



ISMA Ignite Program Outcomes and Calendar

Program Mission:

ISMA ignite is designed to accelerate the leadership journey of rising corporate security leaders, equipping them with the leadership skills, networks, and strategic insights to shape the future of corporate security and resilience.

8-month program outcomes for all participants:

- **Business Acumen is Non-Negotiable:** Participants will understand the importance of security programs aligning with business strategic goals, and be able to articulate the value and ROI of security to business leaders.
- **Leadership is Personal:** Participants will hone their personal leadership ethos to ensure effective internal, as well as cross-functional collaboration across the business.
- **Foresight is a Must:** Participants will tackle discussions on leading-edge technology, strategic trends in business, the future of the global world order to understand that effective security leaders must always be on the pulse of what's next for business.
- **Networks are Key:** Participants will develop a robust network of rising security leader peers and CSOs with whom they can benchmark against and align with in the future.

This program is **not** designed to train attendees on tactical security functions or operations, but rather to hone the skillset and strategic thinking required of the security and risk leaders of tomorrow.

Program Components and Calendar

- **August 2026:** Application Period Open
- **September-October 2026:** Selected applicants notified for inclusion.
- **February 2027:** Welcome Webinar



- Intro to program and participants; overview of expectations
- **March 2027:** 1.5 day Kickoff Conference in NYC
- **April 2027:** Ignite Virtual Roundtable
- **May 2027:** Ignite Virtual Roundtable
 - Leadership topic TBD
- **June 2027:** OPTIONAL June Member Meeting in Boston
 - Optional but highly encouraged to attend the member-only meeting to network with CSOs.
- **August 2027:** Ignite Virtual Roundtable
- **September 2027:** Ignite Virtual Roundtable
- **October 2027:** 1.5 day Closing Ignite Conference in London

Ongoing

- Access to an Ignite only Signal messaging group.
- Access to ISMA benchmarks and conference whitepapers.
- Option to attend 1 ISMA Member Meeting in the subsequent year.

Program Topical Content Buckets Aligned with Program Outcomes

1. Strategic Security Program Overview and Alignment with the Business

Objective: Ensure future leaders understand the security program's strategic positioning, both internally and externally, and its alignment with the enterprise's strategy.

- **Security Program Definition**
 - Structure and governance model
 - Budget allocation and spend visibility
 - Cost efficiency and optimization
 - Alignment with core business operations
 - Alignment with enterprise strategic goals
 - Return on Investment (ROI) and value realization
- **Cross-Organizational Perspective**



- How the program is perceived by other departments and business units
- Recognizing differences in expectations and priorities across audiences
- **Executive Viewpoint**
 - Senior leadership's perception of the program
 - Strategic importance and sponsorship
- **Integration and Assessment**
 - Identify areas of alignment and misalignment
 - Understand the "why" behind gaps
 - Define corrective actions to strengthen alignment

2. Leadership Development for Security Executives

Objective: Equip leaders to drive influence, foster collaboration, and lead through complexity.

- **Defining Your Leadership Approach**
 - Articulate your leadership style
 - Align personal leadership philosophy with organizational culture and values
- **Leading Through Influence**
 - Emotional intelligence as a leadership differentiator
 - Advanced communication strategies for executive impact
 - Building and sustaining professional relationships
 - Strategic influence across the enterprise
- **Driving Collaboration**
 - Fostering team cohesion and engagement
 - Building cross-functional partnerships
 - Negotiation strategies for alignment and resource support



- **Crisis and Disruption Leadership**

- Responding effectively to disruptions and crises
- Turning challenges into opportunities to build organizational trust and credibility
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3. Foresight/Emerging Technology

Objective: Equip future security leaders with the ability to understanding emerging technology, global macrorends, changes to the geopolitical landscape and develop foresight methodology to ensure business resiliency.

- AI for Enterprise
- AI for Security
- Legal Considerations of AI
- Global macrorends
- New world order and implications

4. Developing a Trusted Network

- ISMA to provide networking opportunities within programs (in-person and virtual)
- Signal group
- Optional attendance at Member-only meetings
- Fostering connection with their own cohort as well as past and future Ignite participants.