinkers who understand public needs and ethical implications, shaping public policy for the future?

Connecting: Engineering, Business, Art & Design, Futures Studies, Public Policy

Investing in People or Hardware

To make the UK truly safer, should we invest more in state-of-the-art weaponry, or in public services like education, healthcare, and social welfare that build a stronger, more resilient society?

Connecting: Economics, Public Policy, Sociology, Political Science

.....

The world needs smart, passionate, and well-rounded individuals to tackle its toughest challenges. By embracing interdisciplinary thinking, you won't just learn about the future of defence; you'll be actively equipped to shape it.

Ready to start asking the big questions and finding the multi-faceted answers? Your journey begins now.

Your Path Starts Here. How Edinburgh Can Help You Create YOUR Map

Edinburgh is not just a university; it's a hub of innovation, historical reflection, and future-focused thinking. Here's how you could start exploring these interdisciplinary avenues as an undergraduate.

Explore Diverse Courses. Look for joint honours degrees, electives, or optional modules that span different departments. Love politics? Pair it with Arabic or Russian language. Fascinated by AI? Add a philosophy course on ethics.

Join Student Societies. Get involved in clubs focused on current affairs, technology, debate, or even creative writing. These are perfect places to meet like-minded students and explore new ideas.

Attend Public Lectures & Events. Many university departments host free talks by leading experts. Keep an eye out for events in politics, law, AI, sustainable development, and global security.

Research Opportunities. Ask your lecturers about opportunities to get involved in research, even as an undergraduate. Your fresh perspective is valuable.

Network. Connect with fellow students, lecturers, and even event speakers. Every conversation is a chance to learn and discover new potential pathways.



Discover more
www.sps.ed.ac.uk/study/



uoessps



uoe-sps



sps_uoe



uoessps



uoessps