

CSIS

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC &  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



# CSIS JOURNALISM BOOTCAMP

*Reporting on International Affairs*

*This program is proudly supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation*



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

## THE CSIS BOOTCAMP METHOD

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation present the *CSIS Journalism Bootcamp: Reporting on International Affairs*. This program is designed to advance the reporting skills of aspiring journalists and diverse candidates from top-tier journalism and communications programs around the U.S. and abroad.

Each year, six schools are selected to embark on this fully funded one-week reporting experience in Washington, D.C. Each group partakes in a custom curriculum with high-level policy experts, current and former government officials, and career journalists. Their task is to produce a 2,000-word digital feature piece on a timely foreign policy issue that incorporates multimedia elements, including interactive visualizations, graphics, videos, and podcasts.

Each cohort's story is then published by CSIS and shared with its network of scholars and journalists including the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, a leading funder of new age media initiatives. Students walk away with work they can showcase as they go on to pursue their careers in journalism or related fields.

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*Learn more and check out previous stories on*  
**<https://journalism.csis.org>**

SAMPLE AGENDA

Topic: Cyberattacks, Vulnerabilities, and U.S. Preparedness

8 <sup>30</sup> AM		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	
9 AM	Newseum Trip JOEL MARTINEZ, CSIS	Introductions & Orientation NAHMYO THOMAS, CSIS	Getting to the Lede: Effective Interviewing Techniques SCOTT MORGAN, THE MORGAN GROUP	Prosecuting Cybercrime JOHN LYNCH, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	Group Editorial Meeting	Social Media and the News: Global Trends and Strategies Beyond the Twitterverse COLM QUINN, FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE	
		CSIS Overview and the Role of Think Tanks CHRISTINE KOVACH, CSIS			Production Time		
		BREAK		BREAK	BREAK		
		Introductions to Multimedia Project YUMI ARAKI, CSIS		Breakout Session II		Journalism, Fake News, and the Polarization of Information ANDREW SCHWARTZ, CSIS	
10 AM		LUNCH					
		Using Multimedia to Tell Complex Stories PAUL FRANZ, CSIS	Vulnerabilities to the Electric Grid KAREN EVANS, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	LUNCH	LUNCH	Group Editorial Meeting	
		BREAK		Editorial Feedback Session			
		Reporting on Cybercrime and National Security ELLEN NAKASHIMA, THE WASHINGTON POST	Production Time	Group Editorial Meeting	TRIP TO CSIS	Final Production Time	
		BREAK		Production Time			
		Group Editorial Meeting		Finalize Story			
11 AM	Free Time	Multimedia Project Breakout: I. Story & Web Editors II. Audio Producers III. Video Producers IV. Data Reporters/ Visualizers	Production Time	BREAK	Project Presentation		
				Group Dinner SUZANNE SPAULDING, CSIS			
					Graduation Ceremony & Farewell Dinner DR. JOHN HAMRE, CSIS		
12 PM	Free Time						
1 PM	Free Time						
2 PM	Free Time						
3 PM	Free Time						
4 PM	Free Time						
5 PM	Free Time						
6 PM	Free Time						

## JOIN THE BOOTCAMP EXPERIENCE

If you are a faculty member of a journalism school who is interested in having your students participate in a hands-on bootcamp that provides real-world production experience, we want to hear from you!

### *Who is eligible?*

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a journalism, communications, or related degree program at an accredited university. International relations and political science students may also be invited to participate. Each group, comprised of 10 students, must be led by an affiliated faculty member or professor.

### *What's in the curriculum?*

The bootcamp curriculum blends foreign policy seminars with technical workshops, helping students convey complex stories through multiple mediums. The curriculum consists of three key components:

- **Topical Briefings** – led by CSIS scholars and high-level experts from government and business circles to provide insight on the political, economic, and social dynamics of each group's thematic issue.
- **Media Workshops** – led by journalism and communications practitioners to discuss the larger media landscape and to provide career advice.
- **Skill-Building and Production Time** – in a fast-paced newsroom environment, media mentors help students apply their knowledge to create a multimedia story, furthering their video, audio, data visualization, reporting, and interviewing skills.

### *Where does it take place?*

The bootcamp is held at CSIS headquarters in downtown Washington, D.C. Students are provided hotel accommodation next door to CSIS.

### *What is the time commitment?*

CSIS works closely with each school's faculty lead to find a week that works best for their students. One month out, students receive prep materials. The bootcamp itself is a five-day intensive program that runs from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM each day. Three of the evenings include group dinners with high-level speakers. Once the students return to campus, they have two weeks to fine-tune and edit their story before the piece is published.

### *How do I sign my students up?*

Please email **Christine Kovach** at [ckovach@csis.org](mailto:ckovach@csis.org) or **Joel Martinez** at [jmartinez@csis.org](mailto:jmartinez@csis.org).

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## **PREVIOUS PARTNERS INCLUDE**

*Howard University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Panteion University, University of Iowa, Ithaca College, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Texas Christian University, Tulane University, Syracuse University, and The City University of New York.*

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*A student from University of Massachusetts, Amherst edits a video with their media mentor in CSIS's iDeas Lab.*

## SPEAKERS

A defining element of this bootcamp is exposure to high-level speakers—who students get to interact with and interview in an intimate setting. Here's a snapshot of previous speakers from across the policy-making community and journalism industry.

**Ellen Nakashima**

*National Security Reporter, The Washington Post*

**Kylie Atwood**

*National Security Reporter, CNN*

**David Sanger**

*National Security Correspondent, The New York Times*

**Karen S. Evans**

*Assistant Secretary of the Office of Cybersecurity,  
Energy Security and Emergency Response,  
Department of Energy*

**Matthew Reynolds**

*UNHCR Regional Representative for the US  
and Caribbean, United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees*

**H.E. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu a.k.a. Bobi Wine**

*Member of Parliament, Uganda*

**John McLaughlin**

*Former Acting Director, Central Intelligence Agency*

**Michael Vickers**

*Former Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence,  
Department of Defense*

**Thomas Donahue**

*Former Senior Director for Cyber Operations,  
National Security Council*

**Ambassador Johnnie Carson**

*Former Ambassador to Uganda, Department of State*

**Ambassador Derek Mitchell**

*Former Ambassador to Myanmar, Department of State*

## STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

*“By far the most enriching experience during my time as a graduate student. The face-to-face time with experts in the field is unparalleled.”*

— **Brooke Hirsheimer**  
Syracuse University

*“This program taught me the importance of being intentional with every aspect of a story — the questions we ask while reporting, the words we choose while writing, the multimedia components we decide to use to visually convey another part of our message.”*

— **Marissa Payne**  
University of Iowa

*“Over the week, I have been able to understand different components of journalism and how these components in harmony can be used to create a powerful story that can be crucial at educating and bringing awareness to the public, as well as drive policymakers to take initiative.”*

— **Alphoncina Liyamuya**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

*“Coming into this week, I didn't know anyone I was going to be working with, didn't know anything about cybersecurity or foreign affairs and didn't know how much this opportunity was going to change me. I learned that no question is too simple or silly. I became close friends with ten amazing journalists, and I gained confidence in my ability to report important material. I can't wait to transfer what I've learned here into my internship, schoolwork and career.”*

— **Rebecca Mehorter**  
Ithaca College





*Hayley King, a participant from Syracuse University, practices advanced interviewing techniques.*

## ABOUT CSIS

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges. Ranked the number one think tank in the United States by the University of Pennsylvania's annual think tank report, CSIS is one of the preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security, regional stability, and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration.

## ABOUT THE ANDREAS C. DRACOPOULOS IDEAS LAB AT CSIS

Bootcamp participants work closely with members of the Dracopoulos iDeas Lab, CSIS's in-house media engine, who serve as mentors for this program. The iDeas Lab is comprised of video and audio producers, web developers, designers, and animators, who create innovative and engaging products in the international policy space. Many members of the iDeas Lab are former journalists. All believe in a cross-disciplinary approach to telling compelling policy stories.

## ABOUT EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AT CSIS

The CSIS Executive Education Department offers year-round educational opportunities for individuals and organizations to increase their knowledge of geopolitical trends, understand the policy ecosystem of Washington, and to expand their personal leadership potential. The department also offers customized foreign policy and leadership seminars to university groups that provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed as young professionals entering the workforce. Our staff work closely with bootcamp participants to ensure the curriculum is tailored to fit students' background, learning objectives, and professional goals.

## ABOUT THE STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) is one of the world's leading private, international philanthropic organizations, making grants to nonprofit organizations in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports and social welfare. SNF funds organizations and projects worldwide that aim to achieve a broad, lasting, and positive impact for society at large and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also supports projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare.

Since 1996, the Foundation has committed more than \$2.9 billion through more than 4,550 grants to nonprofit organizations in 124 nations around the world.

Learn more at [SNF.org](https://www.snf.org).

*Cover Photo:* Alex Wong/Getty Images

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