



# NATO Special Operations University

## Welcome Package



### Our Mission

The NATO Special Operations University (NSOU), as the leader for NATO Special Operations Forces (SOF) education, provides world-class, relevant instruction in order to enhance the capabilities, interoperability and effectiveness of Alliance and partner SOF, while continuously pursuing innovative, educational strategies and courseware tailored to support current and future requirements.

### Administration

All students are required to have an NSOU Training Portal Account to be able to access course documentation and register for future courses. Students can register for an account on the NSOU Training Portal [at this link](#).

For administration purposes, students are required to submit the following information as part of an assignment on the Blackboard Learning Management System:

- [Confirmation of Personnel Security Clearance](#) (CPSC)
- [DoD Cyber Awareness Challenge](#)  
(if applicable to your course)

If the selected course does not use Blackboard, you are kindly required to email the same information directly to your course director and [nsoucourseadmin@sofcom.nato.int](mailto:nsoucourseadmin@sofcom.nato.int) **before arrival**.

### Prerequisites

Several Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) courses were developed to support NSOU residential courses. Please refer to the NSOU Course Catalogue to identify which prerequisites are required for your course. The NSOU Course Catalogue can be found on the NSOU Training Portal ([here](#)). If you have already completed any of the required ADL prerequisites as part of a previous NSOU course, you are not required to retake them.

### Confirmation of Personnel Security Clearance

All students attending residential courses at NSOU are required to provide a valid [Confirmation of Personnel Security Clearance](#) (CPSC) signed and stamped by the competent security authority.

The [CPSC](#) must be less than 1 year old and must cover the course period.

Failure to provide the required security documentation prior to arrival may result in a delay or denial of your participation in the course. **DO NOT CHANGE THE CLASSIFICATION STATUS OF THE DOCUMENT.**

## Transportation

- Transportation to or from NSOU is a national responsibility. The campus is not accessible via public transportation; a rental car or other vehicle is recommended. *When accessing base, show the ID listed in your student profile.* The recommended airports for arrivals and departures are Brussels Airport (BRU) or Charleroi Airport (CRL). Chièvres AB is located near the town of Chièvres, Belgium, which is approximately 19 km from SHAPE in Casteau (near Mons). The closest train stations to Chièvres are in the towns of Brugelette, Ath, and Jurbise.
- The taxi company Devos provides transfer services to airports and major train stations and is the officially authorized taxi company with access to Chièvres Air Base. [Devos Shuttle - Devos Shuttle](#)

They serve the following destinations:

- Airports: Charleroi, Zaventem, Liège, Paris Charles-de-Gaulle
- Train stations: Brussels Gare du Midi, Lille Europe, and others

**The taxi company Devos does not offer transportation to and from the NSOU campus.**

- Chièvres AB GPS Reference: [Rue du Septième Wing — 7950 Chièvres, Belgium](#)
- **Entrance to Chièvres Air Base is through Gate 1 or Gate 14.**
  - Gate 1 is open Monday – Friday 0600 – 2000. Open Saturdays 0800 – 1300.
  - Gate 14 is open 24 hours 7 days a week

**Chièvres Air Base**



**NSOU Campus**



## **In-Processing**

Day 1: the entrance to the NSOU Campus is in front of **Building 20160** (See page 3, Fig.2, NATO Special Operations University overview). After the first day, students may access the campus via the turnstile using the badge provided. Student access to the NSOU Campus is available Monday – Friday only.

The NSOU working day runs from Monday - Friday 0800 - 1700. Students are expected to be in the designated classroom on time to begin the academic programme promptly.

The NSOU campus is a no hat, no salute area. However, when transiting outside the barracks to or from accommodation all military students are required to wear the appropriate military head dress.

Military students in uniform must transit directly to/from barracks and their accommodations. Wearing military uniforms while shopping, dining, or socializing outside base installations is not permitted.

## **Dress Code**

All students are to wear their national duty uniform throughout the course (BDU, ACU or equivalent). Non-military students and guest speakers are expected to wear business casual attire.

## **Documentation**

Ensure you have the following documentation with you upon arrival:

- Passport or ID card.
- [Confirmation of Personnel Security Clearance \(CPSC\)](#)

## **Accommodation**

Students are responsible for their own hotel accommodations.

- Army Lodge at Chièvres Air Base <https://chievres.armymwr.com/programs/lodge>
- [Local accommodations outside the base](#)

### **Fitness Centre**

- The Chièvres Fitness Centre is open to all US and NATO ID Card Holders. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 0600 - 1900, Saturday and Sunday 0900 - 1700.
- NSOU Fitness gym is available Monday - Friday 0800 - 1700. (outside of these hours, please coordinate with your Course Director)
- Users are kindly requested to bring their own towel and water bottle when utilizing the fully equipped fitness room. Please make sure you are out by closing time.
- No activities scheduled at NSOU during the weekend.

### **Portable Electronic Equipment**

- Photography is strictly forbidden.
- Cameras are not allowed inside the NSOU campus.
- Laptops, tablets (or similar devices) and mobile phones are allowed within the compound, but may not be permitted in certain classrooms or syndicated rooms, depending on the specific room's rules. When not allowed, all devices must be securely stored in the lockers at the Student Support Centre when not in use.

### **Food/Dining Facilities**

Chièvres Air Base has a food court located in the Post Exchange and a Commissary grocery store (with a \$60 daily purchase limit for military members). The currency used on base is US dollars. Payments can be made using cash or bank cards.

You can also enjoy snacks and beverages at Bene Brew Café and Pub, which currently serves Starbucks coffee, along with bagels, sandwiches, and other drinks.

A Belgian grocery store, Intermarché, adjacent to base Gate 14 is also available.

Microwaves and refrigerator are available for student use in the NSOU Student Support Centre.

All students are advised to bring the following items for self-catering:

- A sealable thermos cup for coffee or tea (open cups from the coffee machine are not permitted in classrooms)
- A sealable water bottle, etc.
- National military-style cutlery for hot meals

	Commissary	Food Court	Bene Brew Café	Intermarché
Monday	1100 – 1700	Closed	0700 – 1400	0830 – 2000
Tuesday	0900 – 1900	1030 – 1830	0700 – 1400	0830 – 2000
Wednesday	0900 – 1900	1030 – 1830	0700 – 1400	0830 – 2000
Thursday	0900 – 1900	1030 – 1830	0700 – 1400	0830 – 2000
Friday	0900 – 1900	1030 – 1830	0700 – 1400	0830 – 2000
Saturday	0900 - 1900	1030 – 1830	Closed	0830 – 2000
Sunday	0900 – 1800	1100 – 1730	Closed	0830 – 2000

**Student Visitors:**

Family and friend visits during your stay: please submit the following information at least 5 working days prior to the visit:

- First name
- Last name
- Nationality
- ID number
- Date of arrival
- Date of departure