

Global Foresight

Preparing for Future Trends

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



CSIS | HESS CENTER FOR
NEW FRONTIERS

Course Overview

What will the road to 2050 look like for you and your organization? This course weaves together the critical geopolitical issues and paradigm-shifting megatrends likely to occur in the next 30 years that leaders in government, business, and civil society must prepare for today. The program will provide participants with the tools to spot emerging trends and explore future uncertainty while addressing how the overall international system may cope with change and disruption. Drawing from the full range of CSIS expertise, Global Foresight focuses on five key frontiers: global demographics, food and water security, energy transition and climate change, technology and economic competitiveness, and geopolitics. This course is intended for professionals who want to develop a structured, disciplined approach to addressing future uncertainty through analysis and strategy development. Participants will engage with the content through topical seminars, interactive workshops, and individual and team-based activities.

Course Objectives

The curriculum focuses on a range of topics and skills that will enhance participants' ability to:

- Understand future trends and their relevance to organizational leaders
- Develop strategic foresight tools—from identifying drivers of change to building future worlds—and learn to anticipate external challenges
- Apply knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program to the workplace

Register

DATES: October 20-23, 2025

TUITION: \$4,000

LOCATION: 1616 Rhode Island, Ave, Washington, D.C. 20036
Virtual participation available upon request

REGISTER: www.csis.org/executive-education/courses/global-foresight-preparing-future-trends

QUESTIONS: Please contact Eric Palomaa, Director of the Hess Center for New Frontiers, at epalomaa@csis.org.

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9 AM	Welcome Session	Four Pillars Shaping the Future of Africa	The Digital Future	Information and Trust in Media and Institutions
	BREAK			
10 AM	New Frontiers Five Megatrends That Will Define Our Future	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11 AM	LUNCH	Climate Change and the Energy Transition	Emerging Biotechnologies	Remapping the Global Economy
12 PM	Shifting Demographics in Global Populations	Future of Food ROUNDTABLE LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1 PM	BREAK	Identifying Drivers of Change	Space and New Frontiers in International Security	Applying Foresight to Your Job
2 PM	The Art and Science of Foresight	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
3 PM	Scenario Design Building Future Worlds	Networking Reception	Farewell Session	
4 PM				
5 PM				

Networking
Seminars
Exercises

Seminars

NEW FRONTIERS

Five Megatrends That Will Define Our Future

The pace of change is accelerating, and tomorrow's challenges and opportunities have never been more interconnected. Explore the paradigm-shifting megatrends already in motion across the globe in this introductory session, which will prompt decision makers to grapple with the tough questions they need to better sense, shape, and adapt to the fast-changing future.

SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS IN GLOBAL POPULATIONS

As the global population surpasses 8 billion on its way to a projected 9.8 billion by 2050, historic changes in relative population growth, distribution, and demographics are on track to drastically reshape humankind as we know it. Identify changing outlooks in key regions across continents, countries, and communities.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FORESIGHT

There is no crystal ball for predicting the future, but there is a robust discipline, methodology, and skill set for preparing for it. Learn how experts translate the science and art of foresight into an actionable guide for leaders to navigate tumultuous times.

FOUR PILLARS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AFRICA

Global forces are at play in Africa, shaping its future along four key pillars: security and governance, climate change and conflict, youth, and strength of the judiciary. Discover how the continent can channel its growing populations to increase economic potential, rebuild institutions, and forge new global partnerships.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Even as we cope with the impact of climate change, transitioning the world's biggest economies to a net-zero emissions standard will be one of the greatest challenges humanity has faced. Learn how critical minerals, green technologies, energy financing, and supply chains are reshaping the way the world meets growing energy demand.

THE DIGITAL FUTURE

The opportunities and risks of today's emerging technologies have the potential to shatter existing limits in knowledge, memory, cognition, and human lifespan. Balancing the possibilities of technological innovation with key concerns around security, ethics, and sovereignty will define the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Emerging biotechnologies are no longer the work of science fiction but reality. Synthetic biology and genetic engineering enable critical advancements in areas like drug development, agricultural enhancement, and novel research. Yet, the rewards are not without risks. How can stakeholders reduce the misuse and militarization of biotechnology without hampering scientific or industrial progress?

SPACE AND NEW FRONTIERS IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

International and commercial competition have spread to new domains. New space-based capabilities, coercive tactics, cyberattacks, and gray-zone proxy wars are reframing modern competition, stretching the abilities of traditional governments, and necessitating a new approach to international security and cooperation.

INFORMATION AND TRUST IN MEDIA AND INSTITUTIONS

Global access to information is evolving at a breakneck pace, amplifying the best and worst of human behavior. The inherent contradictions of the information revolution undergird the two biggest struggles of the next quarter century: one for freedom of knowledge and action, the other for truth and trust.

REMAPPING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Slowing globalization, inequality, and the ever-increasing speed of industry disruption due to changing technologies and consumer patterns have mired the modern economic order in uncertainty. Looking to the world's economic future requires a new outlook that takes into account overlapping public health and climate crises, workforce demographic shifts, complex supply chains, and emerging technologies.

Interactive Exercises

IDENTIFYING DRIVERS OF CHANGE

Strategic global foresight requires identifying drivers of change and their interactions while detecting weak signals, avoiding bias confirmation, and ensuring organizational readiness. This team-based exercise allows for hands-on experimentation with foresight methodology, tasking participants with identifying issue-relevant trend drivers and indicators.

SCENARIO DESIGN: BUILDING FUTURE WORLDS

Imagination is an undervalued strategic resource which allows individuals and organizations to explore uncertainties across multiple dimensions, creating realistic scenarios to forecast plausible outcomes. In this exercise, participants will use selected drivers of change to build future worlds, identify stakeholders, map risk, and create a shared basis for discussing the future.

APPLYING FORESIGHT TO YOUR JOB

Learn how individuals and organizations can inform institutional foresight strategies with this final workshop. Participants will reference past successes to practice techniques in socializing leadership, creating formal channels, and ultimately applying foresight to the workplace.



CSIS Executive Education

The Center for Strategic and International Studies' (CSIS) Executive Education Program convenes professionals from diverse backgrounds at Washington, D.C.'s premier bipartisan think tank for transformative programming in leadership, communication, and global issues. For over 60 years, CSIS has brought independent research, innovative ideas, and practical policy solutions to some of the greatest security, regional, and transnational challenges facing policymakers and international thought leaders. Recognized as a "Defense and National Security Center of Excellence" by the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Index, CSIS is led by Chairman Tom Pritzker and President and CEO John J. Hamre.

CSIS Hess Center for New Frontiers

The Hess Center for New Frontiers connects leaders in government, civil society, and business with world-class CSIS research on the macrotrends and forces shaping the future global landscape. Through its flagship presentation, *New Frontiers: Five Megatrends That Will Define Our Future*, and suite of hands-on strategy and foresight workshops, the Hess Center provides decisionmakers with a deeper look at today's drivers of change and a toolkit to prepare for tomorrow.

Photo: Jintana/AdobeStock



CSIS | HESS CENTER FOR
NEW FRONTIERS

1616 Rhode Island Ave NW Washington, DC 20036