

## **RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR WAR AND DEFENCE**

This framework document sets out the organisation, activities and responsibilities of the Research School for War and Defence. It is reviewed by the Steering Committee on an annual basis.

### **MISSION**

The Research School for War and Defence is an international research school for military officers. It was founded in 2024 as a collaboration between the Swedish Defence University and the Swedish Armed Forces. The core objective of the school is to strengthen the doctoral education in areas relevant to the armed forces and to provide a strong international network of soldier-scholars (i.e. military officers with a doctoral degree). Additional objectives are to promote the long-term development of knowledge within the armed forces and strengthen research in important areas of professional military practices (such as warfighting, military organisation and profession, military leadership and defence planning).

The Research School is open to military officers who are enrolled in a doctoral programme and the soldier-scholar network is open to military officers with a doctoral degree.

### **ORGANISATION**

The Research School is a collaboration between the Swedish Defence University, the Swedish Armed Forces and other member universities, and it is hosted by the Department of War Studies at the Swedish Defence University. It is governed by a Steering Committee and a Director, with additional strategic advice provided by an Advisory Board.

#### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee consists of the Head of Research at the Swedish Defence University, one representative from each member university, one representative from the Swedish Armed Forces, and a doctoral student representative. It is chaired by the Head of Research at the Swedish Defence University. The members of the Steering Committee are appointed by each of the member universities and the Swedish Armed Forces respectively, and the doctoral student representative by the doctoral students at the Research School. A majority (at least 50%) of the committee members must hold a PhD degree.

The Director of the Research School, the Deputy Director of the Research School and the Academic Head of the host department have the right to attend and speak at the Steering Committee's meetings.

The Steering Committee convenes at least two times a year. The quorum for the Steering Committee meetings is when at least half of the committee members are present, provided that the majority of its members hold a PhD degree. A qualified

majority (at least 75%) of the committee is required for matters that change basic principles or the direction of the Research School.

The Steering Committee determines the strategic direction as well as the annual budget and operational plan of the Research School, including the choice and number of courses, workshops and other activities offered by the school.

### **Director**

The Director of the Research School is appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the Swedish Defence University, on the proposal of the Head of the host department, and after the hearing of the Research and Education Board (FoUN). The Director must hold a PhD degree and should preferably be a senior professor as well as a military officer.

The Director is responsible for the overall operation and the quality assurance of the day-to-day activities of the Research School. The Director manages the Research School in accordance with the decisions of the Steering Committee, including the financial management of the school, and reports to the Steering Committee on the activities and finances of the Research School. In addition, the Director is also responsible for keeping the Research Education Board (FoUN) and the Head of the host department informed about the performance of the Research School.

The Director of the Research School is supported by a management team, including a Deputy Director and a Coordinator.

### **Advisory Board**

The advisory board is selected by the steering committee. The main role of the advisory board is to provide guidance on the strategic direction of the school.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The Research School offers jointly organised educational activities at the doctoral level, such as courses, workshops and seminars. Once a year, the Research School organises a conference for military officers currently enrolled in the Research School as well as for soldier-scholars who have completed their doctoral education. The Research School also offers workshops and activities for supervisors. The Steering Committee may decide on additional activities within the Research School.

**Soldier-scholar conference:** Once a year, the Research School organises a conference for military officers currently enrolled in the Research School as well as for soldier-scholars who have completed their doctoral education. The conference is mandatory for the doctoral students and provides an opportunity to present their research to other military doctoral students, soldier-scholars, member universities and the armed forces. The conference also offers workshops and activities for supervisors (to exchange knowledge and experience on pedagogical aspects of soldier-scholar research education).

**Doctoral courses:** The Research School offers at least two elective courses each year. The courses will be open to all military doctoral students at the Research School. Any

additional places will be offered to civilian doctoral students from member universities. Initially, two courses will be offered each year by the Swedish Defence University. Additional courses organised by member universities (by themselves or together with the Swedish Defence University) will be offered when available. The courses will be selected annually by the Steering Committee.

**Seminars and workshops:** Member universities may offer seminars and workshops as part of the Research School. Seminars and workshops will be selected by the Steering Committee.

**Visiting scholarship:** Doctoral students who are not enrolled at the Swedish Defence University may apply for a visiting scholarship at the university. The Swedish Defence University has a well-developed research education and research environment within several disciplines (War Studies, Political Science, Military History and Leadership and Command and Control). The scholarship can be awarded for one or two terms (one term is 20 weeks) and includes access to the library and a workstation (all travel expenses are covered by the home university). The doctoral student is expected to participate in research seminars and other activities at the Swedish Defence University during the scholarship period.

**Soldier-scholar network and mentorship programme:** The Research School have a network of soldier-scholars. This is a great opportunity for soldier-scholars to be involved with the activities of the Research School. It also offers the option of becoming a mentor for one of the doctoral students enrolled in the Research School.

The main purpose of the mentorship programme is to connect soldier-scholars and the doctoral students at the Research School in a meaningful way, thereby creating mutual benefits and cementing a stronger relationship between all parties involved: the doctoral student, soldier-scholars and the Research School. The network and mentorship programme are open to military officers with a doctoral degree.

## FINANCING

The administrative costs of the research school are covered by an annual membership contribution from the member universities. The membership contribution covers the costs of the Director, the Deputy Director, the Coordinator and some of the jointly organised activities, such as the annual conference, workshops and seminars.

Each member university covers the costs of their doctoral students, including travels, supervisors and other costs. They also cover the costs of their own member of the Steering Committee and of courses offered by their university.