

St. Petersburg State University

Submission to the Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation
(A/RES/78/31)

The oldest Russian university, which celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2024, St. Petersburg State University (SPbU) offers a Master's program titled Strategic and Arms Control Studies. SPbU also hosts the Cross-disciplinary Centre for Global Biosecurity Studies, which offers internships for SPbU students and engage them in analytical and organizational work on facilitating expert seminars. SPbU has tight connections with leading public and private organizations in Russia and provides opportunities for student's career development.

The professors of the Strategic and Arms Control Studies Master's program closely monitor major international events and educational opportunities, informing students and encouraging their participation. In 2023-2025, students were able to take part in the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference as well as in educational trip to Vienna-based think tanks and international organizations, including the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and IAEA. Due to the personalized and effective support of the professors, the students prepared competitive applications for these events and were accepted. Additionally, the professors framed the students' research in a way that stimulated cross-generational dialogue, connected them to a broader expert network, and introduced them to leading experts in disarmament community, as well as supporting students in reaching out to practitioners in the field of disarmament diplomacy. In 2023-2025, several graduate students at this program completed internships at organizations in Russia that promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, such as Rosatom and the Centre for Energy and Security Studies.

Since 2012, SPbU has hosted annual International Student Scientific Conference "Russia in the Global World: New Challenges and Opportunities". In 2025, more than 100 students participated in the conference. Members of the Student Academic Society at the School of International Relations coordinated the development of the program and selection of speakers. The conference included expert lectures, panel discussions, and sessions where invited experts commented on student papers. At the panel "Russia and Arms Control» students presented papers on nuclear arms control, WMD non-proliferation and prevention of arms race in outer space. Since 2023, students from the School of International Relations have been working on a project "News of the Student Academic Society" with the support of SPbU. Everyone has had the opportunity to contribute to preparation of materials on current events in international affairs. These texts appeared on social media platforms of the Student Academic Society. Many articles focused on issues related to arms control and disarmament, including missile programs of North Korea and Iran, AUKUS project, US missile deployment in Germany, laser weapons, and artificial intelligence problems. Above all, the SPbU hosts the Model UN, which regularly addresses disarmament-related topics.