



**Fall 2021 Project Menu
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Project ID	DipLab2132201
Project Title	Recruiting Native Hawaiians for Careers at the U.S. Department of State
Office	Office of Talent Acquisition
Embassy	
Bureau	Human Resources
Project Description	This proposal calls for the creation of a plan to successfully recruit Native Hawaiian applicants, particularly in the state of Hawaii, for Foreign Service and Civil Service positions at the U.S. Department of State. We seek specific recommendations as to the best methods to increase the number of Native Hawaiians who apply for both Civil Service and Foreign Service positions as well as suggestions for how to raise awareness of U.S. Department of State career opportunities in that community. The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet these goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.
Final Product Format	Options memo with recommendations
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	One semester should be adequate

Project ID	DipLab2132202
Project Title	Recruiting California resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans for Foreign Service Specialist positions
Office	Office of Talent Acquisition
Embassy	
Bureau	Human Resources
Project Description	This proposal calls for the creation of a plan to successfully recruit resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans to apply for Foreign Service Specialist positions. We seek specific recommendations as to the best methods to increase the number of California resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans who apply for Foreign Service Specialist positions as well as suggestions for how to raise awareness of these career opportunities in that community. The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet these goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.
Final Product Format	Options memo with recommendations
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	One semester should be adequate

Project ID	DipLab2132203
Project Title	The Growing Impact of Social Media on Philippine Politics
Office	Political Section
Embassy	Philippines
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Assess the evolving role that social media plays in Philippine domestic politics since the 2016 presidential elections and the 2019 mid-term elections and what these trends hold for the upcoming 2022 national elections. Analyze what role U.S. regulators and Congress can play in the oversight of U.S.-headquartered platforms in the dissemination of fake news in the Philippines. Provide recommendations how the State Department can best seek to address these issues in the context of the Biden Administration’s focus on collective action by a community of like-minded democracies to address shared challenges. Research would ideally look into “coordinated inauthentic behavior” (i.e., troll farms and software), by campaigns and prominent political figures and the possibility of foreign states using social media tools to affect domestic political debates and campaigns.
Final Product Format	Four-page options memo or PowerPoint presentation
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	https://m.facebook.com/LowyInstitute/posts/3227343220616939 https://www.umass.edu/sbs/news/faculty/jonathan-ong-finds-increase-%E2%80%98fake-news%E2%80%99-innovations-during-philippines-elections-shows https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1921811047839669%26amp;ref=watch_permalink https://www.rappler.com/world/global-affairs/icfj-case-study-online-violence-maria-ressa-march-2021?utm_medium=Social%26amp;utm_source=Twitter%23Echobox=1615159227 https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1338778/embargo-until-3am-facebook-shuts-down-fake-china-based-accounts-posting-about-duterte-saras-possible-2022-bid

Project ID	DipLab2132204
Project Title	Constitutional Reform in The Gambia: How to Cement Democratic Development
Office	Embassy Banjul; Political-Economic Section
Embassy	The Gambia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The Gambia is gearing up for a presidential election in December 2021, its first since ending decades of nondemocratic rule in 2016. As political parties and presidential aspirants maneuver to win votes, the election’s constitutional framework remains unsettled. Attempts to reform or replace the document have faltered, and uncertainty only increases as the election draws near.</p> <p>The U.S. government is committed to encouraging a free and fair election in The Gambia. Embassy Banjul needs your help in understanding the constitution’s role in this process. How does the constitution regulate elections, and how would the draft constitution change the process? Do the proposed changes reflect best practices? How can The Gambia avoid falling into the trap of “strongman” leadership, and how can regional experiences inform U.S. policymaking?</p>
Final Product Format	A well-researched written explanation of The Gambia’s constitutional history, an analysis of the changes the proposed draft constitution could change, and concrete policy recommendations—not exceeding 20 pages. An accompanying one-hour presentation would also be welcome.
Discipline	["International Law", "Democracy & Human Rights"]
Additional Information	None.

Project ID	DipLab2132205
Project Title	The Changing Face of Finland
Office	Consular Section
Embassy	Finland
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>In recent decades, Finland has welcomed an influx of refugees, asylum seekers, and new immigrants. The Consular and Public Affairs Sections at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, Finland seeks to better understand these new Finnish citizens and residents. The Consular Section interacts with these individuals as applicants for non-immigrant and immigrant visas to the United States. The Public Affairs Section recognizes this group as an important emerging audience for public outreach and messaging on U.S. policy priorities. However, in order to devise and implement meaningful programs with this target audience, we have to better understand this audience. How have recent immigration policies impacted Finland’s demography? What are the social and economic prospects for new immigrants in Finland? What are the biggest challenges and motivators for young immigrants in Finland? How does the education level vary among this group? How do they consume media and what are the preferred platforms? Your work will help the Consular Section better facilitate legitimate travel to the United States as well as protect U.S. border security. Additionally, the data and overview you provide may help reduce unconscious and implicit bias. Your work will also help the Public Affairs Section better understand this audience so that they can devise more nuanced communication strategies and public engagement programs that promote U.S. policies and values in a way that resonates with this diverse audience in Finland.</p>
Final Product Format	A (10-page or less) research paper summarizing key findings with explanation of the data analysis and recommendations of communication and outreach strategies.
Discipline	["Arctic Region Studies", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Economic & Finance Issues", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Anthropology", "International Relations", "Sociology"]
Additional Information	https://migri.fi/en/home https://www.stat.fi/til/vrm_en.html

Project ID	DipLab2132206
Project Title	Choices and Trends for Caribbean International Students
Office	Consular Section
Embassy	Bahamas
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>International students play a pivotal role in international relations. Students forge ties between disparate cultures, foster understanding, and lay the foundation for future cooperation. Moreover, they contribute economically through their tuition and living expense as well as their home countries by bringing back useful skills, knowledge, and experiences. According to the Department of Commerce education service exports ranked 6th among US export services and represented over \$44 billion in education exports while supporting over 458,000 US jobs. However, the proportion of students from the Caribbean enrolled in institutions of higher learning in the US, as compared to other regions, has fallen steadily since the 1980s from 3.4% to 1.9%.</p> <p>This project is intended to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The composition of international students from Caribbean nations; their motivations for studying overseas, demographic characteristics, career aspirations, economic status, subjects or degrees of interest, etc. • The reasons for choosing US institutions over other leading destinations for Caribbean students such as Canada, China, the UK, or Caribbean and universities. • Identify threats to the US position in higher education such as availability of subjects or degrees, tuition affordability, and scholarship opportunities, or changing views of the US as a preferred destination for study.
Final Product Format	The research should result in a 10–20-page research paper with an executive summary as well as a brief prepared presentation to discuss findings and conclusions. The presentation will be used by students to brief DoS officials. Depending on data availability, a quantitative portion is welcome. Additionally, the researchers are encouraged to provide policy suggestions identified during their work.
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Education & Cultural Studies", "Geography", "International Relations", "Western Hemisphere Studies", "Youth Issues"]
Additional Information	<p>This project is being submitted by the US Embassy in Nassau, in coordination with other Caribbean posts, and students are encouraged to seek as much interaction as necessary to complete the work. Additionally, post is available to foster communication with other US agencies if deemed necessary.</p> <p>Some suggested sources include: US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics US Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis The Caribbean Council, Research and Analysis Organization of American States Caribbean Development Bank, Publications and Resources</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132207
Project Title	Telling the (Bioengineered) Story
Office	Office of Agriculture Policy
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	<p>While biotechnology and associated products offer significant potential benefits to people and the planet, public opinion and acceptance of agricultural biotechnology remain ambiguous and divided. This presents a challenge in communication that often occurs between expert and non-expert audiences. Because much of science is outside of direct experience, the public is dependent on others to inform and help them interpret information about science. Although many sources aim to fulfill this role, including formal schooling, institutes of informal science learning, or interpersonal discussions, nothing can surpass the ubiquity or frequency of the mass media in science communication (see Background below).</p> <p>Narrative communication (storytelling) is ubiquitous in mass media and has been shown to be effective in changing audience's perceptions of scientific issues. The task of this project is to (1) identify existing narratives regarding the use of agricultural biotechnology; (2) measure the effect of different narratives on an audience's opinion regarding biotechnology; (3) create and, if possible, experimentally test scientifically accurate narratives that incorporate multimedia tools for storytelling and social media.</p>
Final Product Format	A 5–10-page research paper; a methodology framework; recommendations and/or examples of communication and outreach strategies to counter misinformation.
Discipline	["International Relations", "Science and Technology; Communications; Engineering; Food and Agriculture"]
Additional Information	Background: "Using narratives and storytelling to communicate science with non-expert audiences" by Michael F. Dahlstrom (PNAS September 16, 2014 111 (Supplement 4) 13614-13620; first published September 15, 2014; https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1320645111)

Project ID	DipLab2132208
Project Title	Mapping Chinese Engagement and Influence in Portugal through Research Activities and Educational Outreach
Office	Political and Economic Section
Embassy	Portugal
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Portugal has a long history with China, dating back to the time of the explorers and continuing up to present day. Following the financial crisis, China invested heavily in Portugal's energy, banking, and insurance sectors. The current political and economic connections are well documented. However, the breadth and depth of Chinese engagement and influence through research activities and educational outreach to Portuguese institutions is not as well mapped. As such, the aim of this project is two-fold. First, it involves developing an understanding of the universe of research and educational partnerships between Chinese and Portuguese entities, whether public, private, or educational. Second, it aims to draw conclusions about the influence these partnerships afford China within Portugal, including possible access to IP, critical technology, sway over academic discussions on China. Of particular interest are any partnership that touch on AI and/or smart cities as well as dual use technology. However, cultural and broader academic influence are also of interest, particularly to understand how academic engagements may be shaping Portuguese opinion of China or addressing flashpoints for the PRC, such as Taiwan or Xinjiang.
Final Product Format	10-page research paper with presentation
Discipline	["Cyber Security", "East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Education & Cultural Studies", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Relations", "Science and Technology", "Computer Science"]
Additional Information	Below are two reports that might be useful points of reference/background. https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/chinas-influence-on-uk-research-has-grown-ten-fold-in-past-20-years https://www.aspi.org.au/report/mapping-chinas-tech-giants

Project ID	DipLab2132210
Project Title	Researching and Drafting of Statement of Facts (SoF) for Cultural Property Agreement
Office	Public Affairs Section (PAS), Kathmandu
Embassy	Nepal
Bureau	South and Central Asian Affairs
Project Description	<p>Theft and illicit trafficking of cultural property is a crime. In the past 50 years, 1000's of artworks, cultural treasures, and religious idols have been stolen and trafficked from Nepal. Many are housed in museums, auction houses, and personal collections throughout the world. The Dallas Museum of Art recently handed over an idol to the Nepal government and reports suggest that there are many more stolen artefacts in the United States that are eligible for restitution. To take advantage of the public momentum surrounding these repatriations, the US Embassy in Kathmandu is working with the Government of Nepal (GoN) to strengthen the enforcement of existing laws and to limit the further loss of cultural heritage in Nepal.</p> <p>As a State Party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the United States strives to protect and preserve cultural property from threats of pillage and trafficking. Nepal as a state party to the UNESCO's 1970 Convention is eligible for a Cultural Property Agreement with the United States. Recently, Embassy Kathmandu officials met with GoN officials at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Civil Aviation to invite them to enter a formal bilateral agreement with the United States. This agreement would prevent the future theft and pillage of Nepal's rich cultural heritage by establishing import restrictions.</p> <p>To request these import restrictions of cultural properties, the Government of Nepal must request to enter a CPA by submitting a comprehensive Statement of Fact (SOF) that outlines Nepal's cultural heritage and the current risk and law enforcement environment. The SOF should define what cultural heritage exists in Nepal and why those properties are in jeopardy. The document should also outline current measures of protection and how the application of import restrictions would deter future pillage.</p> <p>The selected university team will work closely with Embassy Kathmandu to assist the Government of Nepal in the drafting of a SoF – a living document that will directly impact the bilateral relationship. The project will involve Nepal's Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Civil Aviation; federal and local law enforcement agencies; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>U.S. efforts to protect and preserve cultural heritage through Cultural Property Agreements promote stability, economic development, and good governance in partner countries while denying critical financing to terrorist organizations and other criminal networks that engage in illicit trade.</p>
Final Product Format	Fully developed Statement of Fact (SOF) in a format prescribed by ECA. The format is attached.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Education & Cultural Studies", "International Law", "South/Central Asian Studies"]

Additional Information	PAS Kathmandu is available to supply any other required information.
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Project ID	DipLab2132215
Project Title	Access vs. Ownership: Identifying Opportunities to Procure Goods and Services On Demand in Europe
Office	EUR-IO, EX, Regional Support Center (RSC) Frankfurt
Embassy	Germany
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>RSC Frankfurt invites a team to research existing online resources available for completing the mission of the U.S. Government (USG) overseas through accessing goods and services without owning the asset or having a permanent position. RSC is specifically focused on strategic projects in the European geographic region.</p> <p>For example: Rather than owning vehicles, hiring drivers, and paying insurance for the fleet, the USG could use a service like Uber/Lyft/Free Now Taxis to provide rides to employees to their meetings. The need is the ride and not owning the vehicles.</p> <p>The goal of this project proposal is to develop list of support services and service providers that are available according to current industry standards and utilized by large multinational corporations.</p> <p>The USG provides furnished accommodations to U.S.-staff overseas, moves people and personal effects locally and internationally, and gives other service support like residential maintenance. Employees use computers and mobile devices to do their work. They need office supplies, printing services, and office space. This is not an exhaustive list but gives a sense of the needs required by the USG.</p> <p>Students can drill down into the most expensive and/or most environmentally impactful area to demonstrate where the USG can look for these services. Root questions for exploration and analysis: 1) What are the barriers? (E.g., acquisition/legal, fiscal barriers) 2) What are the advantages (E.g., financial, environmental, etc.), and 3) Which service providers currently offer solutions?</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The ultimate goal would be to receive a paper or presentation along with a catalog of services and service providers. If time permits, an online resource that dynamically updates to mine online data to match service requirements with potential vendors in a given geographical area.</p> <p>The research paper should provide analysis on the pros and cons of ownership vs. access.</p> <p>The paper may include analysis of the trends in corporate outsourcing rather than providing full-time in-house (other than shared services like human resources, financial offices, payroll).</p>
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Law", "Marketing", "Science and Technology", "Statistics"]

Additional Information	<p>Business, Finance, Economics, Statistics students interested in using data to drive logistics decisions would be ideal. RSC would be particularly interested in life-cycle cost or similar calculators that allow users to make data-driven “buy or rent” decisions. We are also open to students who would be interested in researching what US companies do to outsource support services on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>Ownership comes with the hidden costs of maintenance, inventory management, disposal at the end of an asset’s useful life, staffing costs (salary and benefits), and downtime for an asset not in use. Access may have higher initial costs or other barriers. What are the long-term differences and where is the “sweet-spot” when it comes to organization size and make-up?</p>
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Project ID	DipLab2132216
Project Title	Prospects for Hydrogen Energy Expansion in Portugal and California - A Comparative Analysis
Office	POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECTION
Embassy	Portugal
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Portugal is driving an ambitious hydrogen expansion agenda as a cornerstone of its climate transition goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. It also sees it as a promising business opportunity in the long run. Portugal will start producing green hydrogen by the end of 2022 and already has private investment worth around \$12 billion lined up for eight projects, according to the government.</p> <p>Meanwhile, like Portugal within the European Union, California is one of the U.S. leaders pushing hydrogen. It is quickly expanding its fuel station network and experimenting with the blending of hydrogen and natural gas in energy grid pilot projects. The state has designed a subsidy scheme spur the purchase of light-duty hydrogen vehicles and estimates the cluster will require a \$10 billion infrastructure investment by 2030.</p> <p>The project will describe, analyze and compare the hydrogen policy, regulation, focus and funding approaches of Portugal and California, identifying specific risks and opportunities. It will also map key public and private sector decision-makers that will shape the fate of hydrogen as a driver of energy transition.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page research paper with presentation
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Energy Security", "Geography", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Science and Technology", "Statistics", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	The outcome will identify common challenges, potential areas for cooperation between the United States and Portugal and deepen our understanding of the policy alternatives ahead.

Project ID	DipLab2132217
Project Title	Green Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Office	Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Hub (Pacific & Central America and the Caribbean)
Embassy	
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Hubs for the Pacific and Central America and the Caribbean in collaboration with U.S. Embassies Suva and Bridgetown are looking for a Diplomacy Lab partner to carry out research and collect data on the current green entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, including actors, networks, laws, policies, and regulations. “Green” (sustainable, environmentally friendly) business is touted as a key element in combating climate change, but the details of this ecosystem in the very locations most threatened by the impacts of climate change are sparse. The goal of this project is to document and provide a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and barriers faced by “green” entrepreneurs, investors, and stakeholders, including youth, in a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) “Green” Ecosystem Report and PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>This work would be done in cooperation with the two Regional ESTH Hubs covering the Caribbean and Pacific as well as with U.S. Embassies Suva and Bridgetown. The project would build on current efforts in the wider SIDS community to track these issues, including those being carried by Pacific, Caribbean, and American universities and organizations. A special emphasis on youth and education as they pertain to the SIDS’ green entrepreneurial ecosystem would be welcome. Using an acceptable and widely recognized approach (such as the GIZ Guide for Mapping the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem) as a guideline, the DipLab partner should prepare a list of the players and stakeholders in the SIDS’ green entrepreneurial space. In mapping the “ecosystem”; the DipLab partner should use the following tools/metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative survey to gather data from SIDS’ green entrepreneurs, youth, indigenous peoples and organizations, and other critical stakeholders on the challenges in the current environment. • Qualitative research and interviews with key stakeholders in the SIDS green economy ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, support organizations, investors, and government officials. • Mapping out existing (and forthcoming) policies, regulations, and laws that impact the market for environmental technology and services • Review any relevant secondary research on the market. • Mapping should cover SIDS in the Caribbean (including the Eastern Caribbean) and Pacific, including the greatest number of countries possible. <p>In addition to mapping the ecosystem and identifying trends, the DipLab partner can also provide a few well-researched case studies.</p> <p>Further information and for background on internal and external efforts currently underway in this area, please see the following links (not an exhaustive list but provided as a starting point):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.adb.org/publications/green-business-investments-asia-pacific-trends • https://storiesofchange.gggi.org/pacific/index.html • Global Green Growth Institute’s guides to green entrepreneurship for Fiji, Kiribati, and Vanuatu - https://gggi.org/report/guide-to-green-entrepreneurship-in-fiji-version-2/ (for example) • http://www.pidf.int/ge/ • https://pace.usp.ac.fj/ • https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/national-hubs/caribbean • http://www.caribbeancic.org/ • https://canari.org/green-economy/
Final Product Format	Microsoft Word report and PowerPoint presentation that covers ecosystem mapping and a few case studies. Both products should use non-technical English language and incorporate data and statistics when possible.
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Energy Security", "International Development", "International Relations", "Water Security", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	This project will be supported by a team from the Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Hubs for the Pacific and Central America and the Caribbean in collaboration with U.S. Embassies Suva and Bridgetown

Project ID	DipLab2132218
Project Title	The Global Observatory on Financing Water, Sanitation & Water Security: A unique hub to share best practices and encourage scaling up financing for water-related investments
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	U.S. Mission to the OECD
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	<p>This project would contribute to building a Global Observatory on Financing Water, Sanitation & Water Security established by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with the U.S. Mission to OECD, U.S. technical agencies, and other stakeholders. The United States/Secretary of State Blinken will host the 2021 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) focused on the theme of Shared Values: Building a Green and Inclusive Future. Additionally, climate-conscious water security is cited as a priority in the Biden Administration's Interim National Security Guidance.</p> <p>Background: Finance has long been recognized as a principal impediment to the achievement of universal access to water supply and sanitation, the sustainable management of water resources and of water-related risks (floods, droughts and pollution). Due to their cross-cutting and underpinning nature, investments in water security are central to achieving environmental, economic and social goals – such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the aims of the Paris Agreement, global biodiversity goals as well as contributing to a green and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Given that impacts on water resources are a main channel through which the impacts of climate change manifest, investing in water security will be vital to ensure climate resilience and adaptation, especially for vulnerable populations and developing countries. Further, financing water, sanitation and water security contributes to women’s empowerment and environmental justice, particularly in developing countries where lack of access can deter girls’ attendance at school, stunting their education.</p> <p>Despite its importance, financing and investment remain a major hurdle to achieving water security. Examples of good practice exist, in both developed and developing countries. Evidence of effective financing approaches are available in the literature and by drawing on the experience of practitioners. But a centralized, easily accessible repository of good practice is lacking. This is the inspiration for establishing the Global Observatory on Financing Water, Sanitation and Water Security, which will be hosted by the OECD with the support of the U.S. Mission to OECD. The aim is to document, synthesize, and disseminate good practice on financing water-related investments, drawing on the experience of governments, financial institutions (public and private), NGOs, research institutions and experts. This work will inform global policy discussions on financing water, such as in the context of the United Nations, the OECD, the G20 and other relevant international fora.</p>
Final Product Format	Research and data analysis on water infrastructure financing best practices at the country level and at multilateral institutions. Selected team(s) will work with the U.S. Mission to OECD and OECD economists to scope the final product, preferably a synthesis report based on the research conducted by the academic team. This final product will be made available on the OECD's Global Observatory website.

Discipline	["Water Security", "Water Security, International Development", "Water Security, International Development"]
Additional Information	We would like to launch a general overview project in one semester, but if there is continued interest there could be a second phase focused on different regional water infrastructure projects.

Project ID	DipLab2132220
Project Title	Paving an Ice Silk Road: The increasing presence of China in the Finnish Arctic
Office	The Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
Embassy	Finland
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>During the past decade the People’s Republic of China has sought to increase its influence in Finland, especially in the Arctic regions. Chinese companies are investing in areas such as tourism, bioeconomy, mining, and infrastructure, many of which are interlinked with the prospect of the so-called “Ice Silk Road.” In addition to business, China also seeks a foothold via cultural exchanges. Therefore, Embassy Helsinki would be particularly interested in gaining more insight into PRC soft power efforts in Finland’s Arctic region. How is China perceived among Finns, and does perception vary based on location, age, profession, and/or other demographics, for example, such as among the indigenous Sámi population.</p> <p>Preferred focus areas for research would be tourism, bioeconomy and mining, security, infrastructure projects, science and education and soft diplomacy channels such as cultural exchanges, traditional media, and social media. The final product would be a research paper with data analysis and a presentation.</p>
Final Product Format	A (max) 15-page research paper with valid data analysis (qualitative or quantitative) and a presentation
Discipline	["Arctic Region Studies", "European & Eurasian Studies", "International Law", "International Relations", "Political/Military Affairs", "Science and Technology", "Arms Control/Non-proliferation", "Statistics", "Climate Change", "Communications"]
Additional Information	<p>More information about the U.S. Embassy in Finland: https://fi.usembassy.gov/ An 'appetizer' article to reflect China's interests in the Finnish Arctic: https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/defence_ministry_blocked_chinese_plans_for_research_air_base_in_lapland/11820411</p> <p>This project can easily be split into several different research projects, based on students' interests.</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132222
Project Title	Mining Remediation in the Pacific
Office	Suva
Embassy	
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>Several Pacific States have derived financial benefits through mining operations, in the past century, and several others are considering further or different mining activities. The legacy of mining, however, has left some islands denuded or with large unusable or desertified tracts of land. In one case, nearly all residents of the island had to be evacuated. The livelihoods and well-being of growing populations residing on these small islands are also threatened. What can these islands do to remediate former mines to bring the land back into usability, and for what purposes would the land be usable? Agriculture? Reforestation and erosion control? Rehabilitation of the water table? Can one solution help two problems, such as composting solid waste to improve soil fertility? Examine possibilities for remediation, rehabilitation, and avenues to financing to undertake those steps. This information can also be used to include remediation options for the negotiation of new mining endeavors.</p> <p>Choose one or more of the following:</p> <p>Phosphate Mining: Kiribati (Banaba), Nauru</p> <p>Bauxite Mining: Fiji (Vanua Levu)</p> <p>Gold Mining: Fiji (Two operations underway in Viti Levu with plans for Vanua Levu)</p> <p>Nauru's new government has some ideas on how they can address remediation of the country's damaged lands, although their plans are currently cost prohibitive.</p>
Final Product Format	Paper (1-page executive summary + enough detail for policy makers to begin technical discussions to implement) with accompanying PowerPoint presentation, which will be shared with local policy makers in the respective countries.
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	<p>Links:</p> <p>https://www.alcircle.com/news/bauxite-mine-site-rehabilitation-in-fiji-continues-57092</p> <p>https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/438074/remote-kiribati-island-calls-for-help-with-water-crisis</p> <p>https://ejatlas.org/conflict/phosphate-mining-on-nauru</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132224
Project Title	Third Country Training Program Impact on Southeast Asia
Office	Economic/Political Section at United States Embassy Singapore
Embassy	Singapore
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>Highlighting the impact of the State Department capacity building programs in Southeast Asia is a key priority. The Singapore-United States Third Country Training Program (TCTP) showcases U.S. multifaceted regional commitment in Asia-Pacific. The impact and outcomes of the program need to be systematically documented both to maintain the program’s strength, measure its effectiveness, and build other instructive and educational global initiatives.</p> <p>The research will be focused on developing a design to collect both quantitative and qualitative data to assess the TCTP’s effect and implications for similar programs. Critically, the design will involve survey methods and provide examples of innovative implementation or collaborations resulting from participation. Factors such as individual privacy protection and cultural differences will influence research execution.</p> <p>TCTP is a partnership between the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Department of State to jointly conduct capacity building courses for Southeast Asian countries. Topics span critical economic, political, and social issues, such as cybersecurity, disease outbreak response, and water efficiency. Since 2012, Singapore and the United States have drawn on complementary expertise and experience to develop innovative TCTP programs catering to regional government members.</p>
Final Product Format	• Research paper and presentation with description of research design for data collection, analysis, and application of results.
Discipline	["East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Education & Cultural Studies", "International Development", "International Relations", "Statistics"]
Additional Information	Masters- and bachelor-level participation is welcome. Please reference the TCTP factsheet: https://sg.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/197/Fact-Sheet-TCTP-small.pdf

Project ID	DipLab2132226
Project Title	U.S. for Uganda: Measuring the True Impact of U.S. Engagement
Office	Africa/East
Embassy	Uganda
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The U.S. government (USG) has maintained a longstanding and significant bilateral relationship with Uganda and the Ugandan people, with thirteen USG agencies providing close to \$1 billion in foreign assistance annually. As a result of this investment, millions of Ugandans are living healthy, learning better, earning more, participating more fully in their communities, and enjoying greater security. Yet the full measure of the United States' engagement in Uganda extends far beyond USG programs. There are many U.S. entities working on the ground, including initiatives in the medical, educational, and agricultural sectors. These programs and efforts are spread across disparate groups, funding streams, and categories, making it difficult to fully measure the impact of America's engagement in Uganda.</p> <p>A comprehensive cataloging of non-governmental American engagement in Uganda would permit the Embassy for the first time to document the full extent of the United States' presence in the country and our contribution to achieving Uganda's development goals; provide insights into opportunities for collaboration and coordination between USG and U.S. private sector initiatives; to identify potential opportunities for further U.S. engagement; and to more clearly articulate to the Ugandan people the full measure of America's support for Uganda. We believe this product could serve as a model for Embassies worldwide.</p>
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Excel spreadsheet detailing: the name of each U.S. entity; brief description of its programming/mission in Uganda; approximate number of Ugandans served annually; notable Ugandan demographic groups targeted; budget for Uganda programming/operations; description of impact as reported by organization (beneficiaries reached, goals achieved, sales, units produced); key funding sources in the United States; geographic scope of operations in Uganda •A four-page memo summarizing the project's findings. What are the key areas of U.S.-origin or affiliated assistance or investment in Uganda? How much money and effort is being invested in Uganda? What is the extent of the impact being achieved? In what regions of the country are U.S. entities most heavily engaged? Are there regions where the U.S. presence is concentrated or, alternatively, absent? What are the principal goals of the most active organizations? In what sectors do private U.S. initiatives overlap with priority areas of engagement for the USG (based on focus areas for U.S. foreign assistance)? In what sectors do private U.S. initiatives complement U.S. government foreign assistance programs? What are some creative ways in which these entities have promoted Ugandan awareness of these ongoing private efforts? •Optional: a visual that maps where in Uganda efforts are focused.

Discipline	["African Studies", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Education & Cultural Studies", "Global Health", "Human Rights", "International Development", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Youth Issues", "Civil Society", "Communications", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction"]
Additional Information	<p>1. Some entities may operate multiple programs in Uganda. If that is the case, each distinct program or initiative should have its own line on the excel sheet to separate out the efforts of each program.</p> <p>2. The U.S. Embassy's annual Report to the Ugandan People provides an overview of U.S. foreign assistance programs in Uganda.</p> <p>3. Project can have up to three teams that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •One team evaluating engagement by NGOs and other nonprofit institutions •One team evaluating engagement by educational and research institutions •One team evaluating engagement by U.S. private sector entities, to include corporate social responsibility projects

Project ID	DipLab2132231
Project Title	U.S.-South Africa Relations: The Economic and Cultural Impacts of Temporary Agricultural Workers in the United States
Office	Office of Southern African Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	<p>U.S.-South Africa economic and agricultural ties compose an important part of the overall bilateral relationship. Every year many U.S. farms and supporting industries benefit from the support of thousands of experienced farmworkers from South Africa, which ranks in the top four countries in the world that send citizens to the United States as Temporary Agricultural Workers on H2A visas. In FY2020, South Africa was second only to Mexico in the number of H2A workers who traveled to the United States to support the U.S. food supply chain – sending over 5,500 workers. While the State Department knows the number of individuals arriving and roughly where they go within the United States, it seeks assistance to conduct an in-depth analysis of this program to better understand the economic, cultural, and political impacts of these exchanges and how they benefit the United States and South Africa. This analysis could also contribute to efforts to increase exports of U.S. agricultural equipment, products, and technology to South Africa. Notably, this project will serve the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of advancing a foreign policy for middle class Americans by investigating what the impacts of a policy initiative are on individuals, towns, and economies in select parts of the United States that employ these South African agricultural workers. This research will also be used to find ways to encourage a diverse pool of South African applicants.</p> <p>To effectively evaluate the H2A program and its impact, this project will combine research, direct interviews, and data collection and analysis. Some of the questions the State Department hopes this project will answer include: What size and type of U.S. farms and businesses benefit from these workers? What type of agricultural work do these temporary workers do back in South Africa? What skillsets do H2A workers bring to, and back from, U.S. farms? What is the economic and cultural impact of these exchanges? How do South Africa and the United States benefit from these H2A workers? What types of U.S. exports could be marketed to South African participants in this program? What implications might the exchanges have on U.S.-South Africa relations? How will existing or projected developments in U.S. farming impact demand for H2A workers from South Africa? Testimonials on the benefits that U.S. farmers and South African farmworkers derive from the program would be valuable.</p>
Final Product Format	The primary deliverable will be a five-to-eight-page research paper and associated presentation, accompanied by the data analysis of the information gathered throughout the semester. An initial template to assist in structuring the data analysis will be provided, with flexibility to expand or adjust as needed. The paper will present initial findings, highlight trends, and recommend potential opportunities for the State Department and U.S. Mission South Africa interagency.
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships"]

Additional Information	To complete this project, students will work primarily with the State Department Office of Southern African Affairs. An interest in agriculture or expertise in Excel would be beneficial but is not necessary.
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Project ID	DipLab2132232
Project Title	Dynamic Routing for High Threat Posts
Office	High Threat Programs/Special Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	<p>The Directorate of High Threat Programs (HTP) provides strategic planning and preparation for crises before they emerge for the most critical threat locations around the world. Many opportunities for diplomacy occur off-post or “outside the wire” for these high threat locations. Consequently, identifying off-post travel routes that account for efficiency, hazards, and safety features is a critical need for both pre-travel planning and responsive navigation intervention during travel. The goal of this project is to provide ground transportation routes for overseas posts and surrounding locations of interest that (1) avoid hazards, (2) seek safe points, and (3) provide reasonably efficient travel times on established roads.</p> <p>The project will achieve this goal by satisfying two objectives that integrate waze software with ArcGIS. Hazards, based on SigActs data, will act to repel routes in space and time. Safe points, such as friendly police stations or safe houses, will act as attractors in space and time. Both objectives will result in dashboards that display geospatial imagery layers and include overlay capabilities for routes, SigActs data, and safe points. The dashboards will also include illustrations of temporal behavior for SigActs data and safe points. Once collected, the data are available as a historical archive to complete trend and forecast analysis models. Objective 1: Pre-travel routes. This objective will provide multiple options of routes for the Deliberate Planning Process (DPP). Dashboards may be printed to serve as route illustration and justification as part of a DPP document. Objective 2: Dynamic Routing. This objective will provide post Regional Security Officers with the ability to dynamically re-route active travel in the event of changing hazards.</p>
Final Product Format	A project report, the code in ascii format, and a presentation of the project.
Discipline	["Cyber Security", "Geography", "Information & Communication Technology", "Computer Science"]
Additional Information	<p>HTP is developing SigActs, a GIS-based common operating picture that consolidates and analyzes significant activity reports and security data tracked by U.S. Embassies and posts around the world. SigActs enables security officers to make data-informed decisions, enforce security policies, answer requests for information. The next stage for the evolution of SigActs will be more dynamic capabilities, such as route planning and the tracking of protective security details. The algorithmic modeling of a Diplomacy Lab project team will support security operations overseas and take the SigActs program to the next level.</p> <p>The project will be conducted for an overseas post that will serve as a case study. DoS advisors will identify the post and provide SigActs data to the project team once the project begins.</p> <p>About the Bureau of Diplomatic Security: www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/bureau-of-</p>

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Project ID	DipLab2132234
Project Title	Impact of Women Justice Sector Professionals
Office	Women Peace and Security
Embassy	
Bureau	Global Women's Issues
Project Description	There is research demonstrating links between increased number of women police officers and crime reporting, especially as it relates to crimes against women and gender-based violence. However, there is less information available on whether this correlation exists for the justice sector in the criminal justice system as well. Does an increased number of women judges and/or prosecutors correlate to an increased number of criminal cases where women are enforcing their rights or seeking redress as victims of crimes? While an increase in reporting to police is important, that only captures one small link in the criminal justice chain. Criminal reporting that leads to nowhere breeds perceptions of impunity and ferments distrust in the formal justice system. Therefore, it is important to understanding the role judges and prosecutors play in investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating these cases. This understanding is especially important in legal systems where judges and prosecutors play a more active role in the criminal process (e.g., in inquisitorial based criminal procedural frameworks).
Final Product Format	Research paper with case studies, paired with a 1-2 summary memo.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "International Law", "International Relations"]
Additional Information	N/A

Project ID	DipLab2132236
Project Title	Gender-Based Violence Online
Office	Gender-Based Violence; Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	Global Women's Issues
Project Description	<p>Gender-based violence includes various forms of online harassment and abuse—a trend that is increasingly on the rise and is related to offline experiences of abuse and violence*. The international community has taken steps to draw attention to this trend, including through multilateral efforts in the G7, G20, and United Nations dedicated to developing consensus around preventing and respond to GBV, including GBV online issues.</p> <p>Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated existing gendered divides in technology access and use, and accelerated trends toward virtual participation in the economy and public life for everyone. The Department’s diplomacy and programming activities have also shifted toward virtual engagements, necessitating an understanding of the full scope of abuses women may face online build policy and programming activities that mitigate risks of such abuse. GBV that occurs online, or is facilitated by technology, has negative effects on women and girls – such as retreating from participation in political, economic, and social life online and offline – but granular information about typologies of digital abuse women and girls face around the world is uneven.</p> <p>The Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues seeks further research into GBV that occurs online, particularly as it relates to the digitized reality for many during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be especially timely and helpful as we prepare to update the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.</p> <p>Research projects will primarily examine the typologies of digital GBV that women and girls around the world face, particularly in accounting for variation across geography or culture and the relationship between online and offline GBV. It will also outline the ramifications of these forms of abuse and what human rights frameworks are applicable to prevent and respond to such abuse. The secondary part of the project will provide an opportunity for researchers to delve into a more specific issue area of their choosing that builds on the survey of forms of violence, such as:</p> <p>The role of this form of GBV on the digital divide, taking into account any existing assumptions about the definitions of the digital divide;</p> <p>Effects of GBV in online contexts on women’ participation in public life, for example in public engagement as civil society advocates, journalists, voters, or candidates for office;</p> <p>The intersection of GBV in online contexts and violent extremism, including violent extremist-perpetrated online abuse, radicalization processes, and efforts to prevent or respond to violent extremism through digital tools;</p> <p>Opportunities and promising practices for private sector engagement (e.g. technology companies) in ensuring women’s safety online and whether and how human rights</p>

	<p>frameworks are being adopted to identify guiding principles to inform technology company’s business practices and/or corporate social responsibility efforts; and</p> <p>Risk mitigation techniques for online programming with women and marginalized communities.</p> <p>* Various international bodies have discussed the scope of GBV as it occurs online and several academic and research groups have established different definitions, yet there is no common international definition. For example, ICRW has coined the term technology-facilitated GBV and defined it as “action by one or more people that harms others based on their sexual or gender identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms. This action is carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology and includes stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech and exploitation” (ICRW, 2018).</p>
Final Product Format	20-page research paper, including a thorough literature review, accompanied by a one-page memo succinctly sharing the findings and addressing policy implications.
Discipline	["Cyber Security”, “Democracy & Human Rights”, “Gender Studies”, “Human Rights”, “International Relations”, “Public-Private Partnerships”, “Civil Society”]
Additional Information	<p>To learn more about the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, visit www.state.gov/s/gwi. Please familiarize yourself and tie research to relevant U.S. Government strategies, and guidance, including Interim National Security Strategic Guidance (https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/03/interim-national-security-strategic-guidance/); the Biden administration’s executive actions on gender equality and equity, including but not limited to https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/; the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf; and the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally (2016 update) https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/258703.pdf.</p> <p>Additional resources on tech-facilitated GBV may include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Hubbard, C., & DeSoi, C. (2016). Votes Without Violence: A Citizen Observer's Guide to Addressing Violence Against Women in Elections(Toolkit). Washington, DC.</p> <p>Hinson L, Mueller J, O'Brien-Milne L, Wandera N. (2018) Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it? Washington, D.C., International Center for Research on Women.</p> <p>Duggan M. Online Harassment. Pew Research Center. 2014. http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/22/online-harassment/ as cited in Hinson, et al.</p> <p>Bauman S, Toomey RB, Walker JL. Associations among bullying, cyberbullying, and</p>

suicide in high school students. *Journal of Adolescence*. 2013; 36(2): 341-50. As cited in Hinson, et al.

Krook, M.L. & Sanin, J. (2014). Mapping violence against women in politics: Aggression, harassment and discrimination against female politicians. Manuscript under review. As cited in Hubbard, et. al.

Krook, Mona Lena. "Violence Against Women in Politics." *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 28 no, 1 (2017): 74-88. As cited in National Democratic Institute. (2018). *No Party to Violence: Analyzing Violence Against Women in Political Parties* (Rep.).

Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians(Rep.). (2016).

Retrieved March 2, 2019, from Inter-Parliamentary Union website:

<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2016-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-parliamentarians>

Women in Parliaments Global Forum, Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, & Facebook. (2016, October). *Social Media: Advancing Women in Politics?*(Rep.). Retrieved April 6, 2019, from Women in Parliaments Global Forum website: https://www.womeninparliaments.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/WIP-Harvard-Facebook-Study_Oct2016.pdf

National Democratic Institute. (2016). *Not The Cost Stopping Violence Against Women in Politics*(A Call to Action). Washington, DC.

Project ID	DipLab2132237
Project Title	Taking a Gender Lens to Environmental Issues
Office	Women's Economic Empowerment
Embassy	
Bureau	Global Women's Issues
Project Description	With climate change and environmental degradation representing some of the most critical issues of our time, it is essential to 1) examine environmental impacts on women; 2) understand the role of gender in tackling environmental issues; and 3) empower women to take on leadership roles in climate mitigation and adaptation activities, initiatives, and funding instruments. Women shoulder a disproportionate burden of care, often requiring dependence on natural resources like land, water, and wood. However, women still face barriers to their access of these resources through barriers of access to loans, education, and information. As the world looks to build back better from COVID-19, an inclusive "green recovery" is at the forefront of policymaking around the world and presents tremendous opportunity to determine the most effective strategies in developing policy and programs that combine efforts toward long-term sustainability and gender mainstreaming. This project would combine desk research/interviews; case studies to feature countries or regions that have had success in implementing a gender lens to environmental issues, including examples of women-led climate mitigation and adaptation efforts; and a presentation to S/GWI and other Department staff. Particular areas of focus for the research could include, but are not limited to, an analysis of gendered environmental impacts of COVID-19; the role of women in food, water security, and climate change; barriers to women's empowerment in environmental industries or in environmental policymaking; potential for women's economic empowerment through women-led climate mitigation and adaptation efforts; and the intersections between resource conflicts (or conflicts exacerbated by climate change) and the role of women in preventing and resolving climate-induced fragility or insecurity.
Final Product Format	Research paper with case studies, presentation
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Gender Studies", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	N/A

Project ID	DipLab2132238
Project Title	How Do Local Circumstances Shape Best Rehabilitation and Reintegration Practices?
Office	Office of Countering Violent Extremism
Embassy	
Bureau	Counterterrorism
Project Description	The U.S. Government strives to repatriate, rehabilitate, and reintegrate former terrorists and their family members, especially youth and children. As the U.S. government works with partner countries in advancing rehabilitation and reintegration of young people, it seeks to identify lessons learned, good practices, and new, potentially innovative solutions. A key question is in what ways do local contexts - particularly social norms and structures - shape good practices in the rehabilitation and reintegration of children and young people? More specifically, in what ways do these kinds of local circumstances support or hinder effective rehabilitation and reintegration? In particular, how can they be leveraged to address the stigma many returning fighters and family members encounter when they go back to their communities of origin; sensitize receiving communities to the plights of children and youth; and promote reconciliation between involved parties? This project would undertake a comparative analysis of local circumstances and how they potentially shape rehabilitation and reintegration of children and young people. We seek cooperation of two teams who will study two country cases. We are particularly interested in understanding Indonesia and Philippines, but we are open to other country case studies based on particular participating team interests.
Final Product Format	We request a green paper, presentation, and white paper for each group's project. The green paper would be a brief description of findings and recommendations based on the findings that would be distributed for feedback and comments. The presentation would present the findings, then recommendations that incorporate selected feedback and comments. The white paper would briefly present the ultimate recommendations the group would make based on its findings and feedback it has received.
Discipline	["International Relations", "Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology."]
Additional Information	Link to Bureau: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-counterterrorism/ . Link to example of presentation of best practices: https://www.hedayahcenter.org/resources/reports_and_publications/rftfrehabblueprint/ .

Project ID	DipLab2132240
Project Title	People! Promotions! Performance Management! Be a Part of Redesigning Foreign Service Performance Management with Our Reform Initiative
Office	Performance Evaluation
Embassy	
Bureau	Human Resources
Project Description	<p>An exciting opportunity to shape the future staffing of the Foreign Service! The Director General of the Foreign Service (similar to a CHRO) recently announced a new, long-term Foreign Service Performance Management Reform (PMR) initiative, through which PE is conducting a comprehensive review of the Foreign Service performance management system to ensure the Department develops, evaluates, and promotes employees in a fair, inclusive, and effective manner. For several decades, our unique workforce has used a performance evaluation structure that emphasizes annual supervisor appraisals and is partially legislatively mandated in the Foreign Service Act of 1980. While it was partially updated in 2015, employee perception is still quite negative. While many elements of the process are sound, the Director General has taken up the initiative to improve, ideally to become "industry leading," and to create a modern performance management structure for a 21st century Foreign Service.</p> <p>The selected team would use their business/industrial-organizational psychology/management/organizational sciences expertise, skills, and experience to enhance, support, and advance our reform initiative, aimed at modernizing and improving the validity, fairness, effectiveness, transparency, and inclusiveness of our performance management structures. Elements currently being explored include multi-source ratings, a shift to short-answer and quantitative components, the construction of a robust performance development structure, and identity-anonymous evaluations. None of those elements currently exist.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Flexible; the team may conduct research, create and implement change intervention action plans, build performance development and/or evaluation structures and systems (appraisal and/or selection anchors, scoring systems or algorithms, multisource rating protocols, quantitative assessment tools, or other PM structures or systems), coordinate with the IT team on supporting infrastructure, and/or build associated training materials for employees, supervisors, selection boards, etc.</p> <p>We can be flexible in leveraging the skill set of the selected and adapting target portfolios and expected products but would anticipate a report/research paper, data analysis, presentation, or system component might be most relevant.</p>
Discipline	["Anthropology", "Information & Communication Technology", "Marketing", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Psychology", "Science and Technology", "Sociology", "Statistics", "Civil Society", "Communications"]
Additional Information	<p>While we are happy to welcome a team for one semester, we would welcome a team for longer, as well.</p> <p>We anticipate this being most relevant to students of business, management strategy, organizational sciences, organization development, statistics, industrial-organizational psychology, or similar fields.</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132241
Project Title	Adapting Criminal Justice Technologies for Developing World Operating Conditions
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>INL is consistently requested to support a variety of technology requirements in many different criminal justice and related sectors. INL's historical response is to focus on the basics before addressing technology requirements. However, many developing world nations where INL operates do not have legacy technology that could impede the introduction of new low-cost alternatives. Concurrently to the provision of U.S. foreign assistance, other donors seek to introduce technologies that have applications in criminal justice functions or applicability to the operations of criminal justice agencies, such as telecommunications networks.</p> <p>We currently don't have a good understanding of the intersection of these issues:</p> <p>What is a criminal justice system technology? How can these be classed or categorized based on their utility and functionality for criminal justice agencies?</p> <p>Where are non-U.S. foreign assistance providers offering or pushing for the adoption of certain technologies with criminal justice system applications?</p> <p>What are the capabilities of a select group of donor recipient nations (INL will provide focus countries) in criminal justice technologies?</p> <p>What is the underlying capability of the selected group of INL focus countries to absorb new, or existing, criminal justice technologies?</p> <p>At what stage of development are these countries in the U.S. or criminal justice technologies?</p> <p>What criminal justice technologies are supported by U.S. agency utilization and what could be the required adaptations to introduce those to the countries under study?</p> <p>This research would help identify countries/sectors where there is an intersection of country need/U.S. approved technology and an adaptive mechanism to make it work for the country's operating environment.</p>
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Science and Technology"]
Additional Information	<p>INL will support the Diplomacy Lab team to refine the concept, geographic focus, and thematic area. INL will provide additional research such as reports or other materials which can be shared with the Diplomacy Lab team.</p> <p>INL is open to innovative, enterprising, and "ok to fail" approaches to this project.</p>

	INL requests a masters or Ph.D., or equivalent, level Diplomacy Lab team.
Project ID	DipLab2132242
Project Title	Changing Public Perceptions of Next Generation Nuclear Technology in Europe
Office	PAS
Embassy	Slovenia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	In addition to a rudimentary baseline analysis of current research with regard to public opinion in Europe on nuclear energy, Embassy Ljubljana seeks to better inform U.S. strategic messaging on the benefits of next generation nuclear technology as a clean energy source with a survey of public information campaigns from around Europe in recent years focusing on nuclear power generation. Cross referencing polling data, public outreach campaigns for and against expanded use of nuclear power, and resulting policy outcomes, we hope to identify narratives, images, platforms, etc. that were particularly effective - or ineffective - and understand why. Research questions include whether terms like “clean energy” or “green power” resonate in Europe when addressing the future use of nuclear power in the context of climate change; if there are arguments that have proven effective in addressing safety concerns; how various demographic groups respond differently to narratives surrounding nuclear; and which voices are deemed most credible on nuclear issues. Case studies would be highly encouraged, and a suggested campaign plan based on the findings of research executed most welcomed.
Final Product Format	Printed report of analysis featuring data in graphic form with specific examples cited and a draft strategic messaging campaign plan that includes target audiences, storyboards, suggested public outreach activities, etc.
Discipline	["Energy Security", "European & Eurasian Studies", "International Relations", "Climate Change", "Communications"]
Additional Information	While Embassy Ljubljana will work closely with the team to ensure the end products are relevant to very real challenges posed by the information environment in Slovenia with regard to this issue, our intent is that this be a project of broader, regional utility.

Project ID	DipLab2132243
Project Title	Understanding Accreditation's Role and Limitations in International Criminal Justice Development
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>INL has historically promoted accreditation in criminal justice as a tool to support the function of effective and equitable foreign partner criminal justice agencies; however, we lack empirical evidence of its benefit to those organizations. There is likewise a dearth of empirical research on whether accreditation of law enforcement, corrections, or forensics agencies as an international foreign assistance tool is effective in leading to criminal justice agencies that support the rule of law and citizen security. While there have been studies of the impact of accreditation on domestic U.S. law enforcement agencies, the adaptation of American accreditation processes to non-domestic settings is riven with complexity.</p> <p>This research project will:</p> <p>Identify studies of law enforcement, corrections, and forensics accreditation in the U.S. and rate them based on a modified version of the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, CrimeSolutions standard for program/practices (INL will provide additional guidelines on studies to include or exclude).</p> <p>Identify where non-U.S. donors have supported criminal justice accreditation (INL will provide research guidelines to assist in this identification process).</p> <p>Identify studies of criminal justice accreditation conducted in non-Western or developed nations setting and rate them based on a modified version of the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, CrimeSolutions standard for program/practices (INL will provide additional guidelines on studies to include or exclude).</p> <p>Identify which accreditation practices in non-western nations have shown promise or success.</p> <p>INL will benefit from a deeper understanding of where accreditation serves as a useful tool in developing criminal justice agencies and how accreditation can be adapted for international use.</p> <p>Research will provide INL a deeper understanding of how accreditation can be used as a tool in international development vice an end goal, and how best to adapt accreditation globally.</p>
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement"]

Additional Information	INL will support the research team with guidance on thematic issues, country selections, and guidelines for studies of interest to INL. INL requests a master's or Ph.D., or equivalent, level Diplomacy Lab Team.
Project ID	DipLab2132244
Project Title	Exploring transnational links between organized crime and political extremists
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>The United States has in the past several years witnessed paroxysms of violence conducted by groups aligned with political causes. Along certain spectrums of political ideology there are clear or nascent transnational linkages across political extremist groups which may indicate the need for a better understanding of the transnational linkages across political extremist groups. Concurrently, in certain countries political extremists are linked to specific types of transnational organized crime groups such as motorcycle gangs (particularly in Europe and Canada) which engage in a variety of transnational crime (drug trafficking, cigarette smuggling, and etc.).</p> <p>As there are increasing threats of political violence and groups are targeted by law enforcement in the United States and other countries, this research report would identify the potential intersections of these groups with criminal activity. While more recently political extremist activity has been primarily relegated to Western/Eastern Europe and North/South America, political chauvinism is not a malady entirely of these places (Buddhist chauvinist violence in Burma/Sri Lanka, Hindu nationalist violence in India, and Islamic extremism in the Middle East and elsewhere). As political extremist groups that may have previously received less scrutiny through law enforcement are driven underground through operational activity, fundraising and solicitation activity may also be degraded and fund seeking activities may turn to criminal means.</p> <p>This research report will focus on understanding the extent of political extremist violence and the transnational linkages across groups by using network analysis or other appropriate tools and identify existing or potential linkages with transnational organized criminal groups.</p>
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement"]
Additional Information	<p>INL will support the research team with additional research and insights as available in addition to providing potential country areas of focus.</p> <p>INL requests a master's or Ph.D., or equivalent level, Diplomacy Lab team.</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132245
Project Title	Dynamic Drug Trends in a Changing Climate
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' (INL) counternarcotic programs are implemented within dynamic country contexts, including environmental and geopolitical factors. Global climate change will accelerate the rates of change of both contexts on the local, regional, and global level. Climate change has the potential to destabilize governments prompting civil unrest; cause mass migration displacing communities and intensifying socio-economic discrepancies; and negatively affect agricultural production causing increased food insecurity. The stress and uncertainty in these situations can lead to increased drug use (as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic) as well as increased under and unemployment which may lead desperate individuals to turn to drug trafficking or other crimes. Changes in climate may also affect arable land, which could affect the profitability of various crops, including plant-based narcotics. A general decrease in crop yields may incentivize a shift in drug production towards synthetic drugs.</p> <p>Climate change is a national security threat multiplier as recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense. INL seeks to establish a forward-looking approach to global climate change and the first step is consolidating the known research at the intersection of climate change and counternarcotics. With that knowledge in hand, INL, and possibly outside experts, can work to make informed inferences about the impacts of climate change on drug trafficking and drug use. Ultimately, this will enable INL to strategically position itself to minimize deleterious effects on operations and to maximize program impacts.</p> <p>In addition to a review of current research on the intersection of climate change and counternarcotics, INL is interested in qualitative and quantitative information that summarizes the multi-faceted impacts of climate change on narcotic and stimulant producing plants. This information would be used in a data visualization to support strategic planning and decision making. This research report could develop a visual analysis synthesizing information from several data sources that could include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of countries who are expected to see the most dramatic effects of climate change, particularly on agricultural and political systems dimensions. Additional sources of information or identified indicators that could indicate risk of potential future drug production or instability under climate change (e.g., state fragility). Existing production information by country of plant-based and synthetic illicit drugs. Any information on predictions for drug crop yields. Expected impact of climate change on crop production (i.e., expected climate change

	impact on crop yields per sq. acre, geographic shifts in production [i.e., will climate change shift zones of production based on climatological shifts in current production zones]).
Final Product Format	Research report and visualization
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	INL will support the research team to identify regions, substances, and guidelines for research. INL is open to novel, innovative, and "ok to fail" approaches to addressing how to understand this issue.

Project ID	DipLab2132246
Project Title	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Horizon Scanning
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>Technological advancements are rapidly progressing within the criminal justice field. Notably, the People’s Republic of China, an alternate security sector partner for many countries, is already leveraging big data, facial recognition, and machine learning to police their own population. At the same time, similar technologies are beginning to be applied within the United States (Ring doorbell camera footage is used by law enforcement, predictive policing algorithms, etc.). While many of these technologies have the potential to increase the effectiveness for law enforcement, the justice system, and corrections programs, there are serious technical and ethical considerations before these technologies should be implemented in any context, both domestically and in foreign assistance.</p> <p>The United States has not comprehensively dealt with these ethical issues. Implementation, and barriers to implementation, vary by city and state. However, as countries with more authoritarian criminal justice approaches begin to export homegrown AI systems, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the State Department should be prepared with a coherent response for if and why certain technologies are inappropriate for our foreign partners to adopt. A coherent strategy is not only important for our bilateral programming, where we need to offer attractive alternatives to other countries, but also in multilateral fora.</p> <p>INL seeks a research report that will include a review of current AI-related criminal justice technologies relevant to INL’s work; laws that minimize implementation of these policies in the U.S. and foreign countries; prominent ethical concerns and the pros and cons of these technologies; and an identification of countries currently employing these technologies and in what capacities.</p>
Final Product Format	Research report and interactive briefing on the basics of these technologies.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Science and Technology"]
Additional Information	INL will support the research team by providing guidance on appropriate technologies and potential adaptation mechanisms through foreign assistance.

Project ID	DipLab2132247
Project Title	Harnessing the Evolution of Digital Marketing
Office	Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources, Public Diplomacy Incubator Unit
Embassy	
Bureau	Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs
Project Description	<p>Identify and assess emerging trends in digital marketing - what is worth the effort beyond the hype?</p> <p>In today's global information landscape, change is still the only constant. The proliferation of new tools and platforms where brands, organizations, and governments compete for the attention of individuals seems to grow exponentially, with organizations forced to make tough choices about where to devote limited amounts of time and personnel in order to reach their desired audiences. While this is not a new problem, how can the U.S. State Department public diplomacy practitioners acquire a better understanding of the return on investment for emerging trends in digital marketing? What tactics are proving successful? What popular tools have made a splash but appear to have limited impact in generating the desired results? Are there new approaches to digital engagement and online community-building that deserve further testing and exploration?</p> <p>The Public Diplomacy Incubator Unit (PD Incubator) in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for the U.S. Department of State's Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs would like to see an in-depth presentation that explores and assesses emerging trends in digital marketing from an outside perspective. The work should select 3-5 trends or practices in digital marketing employed by large-scale brands, government agencies (but not the U.S. Department of State), or organizations in 2020 or more recently and take a case study approach to each, evaluating which approaches should be recommended for further testing and exploration Department of State use-cases. The finding will inform ongoing strategic and tactical decisions by public diplomacy practitioners across the Department and around the world.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Oral presentation (Google Slides)</p> <p>Written summary of each trend or practice, including use case, observations/findings, methodology, and recommendations for further testing or exploration (Google Doc)</p>
Discipline	["Information & Communication Technology", "International Relations", "Marketing", "Science and Technology", "Youth Issues", "Communications"]
Additional Information	<p>The PD Incubator builds and maintains digital networks of strategically important audiences such as the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI). The unit applies the principles of audience analysis, email marketing, and advocacy campaigns to engage these audiences with targeted campaigns designed to build public support for specific U.S. policy objectives. PD Incubator is able to apply its lessons learned and best practices to inform further experimentation with digital network engagement across the Department. The unit is exploring means to incubate, test, and disseminate other innovative PD practices</p>

	for the Department.
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Project ID	DipLab2132249
Project Title	Alternatives to Incarceration: Beyond the Global North Model
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>Overcrowding is a serious issue for many correctional systems around the world, particularly for INL’s partner countries. Some countries are interested in implementing probation and parole systems; however, their physical and technological infrastructure as well as their resourcing can make these program challenging to implement effectively.</p> <p>Some countries use alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and diversion programs. Some countries implement mass presidential pardons on public/religious holidays using a wide variety of criteria to identify eligible inmates. This research project would identify other alternatives to incarceration methodologies, including traditional methods, and evaluate their efficacy at reducing recidivism and public safety while maintaining low infrastructure needs and resource allocation.</p> <p>The research report will be informed by INL’s experiential knowledge.</p>
Final Product Format	Research report.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement"]
Additional Information	INL will be able to support the research team by providing guidance on thematic issues and regions of interest.

Project ID	DipLab2132251
Project Title	Understanding What Makes Adult Centered Training Effective
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>INL's has historically utilized a training model focused on all-day participation. However, the complexity of the training may have reduced returns for all day models. Operational law enforcement agencies such as the NYPD focus on half day in-service training models due to the diminishing return of full day sessions. INL is currently revamping our training model to introduce the latest adult education centered training models for INL personnel, domestic and overseas.</p> <p>This research report will focus on identifying adult centric education models for in service training, review the research on how to structure in service training and determine good practices for operating training sessions. INL seeks to have the following questions addressed:</p> <p>What number of hours are ideal for classroom training/learning?</p> <p>What number of hours are ideal for virtual learning? INL hypothesizes that the number of hours decreases with virtual but have been unable to identify research that addresses diminishing returns on adult learning.</p>
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline	["Education & Cultural Studies"]
Additional Information	INL will be able to provide additional guidance on INL's adult centered education model for both internal training and foreign partner capacity building and will be able to assist the research team to guide the research.

Project ID	DipLab2132252
Project Title	The Impact of Executive Training on Criminal Justice Change
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>INL employs a variety of paradigms in providing training to foreign criminal justice agencies. One of the most prevalent models is to focus on executive level training with the assumption that executive level change leads to systemic reform. To identify whether this paradigm of foreign assistance is appropriate for INL to continue to employ, INL seeks a research report that will explore the potential link between executive training and criminal justice systematic change.</p> <p>There is significant research on capacity building for entry and mid-level professionals in criminal justice but there is less research focused on identifying the impact on criminal justice systemic change as a result of executive focused trainings and seminars. INL seeks research that will identify answers to the following research questions:</p> <p>Are their specific principles that need to be conveyed to executive level officers in these courses in order to create systematic change?</p> <p>Are there evidence-based ways to identify individuals earlier in their careers as change agents and start engaging with those individuals early on and then follow up with them throughout their careers (new leader, mid-level, and executive)?</p> <p>How should an organization identify future executive leaders and then create an ongoing leadership development program to help them develop the necessary skills to implement systematic change?</p>
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Education & Cultural Studies", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement"]
Additional Information	INL will be able to provide information on INL adult centered executive training approach to guide the research team.

Project ID	DipLab2132253
Project Title	Where are the Freely Associated States (FAS) Students?
Office	Public Affairs Section.
Embassy	Micronesia
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	Because citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS) of Palau, Marshall Islands, and Micronesia, do not need visas to study in the US, and thus schools don't track them as foreign students, the USG has no easy way to track how many FAS students are in the US and where they are studying. Having an overview of where FAS students are, what they're studying, why they chose the schools they did, and as specifically as possible, how to contact them for future outreach (certain relevant student groups, a dean of students' office, etc.) would enable the US Embassies in the FAS to 1) better tailor educational counseling to future FAS students, and 2) design outreach diaspora opportunities.
Final Product Format	A medium length report ideally with some handy pie-graphs or whatever visual works best. We would love for the report to cover as much of the following kinds of details as possible: 1) How many FAS students are in the US, 2) Which of the 3 countries are they from? 3)What schools – names of schools, type (community college? Full undergrad?) 4) what areas of study are most popular?, 5) how often do FAS students go back home to visit?, 6) Do FAS students intend to return home after school or stay in the US?, 7) how do we get in touch with FAS students in a given school/town - what student/community groups, local churches, deans of students, etc., would we contact to advertise for example, the chance to meet the US Ambassador to Palau who might be in town?
Discipline	["East Asian/Pacific Studies", "International Relations", "Sociology", "Statistics"]
Additional Information	Introductory demographic information to date is that FAS students study in the Western States, CA, HI, OR, and are may have some concentrations at Community Colleges.

Project ID	DipLab2132254
Project Title	Analysis of U.S. Engagement with Panama
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Panama
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The formal U.S. diplomatic footprint in Panama pales in comparison to broader private- and public-sector engagement. The U.S. Embassy deals almost exclusively in U.S. government-managed or -facilitated activities and resources and lacks basic information about the scope and value of broader U.S. engagement in the country. The purpose of this project is to research, organize, and analyze information that fully portrays the benefits to Panama of U.S. private- and public-sector engagement. The U.S. Embassy would use the information as the basis for customizable multimedia products in support of public diplomacy. The ability to tell a complete and compelling data-driven story about the value the U.S. brings to the world—and in this case, specifically to Panama—would promote in key audiences a more positive attitude toward the U.S. as the political, economic, and ideological partner of choice.</p> <p>In concrete terms, this means gathering data from open and proprietary sources to create data sets on a variety of metrics then employing statistical and analytic methods to calculate or estimate the answers to questions like, How many jobs do U.S. companies create in Panama? How much additional income is attributable to a degree from a U.S. university for a career in Panama? What is the value of aid provided to Panama by U.S.-based charities and NGOs? The Embassy can use the answers to questions like these in presentations and media to shape public perception of the U.S. among key audiences and encourage them to support our policies or participate in our programs.</p>
Final Product Format	The desired final product will consist of datasets, preferably in Excel, as well as written reports providing data analysis and explanations of the sources and methods used to calculate the answers to the various questions/metrics requested by the Embassy.
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "International Development", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Statistics", "Western Hemisphere Studies"]
Additional Information	The Embassy has a long list of potential questions/metrics for evaluation and analysis. This project can examine any selection thereof, depending on the capacity and expertise of the partner, and may be distributed among different teams.

Project ID	DipLab2132255
Project Title	What Happens After? Taking Measure of Heritage after an Embassy Moves
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage (OBO/OPS/CH)
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The Embassy Effect</p> <p>By design or circumstance, diplomatic facilities define the architectural landscape of the neighborhood, city center, or government-zoned enclave they occupy. The embassies give shape to urban and suburban settings of capital cities worldwide, forming a collage of national identities for local and global audiences. They also shape the experience of place – at once spatial, social, and symbolic – of those who live and work in the host nation and in the embassy itself. While the sensory effect of modern-day embassy architecture is one of scale softened by color, material, and sustainable features, the community impact is as forceful. This project seeks to measure the embassy effect.</p> <p>American embassies took up residence in historic buildings and heritage centers in the twentieth century, relocating to new, purpose-built campuses as design standards and diplomatic program growth demanded in the 2000s. Recent examples are the U.S. embassies in London, Oslo, and The Hague. What is the impact of moving on the older neighborhood? To its real estate value? To its character and identity? Do the place names change? Or does the symbolism remain? Is it marketed in the reuse or erased? What is the socio-economic effect on the community that formed around the embassy presence? These questions will raise others as multiple disciplines analyze the effects of an embassy’s exodus on a historic district and further our understanding of the heritage economy and social network it supports.</p> <p>Data may be drawn from recent sales of embassies as case studies or in aggregate, demographic and land-use statistics, city directories, social media, urban history and city planning, design initiatives, and preservation law and revitalization programs to develop a model demonstrating the effects of an embassy relocation on social space and historic place.</p>
Final Product Format	The final product may take the form of a report, series of maps or models, graphs, or a combination depending on the discipline(s) engaged in the study and will be decided with the faculty advisor.
Discipline	["Geography", "International Relations", "Architecture", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Sociology", "Statistics", "Civil Society"]
Additional Information	<p>Suggested Sources:</p> <p>Jane C. Loeffler, <i>The Architecture of Diplomacy: Building America’s Embassies</i>, rev. 2nd ed. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2011.</p> <p>Elizabeth Gill Lui. <i>Building Diplomacy: The Architecture of American Embassies</i>. Four Stops Press, 2004.</p> <p>Donovan D. Rypkema, <i>The Economics of Historic Preservation: A Community Leader’s Guide</i>, rev. ed. Washington, DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2005.</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132256
Project Title	Sustainable Water Development and Infrastructure: Develop data-driven policy recommendations to promote Mekong countries' climate resilience
Office	Office of Multilateral Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	This project focuses on potential challenges from Climate NEXUS issues on the Mekong River and its impact on Mekong countries, including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. This diplomacy laboratory requires faculty and students to develop indicators used in data-driven approaches to explain the interdependence of climate, water, food, energy, and the economy on sustainable water developments and infrastructure projects on the Mekong River. Faculty and students will explore climate NEXUS issues highlighting four areas of cooperation in transboundary collaborations: 1) Economic connectivity, 2) Sustainable water and natural resource management, 3) Non-traditional security, and 4) Human resource development. In cooperation areas, participants will use science-based decisions to recommend potential foreign development assistance investments, possible programmatic activities and formulate policies that will stabilize water-food-energy securities in the region. These issues are essential to formulating responsive policies during this continually changing environment and will provide insight into possible geopolitical and regional economic stability issues in the future.
Final Product Format	Science-based policy paper including policy recommendations and background research exploring indicators for data driven methodologies leading to realistic strategies to promote climate resilience in the Mekong River basin. Participants will present final product(s) to the Mekong team.
Discipline	["International Relations", "Multidisciplinary or Transdisciplinary approach to International Developments and Foreign Policy "]
Additional Information	For additional information on the Mekong-U.S. Partnership please follow this link: https://mekonguspartnership.org/

Project ID	DipLab2132257
Project Title	Effecting Change in Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Office	Global Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Project Description	Assistance programming has employed similar strategies for effecting change for decades. While the movement towards the monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of assistance programs has grown immensely, there remain gaps in knowledge about the effectiveness of the theories of change involved in the activities carried out in the programming. However, in utilizing now widespread tools developed to evaluate programming, such as logic models, performance indicators, etc., there is an opportunity to examine the relationship between what goes into these programs and what comes out on a number of levels. This project would utilize existing program frameworks to develop hypotheses to test if the things we are putting into programs are, in fact, resulting in the outcomes desired. The final product would provide data on correlations between inputs and outcomes of programming in the areas of democracy, human rights and labor from the throughout the world. This data can then be used to improve foreign assistance programming strategies.
Final Product Format	The final products will be a report which outlines the research findings, a presentation of the findings, and copies of the raw data gathered and analyzed during the project.
Discipline	["Democracy & Human Rights", "Human Rights", "International Development", "International Relations", "Statistics", "Data analytics", "Civil Society"]
Additional Information	The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Office of Global Programs (DRL/GP) manages over \$300,000,000 annually in foreign assistance programs that support the State Department's policy priorities of promoting democracy, human rights, and labor initiatives globally. DRL/GP is responsible for managing and implementing the Department's Human Rights and Democracy Fund, which was established by Congress in 1998. In coordination with Regional Bureaus and internal DRL regional offices, DRL/GP also manages programs funded by Economic Support Funds and by public-private partnerships.

Project ID	DipLab2132258
Project Title	Great Powers, Small Screens - An Analysis of U.S., China, and Other Social Media Accounts in the Caribbean
Office	Embassy Bridgetown
Embassy	Barbados
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>In recent years, People’s Republic of China (PRC) government social media accounts have increasingly reflected the assertive “wolf warrior” approach to engage in confrontational public discourse. The Caribbean has been no exception with former PRC Ambassador to Grenada, Zhao Yongchen, using his twitter account to criticize the United States and other democratic countries. On the other hand, PRC Ambassador to Barbados opened his twitter account just under a year ago and takes a much more traditional diplomatic approach.</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Bridgetown proposes a student team conduct a comparative analysis of the social media government accounts of the United States, China, Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. The analysis would reveal the different approaches the accounts use to attract followers, disseminate information, and attempt to influence audiences. The analysis would also identify priority issues for the accounts, with special attention paid to the efficacy of education diplomacy and the offers of scholarships and other study incentives. U.S. Embassy Bridgetown requests the team provide recommendations for the Embassy’s own social media to allow it to better compete in the information space in the Eastern Caribbean.</p>
Final Product Format	Embassy Bridgetown requests a presentation employing data visualization tools to describe the current international government social media environment in the Eastern Caribbean and present recommendations for improvements to the Embassy's own social media outreach.
Discipline	["Education & Cultural Studies", "International Relations", "Marketing", "Communications"]
Additional Information	https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/how-chinas-wolf-warrior-diplomats-use-and-abuse-twitter/

Project ID	DipLab2132260
Project Title	The History and Changes in Public Perceptions in Botswana with regard to Peacekeeping Operations
Office	Pol-Econ
Embassy	Botswana
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	As Botswana considers returning to peacekeeping operations (PKO) a better understanding of Botswana's PKO history and the social pressures which resulted in it withdrawing from PKOs after sustaining casualties would be useful context as Botswana again considers PKOs. Understanding if current perceptions of risk match historic levels would be useful as well.
Final Product Format	A short 4–5-page paper and presentation on the topic would be helpful.
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	President Masisi announced in 2019 a return to PKO, but there has been little said publicly about the topic since. Understanding where the hesitation lies (MDJS, BDF, Parliament, the Presidency, etc.) would be helpful as we support Botswana's stated goal of returning to PKOs.

Project ID	DipLab2132261
Project Title	Gauging Public Perceptions of China Post-Pandemic
Office	Pol-Econ
Embassy	Botswana
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	Public perceptions of China trend quite negatively in Botswana due to low quality infrastructure projects completed by Chinese firms. China has made a significant effort to portray itself as a COVID benefactor in Botswana, and President Masisi has improved ties with China by signing on to the Belt and Road Initiative. We would like to have a better understanding of public perceptions of China in Botswana post-pandemic.
Final Product Format	4–5–page paper and presentation.
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	Without polling data, it is difficult to gauge public perceptions in Botswana, but perhaps social media is one way to do so.

Project ID	DipLab2132263
Project Title	Emerging Technology and Human Rights
Office	Multilateral and Global Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Project Description	<p>The technologies of the 21st century can lead to an incredible flourishing of the human spirit but can also empower authoritarian governments to commit human rights violations. Some of them also raise questions that we don't yet have the language or proper framework to answer. However, the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which the UN General Assembly adopted following World War Two, remain relevant today and provide helpful guidance on the core fundamental freedoms that should always be protected.</p> <p>The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs' Internet Freedom and Business and Human Rights Team seeks a forward-looking team of students to examine the human rights implications of emerging technologies. These could include advances in neuroscience and brain-computer interfaces, blockchain technology and digital assets/fintech, genetic engineering and screening, alternative energy and batteries, 3-d printing, quantum computing, among others. Will these technologies empower individuals or facilitate authoritarian government oppression, and how should our human rights strategy and foreign policy for the 21st century adapt to these changes? Please note that a list of potential technologies excludes artificial intelligence and fifth generation (5G) mobile technology as those are already active areas of policy engagement.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>We would like a report (length negotiable) that will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A brief overview of the major technological trends that will be impacting the world in the next two decades. -Of those, highlight 3-5 technological capabilities or trends that will have the greatest impact on human rights. Confirm with State Department liaison. -For each technology, provide a short introduction to the technology's main impacts on society and a longer discussion of how applications of the technology can potentially harm or enhance human rights protections and democratic governance and the potential foreign policy implications. Highlight/summarize any existing international agreements or research touching on this. -In coordination with the State Department liaison, draft a policy memo, speech, set of talking points, or other material that will help DRL play an active role in policy formulation around that technology.
Discipline	["International Relations", "Engineering, Philosophy, Biotechnology, Political Science, International Relations"]
Additional Information	White House Office of Science and Technology Policy: https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/

Project ID	DipLab2132264
Project Title	Developing Options to Curb Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in Ecuador
Office	Consulate General Guayaquil
Embassy	Ecuador
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Do you know how the seafood you eat is caught? It's estimated that one in five fish in an industry with a sales value of over \$400 billion are brought to market through unlawful methods; some 80 percent of fish eaten in the U.S. are imported. Without effective traceability and monitoring, illegally caught fish around the world can enter the U.S. market. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities damage our economy, undermine global norms, hurt fishers who play by the rules, and rob future generations of precious ocean resources. IUU fishing is a threat to U.S. strategic interests around the globe. In fact, the U.S. Coast Guard announced in 2020 that IUU fishing is the leading global maritime threat and released their vision to combat IUU fishing worldwide.</p> <p>With a maritime territory four times its land mass, Ecuador is a leading fishing state (and consistently ranks in the top three for the amount of canned tuna exports). However, IUU fishing is an issue the Ecuadorian government and industry continues to encounter. In 2019, the United States identified Ecuador in its biennial congressional report for IUU fishing activities (occurring in 2016-2018). Since then, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of State have engaged Ecuador in consultations to tackle this problem. In 2020, Ecuador passed a new fishing law to help combat IUU fishing and increase the number of their fishing inspectors.</p> <p>Partners for U.S. government programs include local and international environmental NGOs, Ecuador government agencies, local fishing industry associations, and leaders of coastal communities. The United States has an interest not only to remedy Ecuador's internal IUU fishing problem but also continuing to increase our bilateral partnership to address the global threat. Through this project, your team will help align Mission Ecuador's ongoing initiatives and will produce a report that suggests bilateral cooperation mechanisms for the U.S. to support Ecuador in its efforts to combat IUU fishing. We know any sustainable solution to the problem requires a regional approach, so the project could include a focus on a variety of different options, including a possible focus on the importance of traceability in the artisanal (small scale) fishing sector. Further project details will be discussed as part of a more detailed work plan upon project selection.</p>
Final Product Format	Teams will draft a report with their findings and recommendations for U.S. Mission Ecuador to consider.
Discipline	["Democracy & Human Rights", "Food Security", "Geography", "International Development", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Oceans", "Political/Military Affairs", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Western Hemisphere Studies", "Civil Society"]

Additional Information	<p>What is illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing? IUU fishing activities violate both national and international fishing regulations. IUU fishing is a global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. It also threatens U.S. economic security and the natural resources that are critical to global food security, and it puts law-abiding fishers and U.S. seafood producers at a disadvantage. If left unchecked, IUU fishing undermines national security, threatens the American seafood industry's economic stability, and causes environmental harm. IUU fishing also often happens in concert with illicit activities, including the atrocities of human trafficking and forced labor as well as narcotrafficking. The U.S. government is committed to working with our allies and like-minded partners to strengthen the international fisheries enforcement regime and counter this pervasive threat.</p> <p>To learn more about IUU Fishing and U.S. policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Economist Article: https://www.economist.com/international/2020/10/24/illegal-fishing-fleets-plunder-the-oceans- State Department: https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-of-marine-conservation/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing/- NOAA: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international-affairs/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing- USCG: https://www.uscg.mil/iuufishing/
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Project ID	DipLab2132265
Project Title	Understanding Local Stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples' Efforts to Improve Aquatic Ecosystem Health Along Our Shared U.S.-Canada Border
Office	Office of Canadian Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>Canada and the United States share the world's longest border, 40 percent of which is transboundary waters. Governance of these waters includes federal, bi-national, tribal, state, provincial, and community management and oversight. The oversight in the area of aquatic ecosystems is particularly complex and intersects with activities to improve fish populations listed under the Endangered Species Act, including salmon species. Identifying stakeholders and Indigenous peoples who may interact in watersheds on a less formal or lesser-known basis but who nonetheless play an important role in efforts to improve aquatic health has been challenging. This project would focus on identifying tribes, Indigenous peoples, community organizations, and others that could play a role in improving aquatic ecosystem health along our western borders.</p> <p>The objectives of this Diplomacy Lab are (1) to identify local stakeholders and Indigenous peoples along the western U.S. border who play a role in improving aquatic ecosystem health or could do so in the future, and (2) to understand historical local engagement on ecosystem issues and to understand local perspectives and implications of policy options on aquatic ecosystem health at a local scale. The geographic scope of this effort should encompass shared watersheds between British Columbia and Montana, Idaho, Washington, or Alaska.</p> <p>Applicants should outline their intended approach for local engagement activities to better understand efforts to improve aquatic ecosystem health and should include letters of recommendation from stakeholders, U.S. federally recognized tribes, and/or others outlining the nature and history of their work or affiliation with the applicant (if applicable).</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Products could include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop activities to understand the nature of local engagement among stakeholders and Indigenous peoples, how such stakeholders and Indigenous peoples seek to fill gaps, how they interact with each other, and how they communicate their knowledge and challenges to the wider group of stakeholders and Indigenous peoples. To include: U.S. federally recognized tribes and others to improve aquatic ecosystem health. 2. A report that highlights case studies of stakeholders, U.S. federally recognized tribes' and others' efforts to improve aquatic ecosystem health. The report should identify the stakeholders and Indigenous peoples active in this area, analyze local perspectives and implications of policy options. . 3. Final virtual presentation at the end of the semester to the U.S. Department of State.

Discipline	["Democracy & Human Rights", "Anthropology", "International Relations", "Science and Technology", "Western Hemisphere Studies", "Civil Society", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	none

Project ID	DipLab2132266
Project Title	Women and Power: Symbolism or Reality?
Office	School of Professional and Area Studies/Area Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	<p>There are many powerful women in the world, such as the politicians Angela Merkel, Margaret Thatcher and Christine Lagarde, the activists Malala Yousafzai, Dolores Huerta, Greta Thunberg, and Alicia Garza, and the perhaps less-well known grassroots mobilizers Olutosin Oladosu in Nigeria, Tiffany Brar in India, and Sally Mboumiem in Cameroon.[1] Through their political positions, financial acumen, and ability to inspire and lead these women have created real and sustained change in their communities and in many cases have had global impact.</p> <p>Through a series of case studies across global regions the Women and Power: Symbolism or Reality? project investigates when and where women have real power to create change in their lives, communities, and beyond. It looks at how power is measured and assesses the impact of women and power.[2] Examples of measurable impacts can include the passing of successful lasting initiatives; gaining access to credit and land; reducing gender income inequality, workforce participation disparities, and violence against women rates; among other things.[3] It looks beyond simple gender equality[4] to where women make different choices than men[5] creating important differences in outcomes.</p> <p>This project answers two critical questions in support of the U.S. State Department's Global Women's Issues[6] initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When is power held by women merely symbolic or representational, leading to an optic of power but little or no actual change? 2) Where do women hold real power to create lasting change, as evidenced by political, economic, and social gains? <p>Deliverables: Each team will identify and conduct case studies on an agreed theme across the six State Department geographical regions.[7] Themes focused on political, economic, and social changes will be defined in consultation with each team. Each team will produce six case studies (one per region) and a brief analysis across those case studies. The case studies should demonstrate either where women had real power and made a measurable impact or where women held only symbolic power and the obstacles to achieving impact as a result.</p> <p>Use of deliverables: Case studies will be incorporated into our Area Studies courses taught at the Foreign Service Institute and findings will provide the foundation for a 2022 Speaker Series on Women and Power.</p>
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final written report: executive summary, introduction, explanation of theme, six case studies, analysis across the six case studies, and a conclusion identifying remaining questions and gaps in data. This should include footnotes and a bibliography. • A Spark or Wixsite webpage for the case studies that summarizes each study in an easy to read and visually appealing interactive webpage.

Discipline	["African Studies", "Democracy & Human Rights", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "International Relations", "Middle East/North African Studies", "Political/Military Affairs", "South/Central Asian Studies", "Western Hemisphere Studies"]
Additional Information	<p>Notes</p> <p>[1] https://medium.com/world-pulse/her-power-7-grassroots-women-leaders-to-watch-38b78744aaf1</p> <p>[2] https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/01/14/women-and-leadership/</p> <p>[3] http://womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Women-Leadership-Infographic-Sept-2018-1.pdf</p> <p>[4] http://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?q=Gender+Inequality+Index%26amp;id=415</p> <p>[5] https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2021/03/03/feminist-foreign-policy/events/the-takeaway/</p> <p>[6] https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/secretary-of-state/office-of-global-womens-issues</p> <p>[7] https://www.state.gov/integrated-country-strategies/</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132269
Project Title	Mapping The Science and Technology Ecosystem in Africa
Office	Office of Science and Technology Cooperation
Embassy	
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>Africa's growth presents an opportunity for the United States to contribute to the continent's development while building strong links to the emerging research ecosystem and business communities in many African countries. Our scientific cooperation with African countries will require further catalyzing information gathering and development of local expertise, including in health, infectious and zoonotic diseases, space, and critical minerals. The U.S. needs to further engage with the African scientific research ecosystem in order to access these resources and apply U.S. scientific expertise to local challenges.</p> <p>The U.S. State Department is interested in learning about leading emerging technologies in Africa and the private organizations, universities, and research organizations working on these technologies. Students will formulate a Research and Development networking map of the science and technology field across Africa. This information will help State Department officials to target African countries where the U.S. should engage to form strong partnerships with scientists and researchers.</p>
Final Product Format	A presentation accompanied by a 4-5 page memo with data analytics tabs.
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	<p>Will require the use of a variety of databases possibly including UNESCO, OECD, Web of Science InCites, etc. Want to learn of other ways to measure science and technology connections.</p> <p>Office of Science and Technology Cooperation: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/</p>

Project ID	DipLab2132270
Project Title	Options for Expanding Economic Cooperation Between Egypt and Israel
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	Egypt
Bureau	Near Eastern Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Embassy in Cairo wants to identify opportunities to increase cross-border trade and investment between Egypt and Israel without harming U.S. business interests. The project should also focus on opportunities to diversify U.S. supply chains and decrease Egypt’s reliance on U.S. adversaries. Connecting Egypt’s large and growing market and workforce with Israeli technology and expertise would support U.S. national security goals. Our vision is that increased regional economic integration will accelerate economic growth in Egypt while rewarding forward-thinking investors. Your university’s team would work with staff from across the Embassy, particularly the Economic Section and the Foreign Commercial Service.</p> <p>We are seeking a creative and thorough analysis of areas for joint Egypt-Israel economic cooperation and investment outside of the textile and petroleum sectors, where most current projects are concentrated. Embassy Cairo has identified the food industry, logistics, pharmaceuticals, intermediate products and industrial components, and light manufacturing as the most promising areas for cooperation. We would like you to analyze what joint Egypt-Israel cooperation in these sectors could be viable without disadvantaging or displacing U.S. businesses, as well as analyze opportunities for diversifying U.S. supply chains and decreasing Egyptian reliance on U.S. economic competitors. Programs that meet that threshold should also be reviewed in terms of the existing Egypt-Israel cultural and political environment. The Embassy will use your sectoral analyses to inform policy deliberations in Washington and in the region. We may also ask you to brief experts directly.</p> <p>Due to the complex subject matter and unique political challenges, we believe this project is appropriate for graduate students or upper-level undergraduates with strong support from their institutions.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>We would like the class to develop a combined solution that analyzes and summarizes your recommendations. The output should include documents that we can confidently share with U.S. government stakeholders and policy makers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A two-page executive summary listing investment and trade opportunities by sector, and chances of success, along with their contribution to U.S. national interests; - A presentation summarizing the potential investment and trade opportunities by sector and the expected benefits in the form of employment, investment, return on investment, the impact on Egypt’s balance of payments, the impact on the share of value-added and capital formation in these sectors, degree of further integration into global value chains, and other metrics; - A detailed economic analysis showing the expected economic outputs and

	<p>multiplier effects; and</p> <p>- A 1,000- to 2,500-word political analysis of the non-economic benefits and challenges of each business opportunity, including the likelihood and type of opposition to each opportunity.</p>
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues"; International Relations"]
Additional Information	<p>Since the 1978 Camp David Accords the United States has invested tens of billions of dollars in the security and development of Israel and Egypt. Although they signed a peace treaty in 1979, business links between the two countries remain limited and joint investment is rare. The recent opening of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain presents a new opportunity for Egypt to play a key role strengthening regional economic ties.</p> <p>Egypt is the largest economy in Africa, and 19th largest in the world, when measured in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP). Egypt's economy was the only one in the MENA region that grew in 2020. However, the state-led economy lags when compared to high-tech Israel, whose per-capita GDP at PPP is four times higher.</p> <p>Egyptian reluctance to cooperate with Israel remains an obstacle, though Egyptians acknowledge Israeli leadership in irrigation technology, an area of increasing need for Egypt in face of increasing population and tensions around the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.</p> <p>Investments that would decrease Egypt's reliance on U.S. adversaries, diversify U.S. supply chains, support other regional integration efforts, and that are aligned with the Government of Egypt's Vision 2030 Sustainable Development Program should be prioritized for analysis.</p> <p>Existing joint projects are primarily linked to energy, where both governments are eager to cooperate and Egypt aims to become a regional hub for gas and electricity exports. Joint investment also occurs in the textile and apparel sector via the U.S.-sponsored Qualifying Industrial Zones, a trade promotion program that allows Egyptian goods with Israeli content to be imported into the United States duty-free.</p> <p>Egypt is a key transit point for data cables passing between Europe and Asia, making it an ideal location for international data centers. It continues to invest in grid-scale solar and wind power and is on track to produce more than 40 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2035. Egypt's pharmaceutical industry is also poised for growth, particularly in exports to sub-Saharan Africa, and the Egyptian government is launching an industrial modernization program to integrate its manufacturing base more fully into global supply and production chains.</p>

Project ID	DipLab1905273
Project Title	Open Science Policies and Perceptions in Asia Pacific
Office	Office of Science and Technology Cooperation
Embassy	
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>Open science policies, practices, and attitudes vary greatly around the world. Many countries are beginning to more closely at open science—both the benefits and the risks to domestic equities—and put in new policies. In the Asia-Pacific region, the 21 member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are beginning to discuss the topic in more detail, with a focus on the potential economic impact. In 2020, one of the primary topics of discussion in the APEC Policy Partnership for Science, Technology, and Innovation will be open science and what best practices or policies can be put in place to increase economic growth in the APEC region.</p> <p>Your team’s work to survey and document current open science-related policies, practices, and perceptions amongst the 21 APEC member economies would equip the U.S. government and other APEC stakeholders throughout the region with information to guide discussions and policy development. This is a great opportunity to develop your own survey methodology, explore the connection between policies and social norms and practices, and contribute to the advancement of science diplomacy worldwide.</p>
Final Product Format	We would like to receive a written report on open science-related policies of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies, as well written report on 10 case studies on perceptions on open science in APEC economies.
Discipline	["East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Economic & Finance Issues", "International Relations", "Science and Technology", "Statistics"]
Additional Information	<p>Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:</p> <p>https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/</p>

Project ID	DipLab1905274
Project Title	Attack of the Mega-Science!: Design A Survey of International Research and Development Infrastructure Projects
Office	Office of Science and Technology Cooperation
Embassy	
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>International research and development infrastructure (RDI) is in the middle of expansive growth, both domestically and internationally. Your team’s work to survey and document current and planned RDI around the world would equip the U.S. government and U.S. scientists to have access to state-of-the-art facilities through scientific cooperation, understand where global gaps exist to invest in RDI smartly, and how to engage specific countries on RDI investments and cooperation. This is a great opportunity to develop your own survey methodology, explore international cutting-edge science, and contribute to the advancement of science diplomacy worldwide.</p> <p>The U.S. Government is developing a definition of research and development infrastructure (RDI) to better understand the scope of both domestic and international research infrastructure. International infrastructure is of interest to the United States because it may provide American researchers with access to novel capabilities and reduce wait times for access to similar facilities. The Department has an interest in providing the interagency with information relevant to the needs and missions of the science and technology enterprise. An inventory of major international infrastructure could be valuable in developing our own domestic inventory and assist science agencies in assessing the state of American scientific leadership. A research team devoted to surveying the international landscape for present advanced facilities and planned major infrastructure investments could be helpful in maintaining America’s science and technology edge while preserving our status as a destination for the world’s most coveted science and engineering talent.</p>
Final Product Format	We would like to receive a written report of the survey, as well as a matrix for evaluating capabilities of the infrastructure projects.
Discipline	["International Development”, “International Relations”, “Science and Technology”, “Statistics”]
Additional Information	<p>Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:</p> <p>https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/</p>

Project ID	DipLab1905276
Project Title	Follow the Money: A Statistical Investigation into the Relationship between Funding Levels, Cooperation, and Science & Technology Agreements
Office	Office of Science and Technology Cooperation
Embassy	
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Office of Science and Technology Cooperation manages the negotiation of nearly 60 international bilateral science and technology agreements. Because the U.S. approach to science funding is diffuse and bottom-up, we often don't have direct insight into the amount of cooperation that takes place under these agreements. It would be extremely useful to our office's work and in bilateral relationships to have a sense of the effect of the presence of an S&T Agreement on bilateral scientific cooperation.</p> <p>We would love to work with a team that has rigorous statistical analysis skills, as well as the ability to set variables and explore relationships between those variables in a way easily translated into policy documents. This would be a chance to design an original analysis and work with international data sets among a variety of policy and social settings.</p>
Final Product Format	We would like to receive a written report, which includes statistical analysis, and a data set.
Discipline	["International Relations", "Science and Technology", "Statistics"]
Additional Information	<p>Were your team to be selected, we'd work with you to identify background readings and other materials. We don't anticipate this project would last longer than a semester. For more information, our office's website is:</p> <p>https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/bureau-of-oceans-and-international-environmental-and-scientific-affairs/office-of-science-and-technology-cooperation/</p>

Project ID	DipLab1906283
Project Title	SHIFT: Initiating Legal and Socio-Cultural Transformation of Attitudes towards Sexual Violence
Office	Public Affairs Office
Embassy	Lithuania
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>While victims of domestic violence and violence against women are experiencing increased attention from lawmakers, state institutions, and NGOs in Lithuania, little was done to improve the legal protection of victims of sexual violence and modernize the legislation related to the issue. This project aims to seize the opportunity that the discussions on violence against women have created and expand the understanding of the complexity of sexual violence. It also aims to enable key stakeholders to develop legal amendments, effective referral mechanisms, create sensitive identification system, and increase awareness on sexual violence, involving different target groups: law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, NGOs, and the general public.</p> <p>Complete a comprehensive desk study to present to experts and decision-makers, who will be brought together to discuss the issue and the potential changes in the regulation. Cooperating with the different state institutions as well as NGOs will present a unique opportunity to tackle the issue from various angles and strive for a change in legislation that would be both beneficial to the victims and practically applicable for law enforcement.</p> <p>With the booming research and awareness-raising campaigns that Lithuania has experienced in the field of violence against women in the last years, little has been done to improve the situation of women who have experienced sexual violence. No national-level research or advocacy campaign has tackled sexual violence in independent Lithuania, which impedes the pursuit of justice; the legal definition of sexual violence in the Lithuanian Penal Code is narrow, and initiation of criminal process sometimes lies on survivor's shoulders. The cases often do not reach courtrooms, the medical professionals do not have clear instructions or rape kits to perform abductions in such cases. Due to the lack of systematic data on sexual violence, the NGOs lack effective advocacy tools and struggle to convince lawmakers, legal practitioners, and society at large that a drastic change in the field sexual violence is necessary.</p>
Final Product Format	Research paper, Literature review, data analysis of existing data to pull together a comprehensive plan.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Education & Cultural Studies", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "International Law", "Psychology", "Sociology", "Statistics", "Trafficking in Persons", "Youth Issues", "Civil Society", "Communications"]
Additional Information	<p>Comprehensive research will provide data on the obstacles that are faced by victims as well as legal and other professionals, who are involved in the supporting victims and prosecuting the crimes of sexual violence. The research will also provide data on the prevalence of victim-blaming Lithuania.</p> <p>1. The research will identify the barriers that victims face in their pursuit of justice.</p>

	<p>It will consist of desk research, in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 15 – 20 survivors who have experienced sexual violence, will help to identify the practical obstacles that victims face in access to legal procedure and support of victims, ranging from victim-blaming and practical deficiencies of the Lithuanian medical and legal systems.</p> <p>2. The research will identify the barriers that professionals encounter while providing legal, psychological, medical, and other necessary support for victims of sexual violence. One focus group will be organized with the legal professionals (prosecutors, attorneys, etc.) that will identify the legal flaws that paralyze the effective prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence. The second focus group will be organized with professionals who provide support for victims (psychologists and counselors at Specialized Assistance Centers, medical professionals, etc.)</p> <p>3. The research will identify the perceptions of the general public and measure the level of victim-blaming that prevents the victims from sharing their stories and seeking both legal and emotional support.</p>
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Project ID	DipLab1912299
Project Title	Marketing & Message Testing for Public Diplomacy
Office	ENR/EGA/PAPD
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	Marketing and message testing in Central Asia. Design and carry out a market-analytic approach to audiences in Central Asia, in the form of analyzing and interpreting results from focus groups. Extensive data have already been collected in the form of video, audio, and transcripts. On this marketing and message testing team, we will analyze our data to draw conclusions about what is most resonant and then we will propose a messaging strategy on that basis. The final output will be a series of papers with recommendations to public diplomacy professionals who work on messaging in Central Asia. A specialized component of this will be to discern a strategy for appealing to Kazakhstani audiences on energy policy issues and energy partnerships.
Final Product Format	The final output will be a series of papers with recommendations to public diplomacy professionals who work on messaging in Central Asia. A specialized component of this will be to discern a strategy for appealing to Kazakhstani audiences on energy policy issues and energy partnerships. Ideally there will be three papers that will emerge in the format of peer-reviewed academic journal articles for possible publication in a journal of political psychology, foreign affairs, or marketing.
Discipline	["Education & Cultural Studies", "Energy Security", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Relations", "Marketing", "Psychology", "Sociology", "South/Central Asian Studies", "Youth Issues", "Communications"]
Additional Information	Ideally there will be three papers that will emerge in the format of peer-reviewed academic journal articles for possible publication in a journal of political psychology, foreign affairs, or marketing.

Project ID	DipLab1912300
Project Title	How Do Different People Arrive at the Same Conclusion Consistently?
Office	Santo Domingo/Consular Section
Embassy	Dominican Republic
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Have you ever looked at the same piece of evidence and seen it two different ways? Has a colleague or friend looked at the same fact and seen it in a different light? This project will ask, how can two different officers look at the same applicant for a non-immigrant visa (NIV) at different dates and come to the same conclusion, consistently? In other words, if a visa applicant were to apply on two separate occasions, but be interviewed by different officers, what management techniques can we learn from other research fields investigating decision making in order to arrive at the same conclusion? NIV decisions are based on the Immigration and Nationality Act as well as guidance from the Foreign Affairs Manual. Ultimately all decisions are made by people, and any decision made by humans is open to be different due to a wide range of factors. We want to know what creates consistent decisions from other related fields.</p> <p>This project would take an interdisciplinary approach to answering this question, drawing on a wide base of research that already exists from behavioral economics, psychology, political science, and business (though we are open to exploring information from other fields of study as well that may have relevance to answering our question). The heart of this question is not about decision making in NIV, but rather what best practices already exist that are relevant to understanding how to ensure consistency between officers in adjudicating NIV cases. The outcome of this project should be a series of recommendations for best practices from these studies to help us manage the workflow of decision making in our NIV unit and possibly around the world. This is a great opportunity for researchers and students to help improve the implementation of the part of our immigration system that brings in the highest volume of individuals into the United States each year.</p>
Final Product Format	We'd like to see a concise literature review (5 pages or less) with a complete bibliography to support your suggestions for how to make consistent decisions. Your suggestions for how to make our decisions more consistent can be displayed in whatever format you prefer as long as it is clear and concise - this will be our action item that we will use internally and could be reviewed at higher levels within the Bureau of Consular Affairs.
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "International Law", "International Relations"]
Additional Information	The U.S. Department of State processes millions of non-immigrant visas (NIVs) every year, all around the world. Officers who are charged with making these decisions face a multitude of resilience challenges, including decision fatigue and working often in difficult environments. Consular management encourages ongoing training, especially about the unique cultural factors that exist in each individual country context. This project will allow your team to take a deep dive into the management practices for managing a large volume of customers and help us improve our services to potential visitors to the United States. You will not have access to any actual adjudication information or decisions since the intent of this project is to understand what information and data already exists from similar or even different industries where multiple people may be looking at the same information and arriving at different or similar conclusions.

Project ID	DipLab1912301
Project Title	Implementing Exit Controls on the US Mexico border
Office	Non-Immigrant Visas
Embassy	Mexico
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The idea of implementing exit controls is not new but has generally focused on air travel. Traveling by air offers a number of alternative methods to confirm travel beyond biometric or immigration checks. However, the US and Mexico share a long land border with many land border crossing points. Currently, there is no clear way to identify when someone leaves the US via land border. Part of the mandate of Consular Affairs is to promote border security while facilitating legitimate travel. Accomplishing that task would be made easier by having an ability to track when someone leaves the US.</p> <p>We would be interested in working with a team to further identify the scope of this project, primarily to explore how exit controls for land borders could be implemented, and what the mechanics would be for such an implementation. We would like to be able to understand operational feasibility in terms of time, money, and structural changes required.</p>
Final Product Format	Report of potential exit control implementation ideas for US-Mexico land border crossing points, and an analysis of the logistical and operational requirements for implementation of any resulting ideas.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Cyber Security", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Law", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Science and Technology", "Statistics", "Trafficking in Persons", "Western Hemisphere Studies"]
Additional Information	The expected timeframe of this project is 4 months.

Project ID	DipLab2019310
Project Title	Sexual Violence in Lithuania: The Power of Research to Change Laws and Lives
Office	Public Affairs - Embassy Vilnius
Embassy	Lithuania
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>The principal objective of this project is to provide in-depth research that can be used to initiate amendments to Lithuania's sexual violence legislation and legal statutes. Lithuania's current laws are outdated; present a too-narrow definition of sexual violence; and fail to adequately protect and provide assistance for survivors of sexual violence.</p> <p>There is very little data on the prevalence of sexual violence in Lithuania, and no national-level research or advocacy campaign has tackled the issue. NGOs and other organizations must rely on EU-wide data when seeking funding or attempting to attract attention to this severely underfunded and under-resourced topic. Justice for survivors is often impeded because the legal definition of sexual violence in the penal code is narrow: marital rape is not criminalized, and rape must include additional violence, the threat of violence, or the helplessness of the victim. Furthermore, it is the victim who must push for criminal proceedings, which allows local law enforcement authorities not only to discourage survivors from filing a claim but also allows them to close investigations if the survivor withdraws their claim for any reason or is pressured into reconciliation by the perpetrator. Most cases do not reach courtrooms, as medical professionals do not have clear instructions to follow or rape kits to use to gather evidence. Due to the lack of comprehensive data on sexual violence, NGOs have limited advocacy tools and struggle to convince lawmakers, legal practitioners, and society at large that a drastic change in sexual violence prevention is necessary.</p> <p>This project will create a broader coalition for prevention work and will provide baseline research for NGOs to initiate legal amendments that will address crimes of sexual violence. We are seeking partners to conduct comprehensive research to provide data on (1) the obstacles survivors face in reporting and prosecuting crimes; (2) the challenges for legal and civil society professionals, who are involved in providing support services to survivors; and (3) the prevalence of victim-blaming Lithuania.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>For topic 1: Barriers that survivors face in their pursuit of justice` We propose desk research and in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 15–20 survivors, which the embassy can help facilitate with local partners.</p> <p>For topic 2: Barriers that professionals encounter while providing legal, psychological, medical, and other necessary support for survivors of sexual violence We propose establishing one focus group with legal professionals (prosecutors, attorneys, etc.) to help identify the legal flaws that paralyze the effective prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence and a second focus group with survivor support professionals, such as psychologists and counselors at Specialized Assistance Centers, medical professionals, etc.</p> <p>For topic 3: Prevalence of victim-blaming We propose using traditional and social media, as well as interviews with willing survey participants, to identify general public perceptions, measure the level of victim-blaming, and assess how that might prevent survivors from sharing their stories and seeking both legal and emotional support.</p>

Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Education & Cultural Studies", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Gender Studies", "Global Health", "Human Rights", "International Law", "International Relations", "Psychology", "Sociology", "Statistics", "Youth Issues", "Civil Society", "Communications"]
Additional Information	This research will inform future advocacy work and will allow civil society to develop comprehensive legal strategies and advocacy frameworks. These will include the preparation of draft amendments to the existing legislation that defines sexual violence and regulates the processes of investigation, prosecution and support for survivors. Embassy partners will plan to host ten roundtable meetings with professionals in the regions of Lithuania to present the results of the research and consult experts on the prepared draft amendments to the legislation. They will also host five meetings with MPs, ministers/representatives of ministries, and other stakeholders to promote and secure their support for the draft legal amendments.

Project ID	DipLab2023312
Project Title	Developing a Collaborative, Technology-driven Border Management Construct between the United States and Mexico
Office	Western Hemisphere Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>Countries united by a border and not in conflict with one another often attempt to develop collaborative approaches to manage the border and reduce redundancies in personnel, procedures, and technology. Lack of trust, differing legal frameworks, motivations to protect sovereignty and ideological interests, resource constraints (or in some cases resource surpluses), and the elusive operations of transnational criminal organizations are some of the issues that undermine the ability of countries to develop one true border security enterprise with shared resources, policies, and procedures. Programs such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Unified Cargo Processing (UCP) are promising, as Customs organizations from both countries jointly review cargo entering the United States. A more robust United States-Mexico border management construct would embody the joint scanning, reviewing, and analyzing of all northbound and southbound traffic to disrupt the illicit trafficking of drugs and arms and expedite licit trade and travel.</p> <p>The research would focus on analyzing case studies of where collaborative border constructs have been tested around the globe and develop recommendations and policy prescriptions for replicating best practices at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border. The project will also identify existing legislative obstacles in Mexico and the United States that are challenges for collaborative border practices.</p>
Final Product Format	20-page report with executive summary and policy recommendations up front.
Discipline	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	N/A

Project ID	DipLab2027315
Project Title	Opportunities in Off-site Manufacturing for Diplomatic Facilities
Office	Project Development and Coordination, Directorate of Program Development, Coordination, and Support, Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	In a world of rapidly evolving needs, traditional construction may not be able to deliver the facilities needed due to site constraints, scheduling challenges, or security requirements. The ability to control the construction of a facility to be deployed anywhere in the world presents a unique opportunity for diplomatic facilities. This may take a variety of forms from modular construction, to a flat-pack kit-of-parts, or even a 3D printed facility. Each project may focus on a particular goal such as rapid delivery or minimal on-site construction, while still providing the data necessary for comparison. At a minimum this should include: Schedule from concept to construction completion mapped with Level of Development (LOD) at each stage of the schedule to provide standardized language for Building Information Modeling (BIM) requirements.
Final Product Format	At a minimum this should include: Schedule from concept to construction completion mapped with Level of Development (LOD) at each stage of the schedule to provide standardized language for Building Information Modeling (BIM) requirements. The format should be a presentation, architectural files (raw files), and written report.
Discipline	["Architecture", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	For information on Level of Development standards please see G202-2013 Project BIM Protocol (https://www.aiacontracts.org/contract-documents/19016-project-bim-protocol) for a description of the five levels of development and BIMForum's Level of Development Specification (https://bimforum.org/lod/) for further detail and guidance.

Project ID	DipLab2027316
Project Title	Explore BIM and GIS Integration for US Embassies
Office	Master Planning Division
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>By blending together layers of geospatial context, with Building Information Models, decision makers have the information they need to make decisions about our robust portfolio.</p> <p>In this project, students will have the opportunity to help develop the Department of State's Digital Campus methodology.</p> <p>By integrated geographic information system (GIS), and building information modeling (BIM), students will help the department prototype a digital campus, using sample embassy data from BIM.</p>
Final Product Format	By integrated geographic information system (GIS), and building information modeling (BIM), students will help the department prototype a digital campus, using sample embassy data from BIM. The product will be a GIS raw data/file/ system by taking BIM data into a GIS system.
Discipline	["Geography", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Relations", "Architecture"]
Additional Information	<p>Our Bureau: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/bureau-of-overseas-buildings-operations/</p> <p>GIS and BIM Integration: https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/gis-and-bim-integration/</p> <p>https://www.esri.com/content/dam/esrisites/en-us/newsroom/arcuser-spring-2018.pdf</p> <p>https://www.autodesk.com/autodesk-university/article/BIM-GIS-and-Smart-Cities-Challenges-and-Opportunities-2020</p> <p>We expect this project to take a single semester</p>

Project ID	DipLab2027325
Project Title	Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Department of State’s (DOS) Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) oversees approximately 20,000 properties abroad of which approximately 200 have been identified on the OBO List of Significant Properties as culturally, historically, and architecturally significant properties and archaeological resources. The OBO List of Significant Properties is the official list of the Department of State’s historic properties worthy of preservation as symbols of the nation’s cultural diplomacy abroad. The OBO List of Significant Properties is part of a program administered by the Office of Cultural Heritage to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s cultural heritage property overseas in accordance with Section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Eligibility for inclusion on the list follows guidelines established by the National Register of Historic Places for domestic properties, as well as automatically including UNESCO World Heritage Sites and properties designated by host governments.</p> <p>The Secretary of State’s Register of Culturally Significant Property was founded in 2000 as a White House Millennium Project. Inclusion on the Secretary’s Register is an honorific listing and elevates properties from the OBO List of Significant Properties to a higher level similar to the National Historic Landmark program domestically. There are currently thirty-seven properties on the Secretary of State’s Register of Culturally Significant Property. One property, the Tangier Legation, is the only US National Historic Landmark located outside of the United States.</p> <p>The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals studying ways to improve resistance to the effects of blasts on buildings constructed of traditional methods and materials by studying one or more of the buildings included on the Secretary of State’s Register of Culturally Significant Properties. Structures range in age from the late 15th Century to the mid-20th Century and are constructed of wood, unreinforced masonry, and earthen/adobe. Windows are wood and metal, and roofs are clay tile, metal, slate and shingle.</p> <p>This is an unclassified project and proposals should be based on publicly available information regarding general delivery capabilities in pounds of TNT and the amount of atmospheric overpressure at 30 feet and 100 feet for a panel van and box truck. Proposals should look at how to harden a structure and follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties without completely dismantling a building down and reconstructing it. The scope of the study may also include data collection regarding projected effects of explosive blasts and other impacts to historic structures and traditional building materials.</p>

Final Product Format	These studies will be conducted as part of an engineering, architecture, materials science, or historic preservation-related course. Deliverables will be formatted into a single PDF e-book clearly documenting testing methodology, data outcomes, and recommendations for building reinforcements based on findings.
Discipline	["Architecture", "Science and Technology", "Materials Science"]
Additional Information	It is anticipated that once a bid is accepted for this proposal, that Diplomacy Lab and the sponsoring School will enter into a detailed dialogue modifying and tailoring the content of the semesters work to address the goals and objectives of both the School and Diplomacy Lab within the definition of the project.

Project ID	DipLab2008332
Project Title	Evaluating the Impact of Public Diplomacy Research & Analytics
Office	Office of Research
Embassy	
Bureau	Global Public Affairs
Project Description	<p>First, project participants could look at the work GPA's R&A unit have done and used over the past year and evaluate if they have had an impact on US foreign policy messaging. In other words, when your group has presented clear message suggestions that can change public opinion, does the U.S. government change its rhetoric?</p> <p>Second, following up on this, when the US government uses certain rhetoric (that has come out of your work) in their foreign policy messages, does it have an impact on public opinion in those countries?</p> <p>And third, how do the first two steps affect public policy in the target countries?</p>
Final Product Format	Research paper or presentation with supporting data analysis.
Discipline	["Information & Communication Technology", "International Relations", "Statistics", "Communications"]
Additional Information	Though not available for selection above, Public Policy and Social Science are relevant academic disciplines.

Project ID	DipLab2030335
Project Title	Growing Together: Studying the Impact of H-2A Temporary Farm Workers on Jamaica's Rural Economy
Office	Nonimmigrant Visa Unit, Consular Section
Embassy	Jamaica
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Jamaica's H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker program remains among the most popular U.S. initiatives on the island, with 5,000 workers participating Jamaica is second only to Mexico in the volume of temporary agricultural workers engaged legally in the United States. Jamaica's H-2A program is globally unique in the role Jamaica's Ministry of Labor and Social Services plays as the exclusive recruiter and agent of such workers in the country, a practice that goes back to the origins of the program in a bilateral agreement on temporary labor between Jamaica and the United States.</p> <p>Jamaicans have traveled to the U.S. for over seven decades through a variety of farm worker programs rooted in post-World War II labor shortages in the United States. These workers help U.S. farms and business grow and succeed, and over the years have become integral features of Northeast and Northwest orchard operations. They in turn bring tens of millions in earnings back to Jamaica, which helps to support small businesses, farms and their families. Although workers are sourced throughout Jamaica, many are themselves farmers and highly concentrated in Jamaica's rural regions and the agricultural sector. Their annual earnings play a major role in the economic activity of their home cities and parishes and are literally the 'seed capital' for many of Jamaica's primary food producers.</p> <p>That said, the program remains a significantly under-studied object of the bilateral relationship and the precise economic and developmental impact of this significant stream of earnings remains unclear. Jamaica's Central American competitors in the H2 market have been very active in recent years in helping their host countries promote the needs, interests and infrastructure of support for their own increasing population of H2 workers. They have done so largely framing the case for expansion of their own participation in the program by citing how the earning from temporary workers accrue more directly to the most disadvantaged areas of their countries and to the least developed sectors of their economies.</p> <p>Given the scope and bilateral importance of the H-2A program in the country, this project aims to produce a more comprehensive understanding of how the impact of the program is distributed in the United States and Jamaica, and the more precise role these earnings play in the function of Jamaica's own domestic agriculture. Such an understanding would have a range of implications for further partnership with the Government of Jamaica as it seeks to expand participation in the program, as well as synergies for programming in the areas of agriculture, labor rights, and labor mobility as the use of H-2A is likely to continue growing in the United States. U.S. Embassy Kingston can support the program by organizing visits and/or calls with relevant authorities in the United States and Jamaica and reviewing the research plan and early drafts of the study's outcomes. Students of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development might have a particular interest in this project.</p>
Final Product	Research paper with appropriate data analysis, assessment of policy options or ideas

Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Food Security", "Geography", "International Development", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Sociology", "Statistics", "Western Hemisphere Studies"]
Additional Information	We have a close working relationship with the Jamaican Ministry of Labor and Social Services that manages farm worker recruitment under this program. It will afford the team that is engaged an opportunity to potential collaborate with that Ministry on data sourcing relevant to the project, as well as to develop ideas that could span programmatic innovations in the arena of rural or agricultural development in Jamaica in areas as diverse as ag finance, labor rights, labor mobility and more.

Project ID	DipLab2001342
Project Title	Afghanistan Legal Education Assessment
Office	Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Afghanistan Justice Team in the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL/AP) has worked for over a decade to develop law curricula, programs, and educators in Afghanistan with the long-term goal of strengthening the country's justice institutions. With the intra-Afghan peace negotiations now underway, INL/AP is interested in exploring new and innovative ways to continue advancing legal education in Afghanistan.</p> <p>We would like for students to conduct an assessment of the undergraduate and post-undergraduate legal education environment in Afghanistan, as well as the legal skill sets needed in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Based on these findings, we hope students will be able to identify possible areas where U.S. foreign assistance or other types of partnerships could be especially helpful to address ongoing needs for legal expertise in Afghanistan. Since this is a broad area of study, students are welcome to identify a narrower focus for their research.</p>
Final Product Format	Depending on the needs and preferences of the class, we would be interested in receiving a short options memo (approximately 4 pages), a longer research paper (10 to 20 pages), or another type of deliverable. Regardless of the physical deliverable(s), we would like to receive a video or in-person presentation from the participants to explain and contextualize their findings and answer questions.
Discipline	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Education & Cultural Studies", "International Development", "International Law", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "South/Central Asian Studies", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction"]
Additional Information	<p>The Afghanistan Justice Team in INL/AP works to strengthen the Afghan justice sector in the following ways:</p> <p>EDUCATING JUSTICE SECTOR OFFICIALS: INL partners with U.S. law schools to train the next generation of Afghan legal professionals, supporting 121 Afghans to earn LLM or PhD degrees. INL funding also established the first undergraduate law degree program at the American University of Afghanistan, where approximately 60% of law students are women. INL supports the training of judges, prosecutors, and Ministry of Justice officials on the correct application of the new Afghan Penal Code.</p> <p>COMBATTING CRIME: INL mentors and trains Afghan justice officials to disrupt criminal networks, focusing on the nexus between crime, narcotics, and terrorism. INL provides technical advice, as well as training and mentoring, to reform Afghan criminal laws, such as those against narcotics and trafficking in persons. Programs also seek to build the capacity of Afghan judges, lawyers, and prosecutors.</p> <p>COUNTERING CORRUPTION: INL assisted the Afghan government in developing a Case Management System to electronically track cases nationwide from arrest and prosecution of the accused through incarceration and release of prisoners. The system currently holds over 600,000 criminal and civil cases. INL supports justice sector ministries to improve transparency and accountability through organizational reforms in the areas of</p>

procurement, human resources, and budgeting. Programs support specialized investigation and prosecution units to bring corrupt officials to justice, helping to dismantle the corrosive networks that undermine the government.

ADVANCING RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: INL supports shelters for women and children who have survived or are at risk of gender-based violence or trafficking in persons; family guidance centers that provide legal and counseling services to survivors and their families; and transitional houses to help women transition out of prison. INL also provides training and placement of psychosocial counselors to the shelters and family guidance centers. These programs benefit over 10,000 women and children annually. INL assisted the Ministry of Women's Affairs in establishing the Victim Witness Assistance Program in order to link survivors and witnesses of violence with legal and social services. Furthermore, INL supports the training of special units in the Attorney General's Office that prosecute cases under the Elimination of Violence Against Women Act.

INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE: INL funds legal aid offices in 20 Afghan provinces, providing legal representation and educating citizens about their legal rights. This includes increasing community awareness of women's rights through sessions on topics like marriage, education, and child custody.

Project ID	DipLab2007346
Project Title	Access to Credit: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers Facing Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica
Office	Political-Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Kingston
Embassy	Jamaica
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	The Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) recently conducted research funded by the European Union entitled “Closed for Business: Barriers to Women’s Entrepreneurship”. Based on these findings, Jamaican women entrepreneurs are just as competent, confident and willing to take risks as their male counterparts. However, they are much less likely to obtain loans from the traditional banking sector, which has been identified as a major barrier for female startups. This research project would take a granular look at the reasons why women are less likely to obtain loans from Jamaica’s traditional banks. Based on these findings, the research project would also include recommendations for specific reforms or alternate funding structures that could be implemented to support women’s economic empowerment and enable female entrepreneurs to fully participate in Jamaica’s post COVID-19 economic recovery.
Final Product Format	Research paper with recommendations
Discipline	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Gender Studies"]
Additional Information	The reasons why women are less likely to obtain loans are unclear, though experts indicate there is no shortage of capital in the local Jamaican market. Instead, stakeholders suggest that this lack of credit may be due to a combination of societal norms that have permeated the traditional banking structure. According to the World Bank’s 2020 indicator scores “Women, Business and the Law”, Jamaican law does not specifically prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender, though stakeholders have suggested that the difficulty may be due to a combination of factors.

Project ID	DipLab2007348
Project Title	Impact of Youth Club Participation on Jamaican Youth Attitudes and Behavior
Office	Political-Economic Section, U.S. Embassy Kingston
Embassy	Jamaica
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	The U.S. Embassy and Peace Corps in Jamaica seek to assess the impact of youth participation in in-school and out-of-school youth clubs on Jamaican youth attitudes and behavior related to community service, gender norms, and violence. The central question is: what impact, if any, has participation in youth clubs in Jamaica and elsewhere affected youth and adult attitudes on these issues? Extreme levels of violence, including one of the highest homicide rates in the world, are endemic to Jamaica. Sexual harassment directed at females by males and high levels of gender-based violence are also serious threats. This research project would help identify sustainable and effective violence prevention measures that would improve the lives of citizens of an important U.S. partner, and help advance U.S. strategic goals in Jamaica and the Caribbean region. Participation in youth clubs is often proposed as one measure to prevent violence. However, violence prevention remains a complex issue and the study of the impact of youth clubs is under-researched. Research findings suggesting an impact on youth attitudes may provide a rationale at various policy-making levels for increasing participation in such groups.
Final Product Format	Impact study/research paper.
Discipline	["International Relations", "Sociology", "Education, Cultural Studies, International Development; Sociology; Social Psychology; Youth Issues "]
Additional Information	Youth clubs have been around for decades in Jamaica: Scouts, Cadets, Girl Guides, 4-H, Brownies, Key Clubs, Literacy, etc. The Council of Voluntary Social Services is an 80-year-old organization whose members represent a range of social welfare activities, including youth service organizations, and adult and youth voluntarism. Rotarct and Interact, youth clubs under the guidance of Rotary International that promote service above self, are both active in Jamaica. A 2004 Education Reform Task Force report encourages participation in youth clubs as a positive step in the development of children and a 2017 UNFPA-funded report recommends youth clubs as part of a solution to youth violence. However, membership and participation in clubs remain voluntary and highly dependent on school principal and staff prioritization Additional sources of information include: Search-institute, "40 Development Assets for Adolescents (ages 12-18)." http://www.Search-institute.org Task Force on Educational Reform (2004). "Jamaica A Transformed Education System." Ward, E., McGaw K., & Marsh C. (2017). "Youth, Peace And Security Case Study, Jamaica." Robertson, Sue (2000). "A warm, safe place: an argument for youth clubs." Walker, J., Dunham, T., & Snyder, E. (1998). "Clubs and groups in the social education of young people." World Health Organization (2002), World Report on Violence and Health, https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/ .

Project ID	DipLab2132272
Project Title	Mapping Biotechnology Policy with Climate Change Commitments, Emissions, and Impacts
Office	Office of Agriculture Policy
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	<p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, agriculture accounts for 12 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions before taking other environmental factors such as land use, energy, or waste into account. U.S. agriculture accounts for roughly 10 percent of U.S. GHG emissions while the agriculture sectors in China, India, and Brazil contribute approximately 18, 20, and 25 percent of their total GHG emissions, respectively. Bottom line: the agriculture sector has significant untapped potential to contribute to climate change mitigation globally and is a priority for adaptation in many countries. Specifically, agricultural biotechnology can provide tools for sustainable intensification of agriculture. For example, genome editing is being used to produce plants with larger and deeper roots that can capture and store extra carbon in the soil, use nitrogen more efficiently, or tolerate drought conditions better all while boosting yields and smallholder farmer incomes. Global acceptance of agricultural biotechnology, however, remains lower than it should be due to regulatory hurdles that stem from misinformation and protectionist trade actions. When combined with other improved practices, biotechnology can often supercharge our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p>The Office of Agriculture Policy seeks teams of students to select a region of the world in which to analyze biotechnology policies in the context of climate change commitments, GHG emissions, and/or impacts. The analysis may be composed of background on the region's agricultural sector and climate change vulnerability, agricultural biotechnology- and climate-related policies or programs, and an assessment of how the countries in the region are developing or could improve synergies between biotechnology adoption and climate change mitigation/adaption in the agricultural sector. Teams should pay special attention to practices and policies that impact women, indigenous peoples, and smallholder farmers, as they are often the most adversely affected by climate change, food insecurity, and policy barriers. A list of countries and policies/indicators to be used should be mutually decided by the professor and the Office of Agricultural Policy.</p>
Final Product Format	The final product will include a 10-15 minute group presentation, a regional map or other visual infographic, and a 5-10 page report. The project sponsor would like to hear the final presentations through video conferencing.
Discipline	["African Studies", "East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Economic %26 Finance Issues", "European %26 Eurasian Studies", "Food Security", "Gender Studies", "International Development", "International Law", "International Relations", "Middle East/North African Studies", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Science and Technology", "South/Central Asian Studies", "Climate Change", "Communications"]
Additional Information	We look forward to working with teams throughout the process of developing and implementing projects that are interesting and impactful for the students, as well as useful and relevant for the Office of Agriculture Policy.

Project ID	DipLab2132273
Project Title	Inclusion and Equity: Case Studies in Women's Economic Empowerment in South and Central Asia
Office	Security and Transnational Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	South and Central Asian Affairs
Project Description	<p>Teams of scholars will explore case studies and research on one or more of the following proposed list of projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Opportunities to bolster women's role in climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience in SCA (2) Opportunities and barriers for engaging fintech and venture capital to improve deal flow led by women entrepreneurs in SCA; (3) The role of predictive analytics in improving women's economic participation in SCA (4) Opportunities to bolster women's economic participation through regional economic connectivity between Central Asia and Afghanistan (5) Private sector priorities for CSR and gender investments in South and Central Asia, including a private sector mapping (6) Opportunities to increase SCA women's representation in the board room (7) Structural barriers to women's entrepreneurship, to include trade barriers and access to finance, in Central Asia (8) Gender dynamics of business incubators in entrepreneurship in South and Central Asia (9) Opportunities to support women entrepreneurs focused on improving women's healthcare access, including mental health.
Final Product Format	Powerpoint and four-page options memo(s)
Discipline	["Gender Studies", "International Development", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "South/Central Asian Studies", "I", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	Student team(s) would work with a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs focused on inclusive growth. More about the bureau%26%2358; https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-political-affairs/bureau-of-south-and-central-asian-affairs/