

Geopolitics & business sprint

the two pager



It's a disruptive time to do business: rapidly changing technology; sustained tensions between superpowers; the most elections ever in a year.

Geopolitical insight is now a core business competency. Leaders who understand global power dynamics can better anticipate disruptions, manage risks, and seize opportunities in our increasingly volatile world.

The Geopolitics and Business sprint will give you strategies and tools for navigating geopolitical risk, international politics, and the global economy. Across five modules, the sprint will help you to understand economic security approaches around the world; shifting supply chain policies; how firms should respond to regional tensions; emerging market forces in APAC; and how business leaders can anticipate and interpret these shifts.

What will I get from the sprint?

- + Gain industry-informed knowledge about geopolitics and its relationship to business.
- + Develop strategies for responding to geopolitical disruption for your organisation.
- + Engage confidently on the topic of geopolitics inside and outside your organisation.
- + Explore different industry best practices in responding to global issues and government policy related to supply chains, international finance, and international markets.
- + Work on a geopolitics project for yourself and your organisation.
- + Get the USYD badge, a personal geopolitics credential.

Assumed knowledge

It'll help if you have broad knowledge of business processes and management, current affairs, and some understanding of business supply chains. But detailed knowledge isn't needed.

Time commitment

The core sprint content is self-paced, featuring videos, additional readings, and workbook activities.

We recommend setting aside between 30–60 minutes a day to work on core content.

There are three live sessions of around 2 hours each (these are recorded, so it's easy to catch up if you miss any). Networking events are optional, but they're a great chance to meet and chat with your cohort of like-minded leaders.

Learning outcomes

- 01 Understand the origin of economic security concepts and the use of economics in contemporary geopolitics.
- 02 Anticipate and assess the commercial and operational consequences of geopolitical shocks.
- 03 Identify new markets and upsides amid geopolitical disruption.
- 04 Create a strategic toolkit for adapting to geopolitical disruption.

For custom sprints for your organisation, contact us at executive.plus@sydney.edu.au

How does the sprint run?

The sprint involves three livestreamed lectures (one at the beginning, one in the middle, and one to conclude the course). Online modules will be released over a two-week period. Each module includes pre-recorded video content, reading material, and a workbook with activities that build skills in support of your final project. Each module also includes opportunities for self-paced online learning and peer-to-peer discussion.

Modules

Module 1

The new disruptive reality

This module introduces the concept of geopolitical disruption and its impact on business. You'll learn about the shift from a benign geopolitical environment to one where geopolitics is a key factor in business operations and profits. The module covers the historical context of this shift, explains economic security, and explores how companies are making sense of this new reality. You'll gain insights into the interconnectedness of geopolitics and business, and understand why traditional approaches to risk management may no longer suffice in this new landscape.

Module 2

The weaponisation of economics

This module will help you explore how economics is being used as a geopolitical tool. You'll understand why policymakers are pursuing competition over cooperation, even when this can impact productivity and profit. Your sprint leaders show this approach in action through three case studies: critical infrastructure; strategic technology competition; and supply chains. You'll gain an understanding of how governments are using industrial policies, export controls, and other economic tools to achieve geopolitical goals, and what this means for businesses.

Module 3

Geopolitical shocks and their impacts on business

How can you, as a leader, identify and brace for potential disruption? Not all geopolitical tension translates to conflict but often, businesses are unprepared for any kind of geopolitical change, and fail to anticipate the risks. The module includes case studies on recent geopolitical events, such as the conflict in Ukraine, tensions in the Middle East, and cyber threats to critical infrastructure. You'll gain insights into how businesses can build brand equity, manage disrupted value chains, and anticipate operational crunches.

Module 4

New markets and upsides

In this module, you'll explore how geopolitical shifts can create new opportunities. You'll learn about emerging markets driven by geopolitical trends, such as reshoring and friendshoring initiatives. The module covers opportunities in defence industries, new supply chains in South and Southeast Asia, and changes in global trade architecture. You'll learn how to identify and capitalise on these opportunities while navigating the complexities of the new geopolitical landscape.

Module 5

Creating a strategic toolkit

This module draws together the knowledge gained during the sprint into a practical toolkit for managing geopolitical risks and opportunities. You'll learn how to develop a geopolitical preparedness matrix for your organisation, integrating risk assessment, strategic positioning, and opportunity identification. The module emphasises the importance of fostering a geopolitically aware mindset and aligning your business strategy with the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Your final project

Here, you'll reflect on the concepts and skills you learnt throughout the sprint and consider how they might be applied to actual organisations. While it isn't mandatory, you'll be encouraged to base your final project on your own organisation and/or experience.