CALL FOR APPLICATION

SPRING SCHOOL OUTER SPACE COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Application is due **till 15.02.2026 via E-Mail** to
cassis@uni-bonn.de
Find our **Application Requirements down below.**

May 17-19, 2026

GSP Gesellschaft für Sicherheitspolitik e.V.
Sektion Bonn

ICI Institute for International Cooperation Technological Diplomacy and Communication

JGSP Sektion Bonn

CASSIS

UNIVERSITÄT BONN

From strategic competition to cooperation in space

The space-based infrastructure has performed various vital tasks for our planet, which have become indispensable for the functioning of all ultra-modern industrialized societies. This includes error-free navigation via global satellite-based navigation systems such as Galileo, Glonass, or GPS (Global Positioning System), but also the functioning of energy supply, stock exchange trading, ATMs, weather forecasting, the recording of data and trends on climate change and the transmission of critical data and information to the military. The dependence on satellites for communication, data collection, and crisis response will continue to increase. As dependence on space resources grows, so does the potential to influence the people, institutions, systems, and states that depend on them through strategic technological control.

Extraterrestrial space, the fifth domain of human civilization — after land, sea, air, and cyberspace — is a place for the projection of power and power politics of and between states with enormous economic, military, and strategic consequences for the entire international community. As a new arena of competition, space is exposed to tensions between major powers, while middle and regional powers are also interested in space due to its promising strategic advantages.

The space sector is also gaining strategic importance in the Middle East region. Investments in space technologies promote economic progress and create new industries and jobs. Countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are investing heavily in their space programs as part of their national visions, which are driving technological progress and regional development. Other actors, such as Egypt and Oman, are also increasingly interested in the sector. Developing comprehensive space infrastructures requires considerable investment, increasing competition for limited resources. Military applications in space intensify the security dilemma, while geopolitical alliances further influence competition.

At the same time, space also offers opportunities for cooperation among countries in the region, particularly between states that pursue ambitious space programs. This harbors enormous potential for economic progress, security and regional stability, technological innovation, and international cooperation.

Objectives

This Spring School – in cooperation with the Institute for International Cooperation, Technological Diplomacy and Communication (ICI) and the (Young) Society for Security Policy – will examine the Middle Eastern states' space strategies, as well as the legal, military, economic, and technological challenges and opportunities affecting cooperation in outer space.

Participants will gain in-depth insights into space policies in the Middle East and develop innovative ideas for cooperative approaches among regional actors through lectures, workshops and simulations.

Participants

Young students from related disciplines (political science, international relations, etc.) from the Middle East will be invited to the United Nations city of Bonn to exchange ideas with students from Europe and develop innovative ideas for potential cooperation. International experts from science, politics, and industry will provide the participants with in-depth insights into space policy. These insights will form the basis for the subsequent workshops and the meeting's simulation.

Application Requirements for applicants are:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent (Bachelor students are also admitted in exceptional cases)
- Enrollement at a university (political science, international relations, but also other disciplines from the humanities, philosophy, natural sciences, technology)
- Interest in an interdisciplinary approach to outer space
- Curiosity, openness to new perspectives and topics, as well as the ability to work in a team
- Advanced knowledge of written and spoken English

Applicants need to submit:

(a) a letter of motivation (max. 1 page) OR a fictitious diplomatic report (see below),
(b) a short CV (max. 2 pages),
(c) Certificate of enrolment at a university,
(d) Proof of examination results and grades in an applicant’s current degree program,
(e) Bachelor's degree certificate.

Instead of a letter of motivation, we offer you the option of sending us an official (fictitious) diplomatic report in which you take on the role of a representative of any country from the Middle East region at an international space conference in a maximum of one page. The content (e.g., current challenges, potential for cooperation, diplomatic strategies) and form of the report are to be decided by an applicant.

Please email your electronic application documents as a single PDF file with the subject "CfA Spring School [your surname]" by 15 February
2026 to: cassis@uni-bonn.de

If accepted, all participation costs (flight and transport costs, accommodation, and catering in Bonn) will be covered.