SOCIAL CYBER & TECH ACADEMY

2026 Prospectus

Strategic perspectives for leaders

Research-based learning

Career change to cyber policy

Partnering for Proficiency

Social Cyber & Tech Academy

The Social Cyber & Tech Academy delivers high-quality professional and executive education for continuing professional development. It specialises in cyber power, organisational resilience and technology governance, drawing on decades of international research and practice. Its leaders are active in policy debates and education delivery in Australia, Asia and Europe. It is a spin-off from the University of New South Wales Canberra.

Blended Learning International (BLI)

Blended Learning International brings two decades of experience in designing, governing, and assuring high-quality professional education to its collaboration with the Social Cyber and Tech Academy. Since 2003, BLI has worked across Australia and the Indo-Pacific to support the development and delivery of complex, policy-intensive learning programs, drawing on strong foundations established through its origins at the Australian National University..
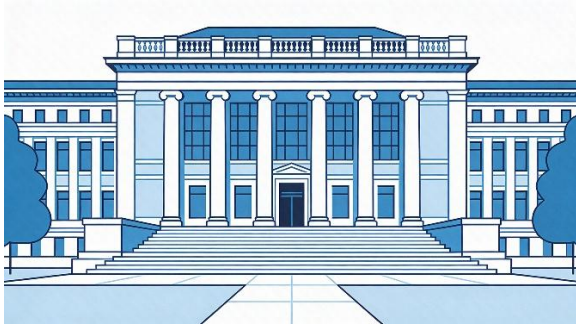
Our unique offering

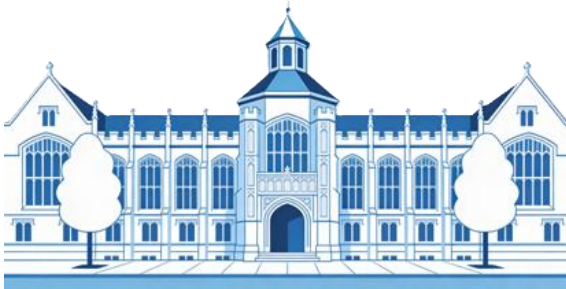For Executives: Challenge workshops and briefings

For Early and Mid-Career: Interactive lecture-based courses

For Career Changers: Fascinating Insights into the world of cyber and tech policy

www.socialcyber.co/academy

Harvard University

King's College London

Where did we lead in cyber and tech education policy in 2025?

- Worked in a team of eight Australian and Indian researchers to develop a syllabus on technology impact assessment under a grant from the Australia India Cyber and Critical Technologies Program
- sponsored a delegation to Australia to establish an AUKUS network of cyber educators based on existing US/UK efforts
- Co-facilitated a panel on social responsibility aspects of artificial intelligence in higher education, to curate 11 papers at the annual conference of the UK Academy of Information Sciences
- Led a table-top exercise on cyber crisis for Malaysian officials in Kuala Lumpur

Where we have educated, lectured or mentored

Harvard University
The Australian National University
Monash University
Kings College London
Australian Defence College
Defence Intelligence Organisation
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
Cambridge University
ANZ School of Government
University of New South Wales
Canberra
QANTAS
Commonwealth Bank
Global Development Learning
Network (World Bank)

Australian National University

Australian Defence College

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2026 Programs

Crisis in Tech Policy and Diplomacy
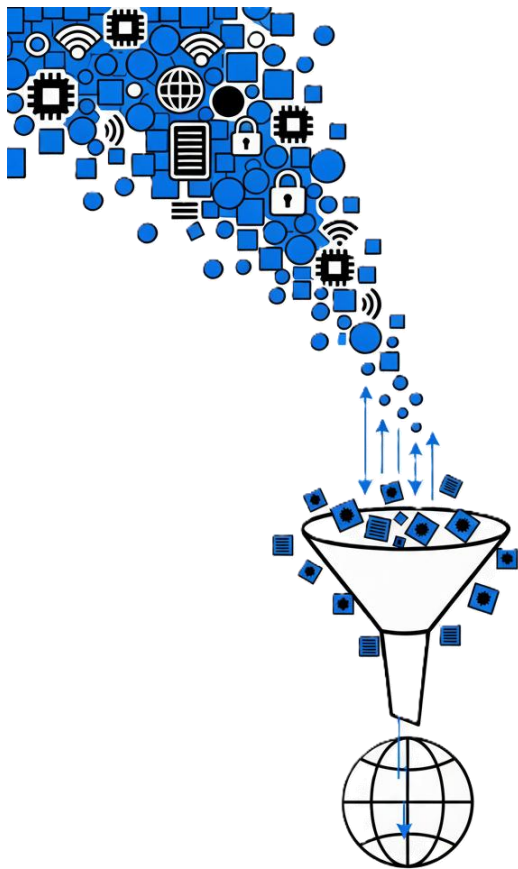
Cyber Organisation Stress Test

Cyber and Tech Policy in China

Economics Principles for Cyber and Tech

Public Policy Principles for Cyber and Tech

CRISIS IN TECH POLICY AND DIPLOMACY

No country has the capacity to assess the impact on society, politics or the economy of all the individual technologies flooding global markets or the many creative apps based on them. This challenge workshop introduces key concepts, current dilemmas, and practical insights for managing this escalating crisis in technology policy. It is built around the concept and practices of Technology Impact Assessment (TIA). TIA is the systematic analysis of the impacts arising from the use of technologies. This includes both specialist assessment of their technical performance characteristics and cost-benefit considerations as well as consultations across diverse stakeholder groups (such as government, industry, academia, and society) to determine broader social, political, legal or economic consequences.

Learning focus

- Understand the emerging "crisis in technology diplomacy"
- Examine real-world obstacles to whole-of-government tech impact assessment
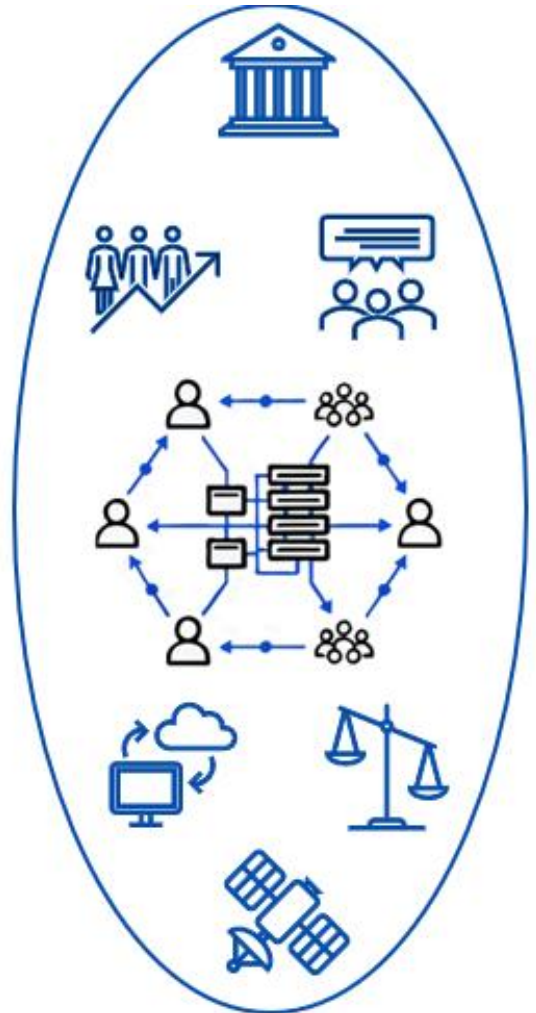- Identify new roles for diplomats, regulators and corporate leaders in tech governance

Format: 2 days × 3.5 hours (7 hours total), Thursdays 3:00–6:30 pm AEDT

Dates: 9 & 16 July 2026; 10 & 17 September 2026; 12 & 19 November 2026

Facilitator: Professor Greg Austin   Register here to send inquiry

CYBER ORGANISATION STRESS TEST

This workshop helps senior executives prepare for strategic cyber challenges, lead cyber security change, and review the impact of their initiatives. Building on the paper *Creating Social Cyber Value*, participants diagnose their organisation's "cyber social system" (inside and outside the firm): culture, incentives, knowledge flows and external relationships. Inspired by Kevin Mandia's call to "know your organisation", the program goes beyond technical controls to show how to mine collective organisational knowledge—systems topology, people, processes, suppliers and infrastructure—for strategic advantage in cyber defence and resilience.

Learning focus

- Build deep cyber organisational insight as a leadership capability
- Strengthen internal governance and cross-functional collaboration on cyber
- Evaluate current cyber change programs against social cyber value principles

Format: 2 days × 3.5 hours (7 hours total), Thursdays (3:00–6:30 pm AEDT)

Dates: 6 & 13 August 2026; 8 & 15 October 2026; 3 & 10 December 2026

Facilitator: Professor Greg Austin   Register here to send an inquiry

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CYBER AND TECH POLICY IN CHINA

This one-day intensive offers a critical, research-based tour of China's evolving cyber and technology policy, grounded in over 15 years of scholarship by Greg Austin, including two and other studies. Participants examine Beijing's informatisation strategy through rarely used primary sources—internal planning documents, national "information society" blueprints, technical ministry reports and elite speeches—rather than recycled secondary commentary. The course introduces a nine-value framework for evaluating China's digital governance ethics and invites participants to apply it to censorship, surveillance, and data governance. It also highlights under-examined gaps between central visions and local implementation, and offers fresh, evidence-based perspectives on China's cyber power and US–China cyber stability debates.
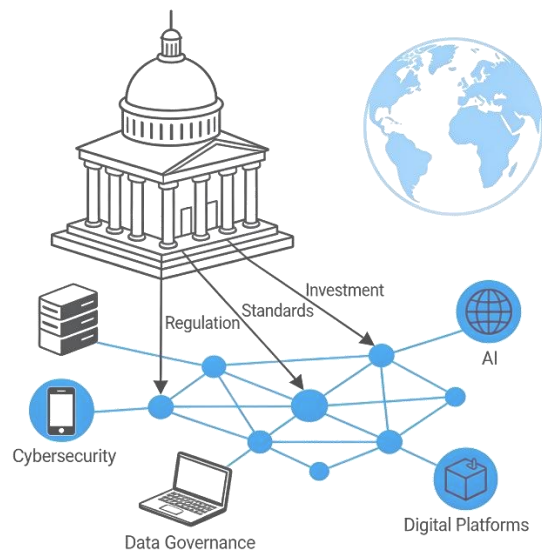
Learning focus

- Understand China's cyber and tech policy architecture and underlying values
- Analyse central–local implementation gaps and their strategic implications
- Reassess "cyber superpower" narratives with institutional and capacity evidence

Format: 2 days × 3.5 hours (7 hours total)

2026 Dates: 30 July & 4 August; 27 August & 3 September; 1 & 6 October; 26 November & 1 December; 15 & 17 December

Facilitator: Professor Greg Austin   Register here for more info

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PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES FOR CYBER AND TECH

An executive-level overview of how governments design and implement policy responses to cyber and technology challenges. Participants examine why public intervention is needed in cybersecurity, digital platforms, AI, and data governance, and how policy tools — regulation, standards, investment, taxation and international cooperation — are deployed in practice. Using analytic frameworks and real-world cases, the course builds practical insight into governance models, policy trade-offs and implementation challenges in fast-moving tech environments.

Learning focus

- Understand public policy processes for cyber and tech, both principles and practice
- Review the government instruments used for technology and cyber security
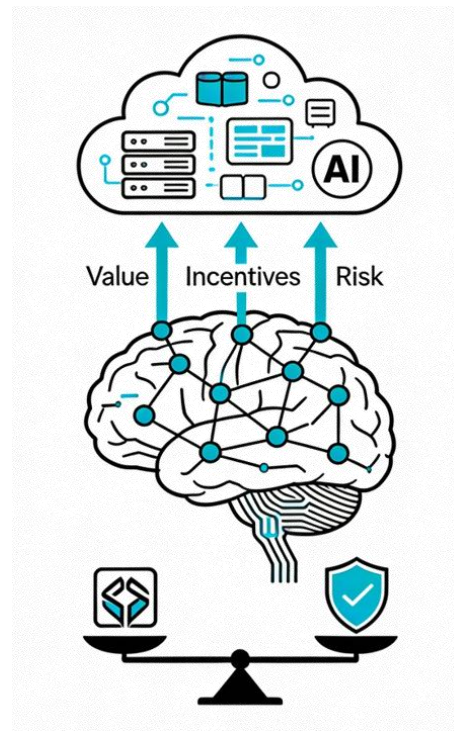- Evaluate major policy initiatives in the cyber and tech field.

Dates: 15 & 29 September 2026
        20 & 27 October 2026

Format: 2 days × 3.5 hours (7 hours total), **Tuesdays 3:00–6:30 pm AEDT**

Facilitator: Professor Glenn Withers AO   Register here for more info

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ECONOMICS PRINCIPLES FOR CYBER AND TECH

This course introduces the core economic forces shaping cyberspace and emerging technologies. Participants explore how digital markets create and distribute value, why market power and concentration arise in platform economies, and how incentives, externalities and information asymmetries affect cybersecurity, AI and other innovations. The program equips leaders with an economic lens for understanding cyber risk, technology-driven productivity change, and the logic behind regulatory and strategic interventions in digital sectors. It provides understanding of markets and engineering, information and bio-technologies.
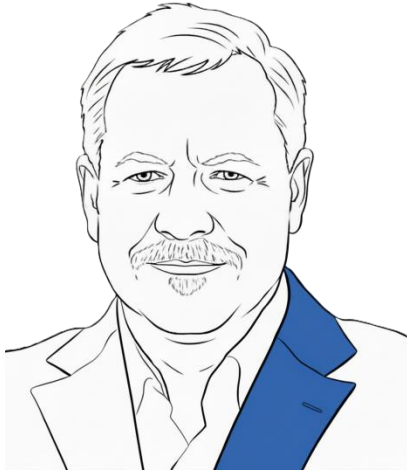

Learning Focus

- Understand the nature of markets and their operation for cyber and tech
- Evaluate the operation of those markets for commercial value and for social value
- Learn techniques to manage and benefit from, and improve, market operation.

2026 Dates: 14 & 21 July; 11 & 18 August

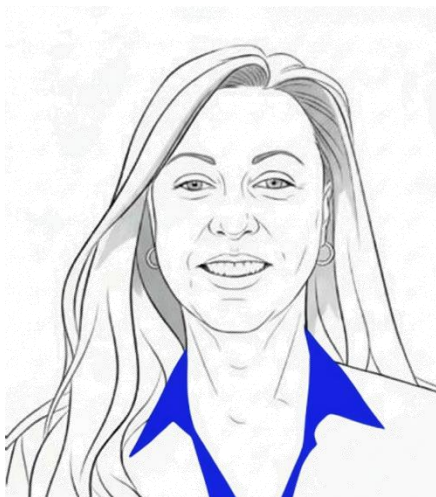**Format:** 2 days × 3.5 hours (7 hours total), **Tuesdays 3:00–6:30 pm AEDT**

Facilitator: Professor Glenn Withers AO   Register here for more information

Our Educators and Mentors*

Professor Greg Austin is a global leader in cyber policy and international security. He has held posts as Senior Fellow and Head of the Program on Cyber Power and Future Conflict at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Professor of Cyber Security, Strategy and Diplomacy at UNSW Canberra, Visiting Senior Fellow in the Department of War Studies at King's College London, and Adjunct Professor at the Australia-China Relations Institute at the University of Technology Sydney. He has published thirteen books and led international research projects. His career spans academia, government, and global NGOs, such as the International Crisis Group and the former EastWest Institute. He has advised ministers and agencies across the UK, Australia, China, India, Russia, and the United States, as well as the UN, IAEA, and major corporations including AT&T and BT. Holding a PhD in International Relations and a Master of International Law, both from the Australian National University, Professor Austin's work bridges cutting-edge research, strategic policy, and diplomacy.

Lisa Materano is the Director of the Social Cyber and Tech Academy, Director for Education at the Social Cyber Institute, and Co-Founder of the Social Cyber Group. She leads the design, management, and delivery of executive and professional education programs in cyber security, public policy, and technology governance across Australia and the Indo-Pacific. An economist by training, she has held senior executive, research, and academic leadership roles, with a career focused on developing high-quality education programs in regulated and policy-intensive environments. Her work sits at the intersection of strategy, governance, and practice, with a strong emphasis on contemporary, research-informed learning design. She has led large-scale initiatives for government and institutional partners, including a AUD 26 million Australian Government project to establish a Technical College. She serves on the Asia-Pacific Governing Committee of the World Bank–affiliated Global Development Learning Network. Her qualifications include degrees in Economics (Bachelor and Master), a Diploma of Education, and training and assessment credentials.

Professor Glenn Withers AO is Emeritus Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, and Visiting Professor at UNSW Canberra. A Harvard PhD, he has held academic posts at Harvard, Cambridge, and ANU, and advised governments and corporations globally—from the OECD and US Defense Department to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. In Australia, he has led major national bodies including the National Population Council and Economic Planning Advisory Commission, and was instrumental in establishing the Productivity Commission, Universities Australia, and the Crawford School of Government. Recognised for developing Australia's Immigration Points System, he has also served as President of the Academy of the Social Sciences and Chair of the World Bank–affiliated Global Development Learning Network. His extensive publications focus on education, skills, workforce, and population policy.

Adam P. Henry is a Senior Fellow Partner at the Social Cyber Institute and a leading specialist in cyber security education, skills, and workforce development. He has designed and led major pilot programs to build Australia's multidisciplinary cyber capabilities and has briefed ministers and senior officials on national cyber strategies. A former participant in the 2017 Prime Minister's Cyber Taskforce, he has had a broad cyberspace professional career spanning the APS, a major consulting firm, academia, working in multiple start ups, his own consulting business and industry accelerators and clusters. This provides a unique skill set and understanding of the differing requirements of the Australian economy. He provides expert advice, strategic briefings, and program design support across cyber policy, workforce development, defence, and national security domains.

This team works with a network of experts from universities, government , and industry who join as presenters in all of our workshops and courses. A rich portfolio of talent is provided for mutually rewarding experience among presenters and participants.

Fee

The fee for each 7-hour workshop or course is set at A$990 (incl. GST). The fee applies to all July courses and may be increased for courses in later months. A limited number of scholarship places are available for participants from developing countries or First Nations communities. Bespoke options are also available for companies and other organisations.

Registration

Workshops and courses are delivered online via interactive virtual classrooms. **Certificates of completion** are issued in partnership with Blended Learning International as recognition of participation in professional and executive development programs. Early registration is recommended. Each cohort is capped at 30 participants to preserve a high-engagement learning environment. For enrolment or information, contact lisa.materano@socialcyber.co.

The programs in this prospectus are offered as advanced professional and executive education for continuing professional development. They are distinct from Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certification. For information on AQF-accredited programs and offerings please visit the Blended Learning International website https://www.blendedlearning.edu.au/.

Time Zones

Each program is timed to be as accessible as possible across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. All courses run from 3pm to 6.30 pm Sydney time.

Times until daylight saving changes

- Tokyo: 2.00pm–5.30pm
- Singapore: 1:00pm–4:30pm
- Hanoi/Jakarta: 12 noon–3:30pm
- Dhaka: 11.00am–2:30pm
- Delhi: 10:30am–2:00pm
- Dubai: 9:00am–11:30am
- Istanbul/Nairobi: 8:00am–11:30am
- Kyiv/Helsinki: 8.00am–11:30am
- Paris/Warsaw: 7:00am–10:30am

Times after daylight saving changes

- 1:00pm–4:30pm (after 4 October)
- 12.00 noon–3:30pm (after 4 October)
- 11.00am–2:30pm (after 4 October)
- 10.00am–1:30pm (after 4 October)
- 9.30am–1:00pm (after 4 October)
- 8.00am–11:30am (after 4 October)
- 7.00am–10:30am (after 4 October)
- 6.00am–9:30am (after 25 October)
- 6.00am–9:30am (after 25 October)

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