



The University of Alabama

■ CIA: Central Intelligence Agency



DEA: Drug Enforcement Agency

DHS: Department of Homeland Security

DOD: Department of Defense

DIA: Defense Intelligence Agency

FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation

INTERPOL: International Criminal Police Organization

IGO: Inter-governmental Organization

KSA: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

NGO: Non-governmental Organization



What You Can Do with a Security Studies Degree

■ Career opportunities in the intelligence, national security, and law enforcement fields include:

- x Intelligence analysis or operations (CIA, FBI, DIA, NSA, etc. for U.S. citizens)
- x Foreign Service Officer (U.S. Department of State for U.S. citizens) and diplomacy, including the UN (for all nationals)
- x Counterterrorism and counter-radicalization (CIA, ODNI/NCTC, FBI, etc.)
- x Intelligence/defense contractors (private sector)
- x Corporate intelligence, risk assessments, and market analysis
- x Cybersecurity
- x Federal or local law enforcement (FBI, DHS, DEA, state and local police departments, etc.)
- x Law enforcement IGOs (e.g. INTERPOL)
- x Customs and border control (DHS, Coast Guard)
- x Emergency management (DHS, state and local emergency bureaus)
- x Data analysis (statistics, survey research, etc.)
- x U.S. military (various specialties)
- x Humanitarian NGOs or IGOs
- x Cultural competency instruction and consulting
- x Linguist (NSA)
- x Think Tanks



- x The best fellowship that graduate students should pursue is the Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF).
- x Both undergraduate and graduate students can apply for the **Boren Fellowship**.
- x Private sector companies in the intelligence and national security fields will consider applicants with either Bachelor's or Master's degrees, though some will prioritize applicants who already have an active security clearance.

Plan ahead and pay close attention to application deadlines. You will typically need to apply many months before the actual start date of a government internship or fellowship

Not all internships are created equal. If you are seeking to become an intelligence or national security professional, working on a political campaign will not be helpful to your career prospects. If your goal is to work in the federal government, try to get an internship at an agency where you would ultimately like to work and which will grant you a security clearance. This is often difficult and may involve sacrifice. Competition is tough, and most federal internships are not paid. But if you can get one, an internship will probably be worth it.

Other than a few key fellowships (e.g. the PMF and Boren programs), an internship in a federal agency is your best bet of becoming a permanent federal employee. If a federal internship is not in the cards, go local.

While completing any internship, focus on networking, building your KSAs, and learning what pathways are most likely to result in successfully acquiring a permanent position. Exhibit professionalism, seek out mentors, and contribute to the organization to such a degree that co-workers will become advocates for you.

As you network, how you present yourself and your credentials will be major factors in whether these contacts will take you seriously and aid your career pursuits. Later on, as you apply and interview for positions, or are investigated for a security clearance, these factors will continue to impact your



- Do not look for the path of least resistance.
- Do not procrastinate. Your academic studies and your career success

- x Be prepared to provide to investigators details about you, your immediate family members, everywhere you have lived, worked, or attended school, and all of your foreign travel and close foreign friends.

a controlled manner, and that you have taken steps to address side effects of ill mental health (counseling services, properly medicating, etc.).



M



X

<https://www.pmf.gov/>

X

<https://dlInseo.org/>

<https://dlInseo.org/content/higher->

X

<https://vsfs.state.gov/>

X



Create an account on USAJobs.gov, consult their guide on best practices for resume writing, search for jobs, and read sample job postings to learn how federal agencies define KSAs, explain their hiring processes, etc. When using USAJob's search function, use these filters to distinguish between “real” opportunities you should apply for vs.

-7.2-8 (nd): Tw 6.96 0 Td 2



Focuses on providing technology solutions across the defense, space, civilian, and intelligence markets.

■ <https://www.saic.com/>

