

Australia Awards Short Course Practitioners Exchange in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy



The course participants at the Welcome Ceremony on the first day of the in-Australia program, held at UQ's St Lucia Campus in Brisbane.

The Australia Awards Short Course *Practitioners Exchange in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy* was funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), managed by Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI), and delivered by The University of Queensland's specialist International Development unit (UQID). Course Leaders were Professor Rain Liivoja (Deputy Dean, TC Beirne School of Law) and Dr. Kirril Shields (Director of Education and Regional Policy, Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect) from The University of Queensland (UQ).

The short course provided participants with a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of Australian policy—and its practical implementation—on disarmament and non-proliferation. It facilitated meaningful discussions between Australian and Indonesian policymakers, focusing on the bilateral relationship and the two nation's shared global and regional interests.

Course schedule

- **Pre-course workshop** delivered in Jawa Barat, Indonesia, at Alana Hotel and Resort, Sentul (6 – 8 May 2024)
- **In-Australia course** delivered over two weeks in Brisbane and Canberra (10 – 21 June 2024)
- **Post-course workshop** delivered in Jakarta, Indonesia, at Mercure Jakarta Gatot Subroto Hotel (15 – 16 October 2024)



Course provider

UQ is ranked among the world's top 50 universities and is a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) universities. The University has a world-class track record of delivering practical solutions to complex global challenges, collaborating with partner institutions and industry in areas of national and international importance.

UQID builds the capacity of people and organisations around the world to achieve their development goals. Recognised for excellence through technical leadership, training and capacity building, management, and research, the unit is one of the Indo-Pacific's leading university development groups. Since it was established in 1994, UQID has completed more than 500 projects across 80 countries. The unit has designed and delivered more than 190 tailored short courses for 5000+ participants from across South-West Asia, South-East Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Working with a broad range of stakeholders, UQID draws upon the knowledge, expertise and skills of university academics, leading practitioners across Australia, and global experts to rapidly develop and effectively deliver training and capacity-building programs for a range of Australian and international agencies. Our clients include the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the United Nations (UN).

Pre-course workshop

Held in Bogor from 6 – 8 May 2024, the 3-day pre-course workshop was an important opportunity to build rapport among the cohort, while also explaining the Australian system of government, contemporary society, and logistics of the course. The workshop proved particularly useful in understanding the context in which the participants worked and the relevance of the disarmament and non-proliferation topic to this context. This allowed for the in-Australia component of the course to be tailored to the interests of the participants. For example, several participants noted the significance of international export control regimes to their work and current discussions in Indonesia about the development of a domestic export control mechanism. This insight led to a substantial increase of focus on export controls in Australia. Also, presentations from Indonesian officials during the pre-course workshop helped situate the content of the course on the Indonesian domestic policy landscape.

Course participants

The course had 19 participants, including senior staff such as Directors and Chief of Sub-Directorate, and functional officials including policy analysts, functional planners, diplomats, trade facilitators, and analysts. The participants, 10 women and 9 men aged 25 to 54 represented various Indonesian government departments, selected for their roles in policy and their specific areas of expertise. These departments included the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade, and the National Cyber and Cryptography Agency.

Course highlights

The course was successfully executed, with many participants providing positive feedback on several key elements of the program, including:

- The comprehensive theoretical and practical knowledge provided on disarmament and non-proliferation policy, covering topics such as nuclear strategy, deterrence, weapons systems (including emerging technologies like quantum, cyber, AI, hypersonic), social media influence, biological threats, and the impact of geopolitical issues like AUKUS, regional conflicts, and tensions. Other important areas addressed included international law, treaties, defence export control, military legal frameworks, border security, gender considerations, hybrid threats, radioactive waste management, and humanitarian disarmament efforts.
- The depth of experience, expertise, and diverse perspectives shared by the range of speakers throughout the short course.
- The valuable site visits to various government agencies and industry entities in Brisbane and Canberra, Australia, which offered practical insights and real-world application of the course material. This included two Roundtables with Senior Australian Government Officials on the topics 'AUKUS' and 'Disarmament, arms control and counter-proliferation', the second of which was chaired by the Australian Ambassador for Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation, Ms Vanessa Wood.

In-Australia program

The in-Australia component, which was delivered from 10–21 June 2024 in Brisbane and Canberra showcased some of the world’s leading experts on topics such as weaponry and legislation, advanced technologies, peace and conflict studies, gender as a guide to policy making, and Indonesian / Australian relations past and present. The first week also revealed the positions that Australia has taken across many years in terms of regional policy. Speakers included Dr Greta Nabb-Keller, Professor Alex Bellamy, Dr Mark Bromley, and Professor Andrew O’Neill.

The second week in Canberra provided the group with opportunities to meet with high-ranking personnel from key Australian Government Departments including DFAT, Defence and Australian Border Force. The participants very much appreciated the opportunity to engage with key Australian stakeholders at two high level Roundtables on the topics of the AUKUS decision, and ‘Disarmament, Arms Control and Counter Proliferation’. The latter Roundtable was chaired by the Ambassador of Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation, Ms Vanessa Woods. The participants noted the roundtables were a great opportunity to discuss and critique Australia’s positions on these issues in a public forum



Participants meeting with Australian Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, and Joint Standing Committee on Treaties at Parliament House, Canberra

Post-course workshop

The post-course workshop was delivered in Jakarta on 15–16 October 2024. Following a request from the participants, this workshop focused on Indonesian perceptions of Australia and the future of Australian / Indonesian relations. The Post-course Workshop was an opportunity for participants to reflect on their roles in the Indonesian government, discuss what the course meant to them and their jobs, and consider the roles they might play in influencing policy in the coming years.



Participants with H.E. Ms. Vanessa Wood, Australia’s Ambassador for Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation following the Roundtable she chaired on ‘Disarmament, arms control and counter-proliferation’ at DFAT’s office in Canberra.

“I am so excited to get a lot of information that is completely new to me, related to disarmament and disarmament, which I never previously thought was related to the cyber field, but with lessons learned and benchmarks from experts, academics and government, I gained valuable knowledge [..]. I learned how Australia builds strategic cooperation with superpower countries, including in the field of technology and maintains it well.”

Anonymous short course participant

“The in-Australia experience really shapes my understanding of the issues. From encountering with experts, academics, and day to day experiences [..]. I got to know ongoing discussions from the news, both through newspaper, tv, or discussion with people. This course also related closely with understanding of AUKUS. Other than discussing with academics, expert, and officials, we also got to know other perspective within ministries in Indonesia”

Anonymous short course participant

“Participating in the disarmament and non-proliferation exchange in Australia has significantly enriched my understanding of technical information, networking, and perspectives related to these fields. The experience has provided me with valuable insights and knowledge that I can apply in my professional endeavours, contributing to a broader understanding of global security challenges and solutions.”

Anonymous short course participant

“The course could significantly impact the policy work our department is doing both bilaterally and unilaterally. Unilaterally, the course has provided us with a deeper understanding of emerging cybersecurity threats and best practices, which can inform the development of stronger national cybersecurity policies. We can apply this knowledge to enhance frameworks that protect critical infrastructure, improve data privacy regulations, and strengthen compliance with local laws such as UU ITE.”

Anonymous short course participant