

# EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2025



Escuela de  
Gobierno y Liderazgo  
Isabel la Católica



UFV



# Welcome Letter

Dear participant,

Welcome to the **European Summer School 2025!** You will spend nine days at a 12th-century Cistercian monastery, focusing on Europe's security and defense amid global uncertainty. Collaborate with young professionals and experts from NATO, the European Parliament, and national defense ministries to address urgent geopolitical challenges.

The program also includes a cultural visit to Barcelona and the Sagrada Família. We anticipate your growth, connections, and leadership.

Warm regards,

**School of Government and Leadership**  
**Isabel la Católica**



The challenges of **security and defense** in a changing world; the role of Europe in pursuing the global common good

# Make this summer count!

- 1** Spend **9 exciting days** in sunny Catalonia (5-13 July)
- 2** Connect with top experts in **security and defense**, policymakers, and like-minded students
- 3** Tackle **real case studies** and global challenges
- 4** Enjoy a **full-day journey to Barcelona**, including a private visit to the iconic **Sagrada Familia**





**The 2025 edition will focus on the critical challenge of the European Union's security and defense amidst crises such as nuclear deterrence, the war in Ukraine, instability in Africa and the Middle East, and growing tensions in Southeast Asia.**

**The program's framework will be inspired by the Jubilee of Hope convened by the late Pope Francis, with a special focus on hope as a foundational virtue for public leadership.**

**Get up to an 80% scholarship and join us at Monastery of Poblet**



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**The main goal is to prepare individuals to take on the responsibility of leading during this era of transformation, promoting the common good in all its dimensions.**





The program blends interactive training sessions, hands-on workshops, and inspiring keynote lectures — all while offering unique opportunities to connect with a diverse network of peers and professionals.

**1** Students will develop a bold and values-based strategy for Europe's security and defense in a multipolar world — one rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and guided by a commitment to peace, justice, and human dignity.

**2** Six distinct modules featuring panel discussions and presentations that will explore the challenge from various disciplines, adopting an open reason approach.

**3** The pedagogical model is based on three steps: “*Detectar - Descubrir y Decidir*” (Detect—Discover—Decide), which has resonances with the well-known “see—judge—act”

**4** Participants will sharpen their ability to analyze global security challenges, refine decision-making, and understand how ethical frameworks shape policy.





# Explore the future of Europe and its role in terms of security and defense

This is more than just an academic program—it's a transformative experience. You'll leave with a **deeper understanding of Europe's role in the world, enhanced leadership skills**, and a network of peers and mentors who share your commitment to the global common good. Don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity to grow, connect, and make a lasting impact!

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- **Security & Defense in a Changing World** – Explore Europe's role in addressing global threats through cooperation, strategic autonomy, and ethical leadership.
- **Ethics & Catholic Social Teaching** – Reflect on human dignity, justice, and the common good as guiding principles for leadership and policy.
- **Global Affairs & Geopolitics** – Examine diplomacy, conflict, and power shifts in an increasingly complex international landscape.
- **Sustainability & Society** – Tackle urgent environmental and social challenges shaping the future of Europe and the globe.



# Selection Criteria

The target audience is young individuals, primarily European residents, with a political and social vocation, in their final years of university or master's studies (ages 22-35), or in the early stages of their professional careers.

Participants will be selected based on their academic background, experience in universities and public institutions.

The admission process is ongoing. Admission will be communicated once the organizers have verified that the registration is complete and correct.

# 50

Young leaders in the making

# June 20

Deadline

## Participation, Attendance, and Evaluation Method.

The program comprises **125 hours (5 ECTS)**, spread over **9 in-person sessions from July 5th to 13th, 2025**, and has an academic commitment divided into:

It is structured in five modules, which will be covered throughout the summer school.

- **Module 1:** Formation of Security and Defense for the Common Good
- **Module 2:** Social Doctrine of the Church
- **Module 3:** Virtues of the Servant Leader
- **Module 4:** Teamwork
- **Module 5:** Cultural visit

**30%** Teamwork and cultural activities

**70%** Lectures, seminars and final project

**5** ECTS

APPLY NOW





# Meet your new instructors!

At the **European Summer School 2025**, you will learn directly from some of the most respected leaders and **thinkers in security, defense, global affairs, and leadership**.

Our faculty is made up of **high-ranking military officers, policymakers, international strategists, and scholars** — all deeply committed to forming a new generation of leaders for the **Common Good**. Throughout the program, you'll engage with instructors who don't just teach theory, but actively shape real-world decisions that impact Europe and the world.

Each session is crafted to immerse you in critical conversations guided by true experts:



## Philip McDonagh

A professor at Dublin City University, directing the Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations, which conducts engaged research with churches and faith communities in Ireland and Europe.



## Ks. Piotr Mazurkiewicz

A Polish Roman Catholic priest and social sciences professor at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, he was Secretary General of COMECE from 2008 to 2012.



## Marek Misak

Expert in international law, working at the Secretariat of COMECE since 2014. He studied law in Vienna and Sussex and has been active in Church and civil society initiatives across Europe. With experience in legal practice and a passion for dialogue between faith and policy, Marek brings a multilingual, cross-cultural perspective to European affairs.



## Klaus Welle

Distinguished European leader and former Secretary-General of the European Parliament (2009–2022). He currently chairs the Martens Centre's Academic Council and serves as a Guest Professor at the London School of Economics and KU Leuven. With decades of experience in European politics and governance, he continues to inspire future leaders across academia and international institutions.



# Meet your new instructors!



## Beatriz de León

Conflict, Justice, and Security Advisor at First Call Partners; Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI); PhD candidate in Sociology at Sorbonne University, specializing in radicalization.



## Stefan Lunte

Secretary General of Justice and Peace Europe (Justitia et Pax); expert in Social Doctrine of the Church, peace ethics, disarmament, and European security policy.



## José Luis Bazán

Legal Adviser and Policy Officer at COMECE; expert in human rights, religious freedom, and the Social Doctrine of the Church in the European context.



## Grégoire Catta SJ

Jesuit priest, theologian, and Director of the Service National Famille et Société at the French Bishops' Conference. Expert in Catholic Social Teaching, justice and peace, and socio-political discernment.



## Carlos Javier Frías Sánchez

Colonel in the Spanish Army, Staff College Graduate, Ph.D. in Peace and International Security, with Master's degrees in Strategic Studies and in Security and Defense.



## José Pardo de Santayana

Brigadier General (ret.); former strategic analyst for the Spanish Ministry of Defense; contributor to the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.



# About the program

- **Mode:** In-person
- **Duration:** From 05 - 13 July

**Location:** "Plaza Corona de Aragón, 11, 43448, Vimbodí (Tarragona Province)".

# Main goals

- 1** Respond to shifting European security dynamics and rising geopolitical threats.
- 2** Address the impact of the U.S. suspension of military aid to Ukraine (March 2025).
- 3** Strengthen EU defense autonomy in light of increased Russian assertiveness.
- 4** Implement the Readiness 2030 plan to mobilize up to €800 billion for military enhancement.
- 5** Integrate ethical principles by promoting peace, justice, and the common good in accordance with the Church's Social Doctrine.



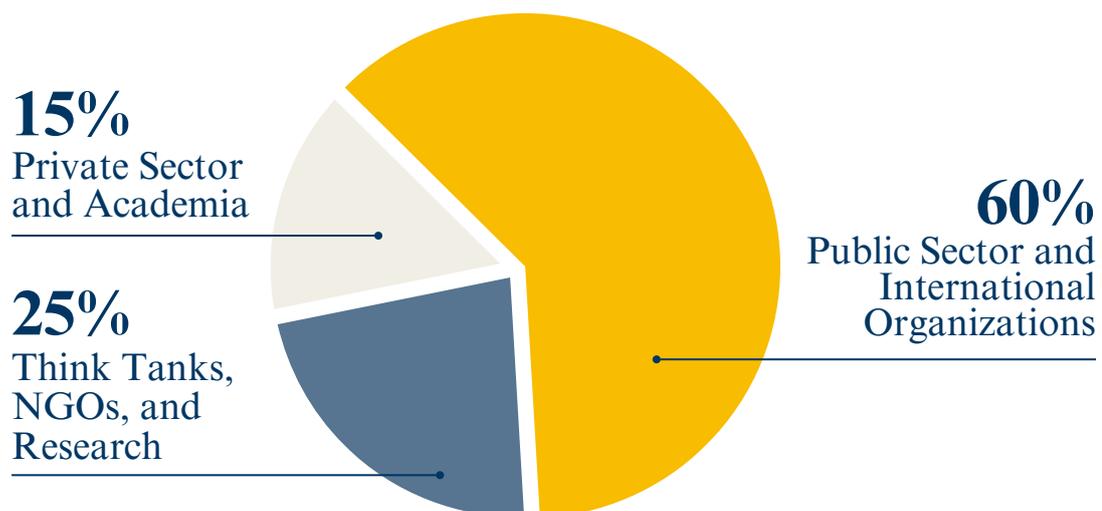
# Student Profile

The European Summer School 2025 is designed for young leaders, ages 22–30, who are passionate about shaping a more secure, just, and peaceful world.

- Are committed to **promoting the Common Good in political, social, or public leadership roles**.
- Have a **strong interest in security, defense**, and international affairs, particularly from a humanistic and ethical perspective.
- Aspire to **integrate human dignity, solidarity, and justice** into policymaking and leadership strategies.
- Are ready to **address global challenges with critical thinking**, a deep sense of responsibility, and innovative solutions.
- Value integral human development as **essential for building lasting peace and security**.
- Believe that leadership is a **vocation to serve others** and foster real change, especially in vulnerable communities.

## Professional Development Outlook

Graduates of the European Summer School will be ready to drive change in international organizations like the **United Nations, NATO, and the European Union, working in security, peacebuilding, and development**. They can advise governments on defense, foreign policy, and human rights, or shape ideas in think tanks and research centers. **Opportunities also include diplomatic service, humanitarian NGOs, and global risk consultancy**. Those passionate about education can lead the next generation in peace studies, ethical leadership, and security policy — always with a focus on the common good.





# 1 Embrace the Common Good

Dive into Catholic Social Teaching and understand its ethical foundations for leadership and justice.

# 2 Apply Ethics to Global Security

Shape European and global security with principles of peace, dignity, and the common good.

# 3 Lead with Purpose

Connect personal vocation and virtues with impactful, strategic leadership.



## 4 Reflect on Political Responsibility

Critically analyze the role of institutions in promoting justice and peace in today's world.

## 5 Create Inclusive Solutions

Design fair and effective security and development strategies that prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable.



Joining the **European Summer School 2025** means becoming part of a community of purpose-driven leaders committed to the common good across politics, society, and business. Graduates gain **access to a support network that keeps them at the cutting edge, expands their professional opportunities, and connects them with influential leaders.**

### **Strategic Networking**

Graduates of the summer school will have access to exclusive meetings with high-ranking officials in the public sector, business leaders, and civil society figures, enabling them to **strengthen their network at an early stage and open doors to new opportunities.**

### **Continuous Education**

Learning doesn't end with the completion of the program. Alumni of the Escuela de Gobierno y Liderazgo Isabel la Católica **will have access to advanced training activities and conferences led by experts in leadership, negotiation, and political strategy**, as well as priority in the admission processes in the future programs.

### **Alumni Network**

The alumni community of the Escuela de Gobierno y Liderazgo Isabel la Católica is a key pillar for the professional development of its members. Through events, mentoring, and collaboration spaces, summer school **graduates will be able to exchange ideas, receive guidance, and design a solid action plan for their career path.**

**Completing the Summer School represents an opportunity to create a community of exceptionally talented young individuals and prominent European leaders from the political, economic, business, social, and academic sectors.**



# Scholarships

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The program offers an exciting scholarship opportunity designed to support young leaders. With scholarships covering up to 80%, 50%, or 30% of tuition and meals, we're committed to making this life-changing experience accessible.

## 80% Scholarship

- Covers €1,600 of the €2,000 program fee.
- Granted to exceptional candidates who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership qualities, and/or financial need.
- Early applicants receive priority consideration.

## 50% Scholarship

- Covers €1,000 of the €2,000 program fee.
- Awarded to high-achieving candidates with a strong commitment to the program's mission.
- Preference is given to early applicants.

## 30% Scholarship

- Covers €600 of the €2,000 program fee.
- Designed for promising applicants who show academic merit and motivation.
- Early applicants are prioritized.

APPLY NOW



APPLY HERE

## FAQ

For any inquiries regarding the program, you can contact us at:  
**Escuela de Gobierno y Liderazgo Isabel la Católica.**

**Official Email:** [ess.egl@ufv.es](mailto:ess.egl@ufv.es)

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# Meet us

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