



IEGSI

Institut Européen de Gouvernance
et de Stratégie Internationale

IEGSI EXECUTIVE ACADEMY · CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Executive Research Programmes 2026-2027

*Executive Research Certificate · Executive Research Diploma
Annual “IEGSI Global Challenges” Programme · First edition*

Reference: IEGSI/EA/2026-04-EN · July 2026

Application deadline: 11 September 2026 · Intake: 5 October 2026

“Identify. Understand. Anticipate. Propose. Transform.”

OPEN TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS, EXPERTS, EXECUTIVES AND RESEARCHERS WORLDWIDE

01 Purpose of this call

The European Institute for Governance and International Strategy invites applications to the first edition of its executive research programmes. Forty places are offered: fifteen for the Executive Research Diploma and twenty-five for the Executive Research Certificate. The intake is set for 5 October 2026 for both pathways.

These programmes are conducted with the European Centre for Research in Governance and International Strategy (CERGISI), the Scientific and Academic Research Commission, the International Scientific Committee, the International Expert Network and the International Journal of Governance, Strategy and Territories (RIGST). They are delivered entirely online.

The founding rule

At IEGSI, an award does not certify attendance. It recognises a contribution. Each participant conducts, under scientific supervision, research on a real strategic challenge and produces a contribution intended to inform public and institutional decision-making.

02 The two pathways

	Executive Research Certificate	Executive Research Diploma
Purpose	Addressing today's challenges	Anticipating tomorrow's challenges
Nature of the research	Applied research on an existing issue calling for an operational response	Foresight research: scenarios, strategic modelling, recommendations
Duration	3 to 6 months	12 months minimum
Workload	20 ECTS credits, approximately 500 hours	60 ECTS credits, approximately 1,500 hours
Level	Level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework	Level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework, corresponding to master's level
Places	25	15

	Executive Research Certificate	Executive Research Diploma
Deliverables	Policy Brief, Policy Paper, Operational Framework, Strategic Roadmap, Governance Toolkit, institutional guidelines, strategic note	International White Paper, Strategic Foresight Report, Global Strategic Assessment, Future Governance Framework, International Policy Framework, innovative methodological framework
Validation	Scientific assessment of the contribution	Scientific assessment and defence before an international panel of three members, at least one external to the Institute

The Diploma is not conferred at the end of a predefined period. It is conferred when the contribution meets the Institute's scientific, methodological and operational standards and demonstrates genuine potential for application or decision support.

03 The twelve challenges of the first edition

Each applicant selects one of the twelve challenges set by the Scientific and Academic Research Commission for the 2026-2027 edition, and joins the corresponding cohort.

No.	Strategic challenge
01	Anticipatory capacity and anticipatory governance in public institutions
02	Governance of artificial intelligence and the digital transformation of public action
03	International talent attractiveness and science diplomacy
04	Climate resilience and sustainable territorial governance
05	Economic intelligence and economic security of organisations
06	Crisis governance and continuity of public action
07	Strategic sovereignty, critical dependencies and value chains
08	Development finance and the effectiveness of international aid
09	Public integrity, regulation and institutional trust
10	Europe-Africa cooperation and next-generation international partnerships

No.	Strategic challenge
11	Territorial attractiveness and competitiveness in times of transition
12	Global governance, multilateralism and the recomposition of international balances

04 Who should apply

This call is addressed to public officials, diplomats, staff of international organisations, business and organisational leaders, consultants, researchers and doctoral candidates holding a master's-level qualification or significant professional experience in a field related to the challenge selected.

Applications are assessed on the quality and feasibility of the research question proposed, its fit with the challenge selected, the applicant's capacity to carry the research through, access to the field and to the data required, and the contribution of the profile to the disciplinary and geographical diversity of the cohort. Command of French or English is required; contributions may be written in either language.

What participants take with them. A scientific contribution published under their own name, carrying a persistent digital identifier and therefore citable and referenceable; documented expertise on an international strategic issue; a network of correspondents across several continents; access to the Institute's knowledge base; the status of IEGSI Executive Fellow upon completion of the Diploma; and, for the most remarkable contributions, an invitation to join the International Expert Network.

05 Programme fees and excellence scholarships

Programme fees cover individual scientific supervision, access to teaching and resources, assessment, the defence and the publication of the validated contribution. They are set according to the applicant's country of residence, on the basis of the World Bank classification of economies by income group.

	Country of residence	Certificate	Diploma
Group A	High-income countries	€2,000	€5,000
Group B	Middle-income countries	€1,200	€3,000
Group C	Low-income countries	€600	€1,500

This scale reflects a simple principle: merit does not depend on geography. Admission rests on the application and on the quality of the research proposal, not on the financial capacity of the applicant or of their institution.

Fees are payable in three instalments spread over the duration of the pathway. They may be met by the applicant's employer, against an invoice issued by the Institute. No application fee is charged for this first edition.

Excellence scholarships

Five excellence scholarships, carrying full exemption from programme fees, are open under this first edition: two for the Diploma and three for the Certificate. They are awarded by the Scientific and Academic Research Commission solely on the scientific quality of the application and of the research question proposed. Applicants wishing to be considered state this at the head of their research proposal. No evidence of financial means is requested.

06 Application file

The file is submitted electronically and comprises four items.

- a detailed **curriculum vitae**, setting out qualifications, positions held and, where applicable, published work;
- a **three-page research proposal** stating the challenge selected, the research question envisaged, the methodology considered, the anticipated access to the field or to data, and the nature of the intended deliverable;
- a **letter of motivation** setting out the expected benefit of the pathway and the contribution the applicant intends to bring to the work of the cohort;
- **supporting evidence** of the qualifications and positions declared.

Files are sent to **research@iegsi.eu**, with the subject line: **[Executive Academy] Name – Pathway – Challenge selected**. Items are submitted in a single message, in PDF format. Incomplete applications are not considered.

07 Procedure and calendar

First edition 2026-2027

Applications open	July 2026
Deadline	Friday 11 September 2026, midnight, Paris time

First edition 2026-2027

Eligibility check	General Secretariat, on a rolling basis
Scientific assessment	Assessor appointed for each challenge, 14 to 18 September 2026
Interview	For Diploma applicants, by video conference, week of 14 September 2026
Admission decisions	Notified from 21 September 2026
Appointment of supervisors	Upon notification of admission
Intake of the first cohort	Monday 5 October 2026, for both pathways

Admission is decided by the Scientific and Academic Research Commission. Decisions are final and are not accompanied by reasons. Cohorts are limited so as to guarantee individual scientific supervision of every contribution.

08 Nature and standing of the awards

The Executive Research Certificate and the Executive Research Diploma are awards of the European Institute for Governance and International Strategy, conferred in collaboration with the European Centre for Research in Governance and International Strategy (CERGISI) and the International Expert Network, under the seal of the International Scientific Committee.

They attest to the production of a scientific contribution assessed against international research standards and the Institute's own requirements, and are designed according to the learning outcome descriptors of level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework, corresponding to master's level. Each award carries a unique number and is entered in the Institute's register of awards. As institutional awards, they are conferred under the scientific authority of the Institute and not under a national qualifications framework.

A degree is displayed. A publication is cited.

The standing of the award rests less on the certificate than on what it attests: a scientific contribution published under its author's name, carrying a persistent digital identifier, citable in a promotion file, an application or a competitive examination, verifiable at any time in the Institute's register of awards, and referenced in a knowledge base consulted by decision-makers. It is this output, and the international network that comes with it, that stays with its author throughout a career.

Enrolment in a programme confers no right of publication in RIGST. Any article submitted to the Journal is subject to the standard double-blind peer review procedure, with no submission or

publication charges.

Information and applications: research@iegsi.eu · Scientific supervision: secretariat@iegsi.eu · Institutional challenges: partnerships@iegsi.eu · www.iegsi.eu. The founding document of the programmes (ref. IEGSI/EA/2026-01-EN) is available on request. IEGSI is registered in the European Union Transparency Register (registration No. 3697297105186-20).

Paris, 13 July 2026.



The Scientific Committee

European Institute for Governance and International Strategy