



Join us for the fourth annual School of International Futures retreat Monday 10 - Friday 14 August 2015, near Aylesbury, UK

The School of International Futures flagship retreat returns to the UK for its fourth successive year, from 10-14 August 2015. Join us to learn how to plan for and respond to future challenges and opportunities in an increasingly complex and uncertain world.

This exclusive Summer retreat will explore the implications of future trends and shocks for today's policy choices, and help you understand how to use foresight methods and processes both to shape the future of your organisation and to make a difference in the world.

In addition to a grounding in the foresight approach and tips on how to build the future-facing capability of your organisation, you will gain insights into the future of technology, resources, the economy and geopolitics.

Retreat themes

Knowing how to plan for and respond to future challenges and opportunities is an essential capability for organisations in an increasingly complex and uncertain world.

Strategic foresight provides a systematic way to apprehend and address uncertainty, so that you can stay alert to new risks and emerging opportunities. At SOIF2015 we will explore the art and the science of strategic foresight; the tools and techniques, and how to use these to inform decision-making and achieve better outcomes.

- During the 5-day retreat, alongside tutorials on foresight techniques we will examine and challenge

the idea of a "ring of instability" around Europe, created by geopolitical, security and religious tensions running through Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East.

- With the help of experts we will investigate the long-term drivers behind recent geopolitical conflict, and explore how trends in demography, technology, values and beliefs, geopolitics, the environment and the economy combine to create concerns around cohesion, culture, identity and security, not only for Europe but in other parts of the world, including Asia.
- We will look at how a focus on short-term phenomena and events can blind us to the significance of longer-term trends, and will explore the tension between urgency and patience in policy and decision-making. How to balance the benefits of taking immediate and decisive action with the need to reflect on the future?
- This theme will be addressed by Jean-Philippe Toussaint, author of *L'urgence et la patience* (to be published in English in June this year) and winner of the Prix Décembre and Prix Médicis.

What to expect

SOIF retreats provide a unique combination of executive education, conference and expert coaching/mentoring.

Participants will become familiar with the science and the art of strategic foresight. From our expert faculty

they will learn the tools and techniques that enable them to become intelligent commissioners and users of foresight and will leave ready to implement foresight in their organisations. They will build confidence and practical experience by working through a “live challenge” during the week.

SOIF has engaged leading foresight and global trend experts and practitioners, with speakers including Mathew J Burrows and Rosemarie Forsythe. Our guest lecturer on foresight methods this year is Noah Raford.

Our retreats stand out for their high ratio of speakers and faculty to participants, and the opportunities for peer learning and sharing of experience this affords.

As part of the lead-up to the conference, guest speakers and experts will share their thoughts on our SOIF Online space at soif.collaborne.com – to which participants are also encouraged to contribute.

Who should attend

The retreat is designed to make you a confident commissioner and intelligent user of futures techniques, whether you have already taken part in strategic foresight exercises or are new to the field. If you set the strategic direction for your organisation, lead a strategy or innovation unit, or are setting up your own foresight function, you will benefit from the new analytical and professional perspectives SOIF2015 provides.

Through lectures, tutorials and work on the live challenge, you will leave with a better understanding of how different futures could come about, and how to be in the best position to confront them.

Around 15 countries are represented in each intake, from governments, NGOs, international organisations and businesses. Participants work at a senior level in strategy, policy, leadership and analytical roles.

What is School of International Futures?

Founded by Alun Rhydderch and Cat Tully, the School of International Futures was conceived to meet the growing demand for strategic foresight among international policy officials, business leaders, analysts and activists.

Alun was part of the team that set up the UK's Horizon Scanning Centre, which helped place analysis of future trends and scenario planning at the heart of the strategy process in UK government. Cat, as strategy project director in the UK FCO's Policy planning Unit, championed the application of these tools to British foreign policy.

Fees

Corporate rate: £5,450 (£6,540 including VAT)
NGO, government, academic rate: £3,600 (£4,320 including VAT). A deposit of £600 will be required to secure your place.

Fees include £1750 for 4 nights' accommodation at Hartwell House, all meals and airport transfers.

Testimonials

"I've rarely spent a week in such interesting and stimulating company from such a variety of backgrounds"

"Perfectly calibrated course. Quality, excellent. Great speakers. Practical tools and practical suggestions"

"The utility of networking and gaining first hand insight into a variety of different organisations, both in the private and public sector, was invaluable"

Enquiries

To find out more, please get in touch, or visit www.soif.org.uk/SOIF2015

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