



Fall 2022 Project Menu

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Project Titles by Discipline/Expertise Chart

Discipline/Expertise	Project Titles
African Studies	DipLab2193034, DipLab2193033, DipLab2193010, DipLab2132272
Anthropology	DipLab2202708, DipLab2202704, DipLab2193022, DipLab2132265, DipLab2132238, DipLab2132205
Architecture	DipLab2132255, DipLab2031331, DipLab2027325
Arctic Region Studies	DipLab2193032, DipLab2193026, DipLab2132205
Climate Change	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202716, DipLab2202715, DipLab2202709, DipLab2202707, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132265, DipLab2132245, DipLab2132217, DipLab2132216
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement	DipLab2203101, DipLab2132252, DipLab2132245, DipLab2132243, DipLab2132241, DipLab2132234
Cyber Security	DipLab2193038, DipLab2132232, DipLab2132208
Democracy	DipLab2193038, DipLab2193022, DipLab2132265, DipLab2132205
East Asian/Pacific Studies	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202716, DipLab2202715, DipLab2202707, DipLab2193009, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132224, DipLab2132208
Economic and Finance Issues	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202715, DipLab2202707, DipLab2202706, DipLab2193033, DipLab2193032, DipLab2193029, DipLab2193005, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132270, DipLab2132254, DipLab2132231, DipLab2132217, DipLab2132216, DipLab2132215, DipLab2132205
Education and Cultural Studies	DipLab2202716, DipLab2202712, DipLab2202705, DipLab2193030, DipLab2193029, DipLab2193020, DipLab2193009, DipLab2132252, DipLab2132251, DipLab2132224, DipLab2132208
Energy Security	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202715, DipLab2202709, DipLab2132217, DipLab2132216
European and Eurasian Studies	DipLab2132215, DipLab2202708, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132215, DipLab2132208, DipLab2132205
Food Security	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202715, DipLab2193034, DipLab2193005, DipLab2132272
Geography	DipLab2193010, DipLab2132255, DipLab2132232, DipLab2132216, DipLab2132214

International Development	DipLab2202716, DipLab2202711, DipLab2202704, DipLab2193034, DipLab2193029, DipLab2193022, DipLab2193022, DipLab2193005, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132254, DipLab2132243, DipLab2132224, DipLab2132217
Civil Society	DipLab2203101, DipLab2202712, DipLab2193038, DipLab2193030, DipLab2193029, DipLab2193004, DipLab2132265, DipLab2132255
Global Health	DipLab2203101, DipLab2202718, DipLab2202717, DipLab2193034
Human Rights	DipLab2203101, DipLab2193038, DipLab2193022, DipLab2193004, DipLab2132234
Gender Studies	DipLab2203101, DipLab2202717, DipLab2193038, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132234
Political Science	DipLab2132238
Social Work	DipLab2132238
Sociology	DipLab2202708, DipLab2202706, DipLab2202704, DipLab2193030, DipLab2193022 DipLab2132255, DipLab2132238, DipLab2132205
Western Hemisphere Studies	DipLab2203101, DipLab2202712, DipLab2132265, DipLab2132254
Food Security	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202715, DipLab2202711, DipLab2193034, DipLab2193005, DipLab2132272
Water Security	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202715, DipLab2132217
Youth Issues	DipLab2202717, DipLab2202716, DipLab2202712, DipLab2202705, DipLab2193030, DipLab2193029
Science and Technology	DipLab2202718, DipLab2202717, DipLab2202716, DipLab2202715, DipLab2202709, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132269, DipLab2132265, DipLab2132241, DipLab2132216, DipLab2132215, DipLab2132208, DipLab2027325
Communications	DipLab2202716, DipLab2202707, DipLab2193030, DipLab2193004, DipLab2132272
Conflict	DipLab2203105, DipLab2203102, DipLab2202713
Stabilization and Reconstruction	DipLab2203105, DipLab2203102, DipLab2202713
South/Central Asian Studies	DipLab2202713, DipLab2132272
Public-Private Partnerships	DipLab2202704, DipLab2193030, DipLab2193029, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132255, DipLab2132254, DipLab2132231, DipLab2132216
Middle East/North African Studies	DipLab2193030, DipLab2193029, DipLab2132272
Oceans	DipLab2202718
International Law	DipLab2202708, DipLab2193034, DipLab2132272, DipLab2132234, DipLab2132215
Narcotics and Law Enforcement	DipLab2132243
Urban Studies	DipLab2132214

Urban Planning	DipLab21322144
Democracy and Human Rights	DipLab2132265, DipLab2132205

Title	DipLab2203105
Project Name	Helping A Country in Crisis
Office	Office of East African Affairs
Embassy	African Affairs
Bureau	None
Project Description	Ethiopia is at a critical moment in its history, and it will take a lot of work (some would say a miracle) to move past current ethnic divisions to build a stable democratic society. We invite a professor and class interested in peace and reconciliation, or the relatively new academic field of transitology to examine the current tensions that exist in Ethiopia and suggest strategies or best practices that the very active diaspora community in the United States might consider as they remain engaged with civil society actors "at home." We invite a group of students to look for examples from the past, from around the world of governments and societies which have moved beyond civil strife and ethnic tensions to build more equitable healthy political structures.
Final Product Format	A power point or other attractive presentation that can be shared virtually with Ethiopian diaspora nationwide to encourage and inspire all to work toward building an equitable stable democracy. The final presentation should allow the audience to consider alternative strategies (based on past successful examples around the world) to move from a period of conflict to harmony.
Discipline/Expertise	African Studies; International Relations; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction;
Additional Information	<p>Texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Capital and Prospects for Democracy in Botswana and Ethiopia (2019) by Asafa Jalata. This text centers on the challenges with democratizing Ethiopia, provides a comparative analysis with another democratizing state (Botswana), and provides some insight into the gadaa governance system, which was the Oromo indigenous democratic system that used to be the system of governance in Oromia. Other nationalities had similar systems, such as the Sidama. The principles and organization of power in these systems reflect modern democracies today, and is why I advocate for a deeper understanding of these systems and their integration into modern governance today (gadaa is only practiced nominally today). • The Invention of Ethiopia (1990) by Bonnie Holcomb and Sisai Ibssa. This is a dense, historical text, but was seminal at the time of its publication in demystifying the formation of the Ethiopian modern state and its challenges with governance.

Title	DipLab2203104
Project Name	U.S. Refugee Resettlement: Looking at Challenges and Opportunities in 2022
Office	PRM/A
Embassy	None
Bureau	Population, Refugees, and Migration
Project Description	This project will be tied to work to expand access and improve efficiency in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). It may include researching new refugee populations, such as Ukrainians fleeing the war in Ukraine or Afghans fleeing a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, or long-standing refugee populations, and investigating how U.S. or third country resettlement may provide durable solutions to refugees. It may also include looking at domestic resettlement, whether operations or outcomes, and how best to served newly arrived refugees who are looking to start a new life.
Final Product Format	TBD
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	Further details on the project will be provided at the start of the project.

Title	DipLab2203102
Project Name	Conflict Prevention & Response Playbooks
Office	Office of Design, Monitoring & Evaluation
Embassy	None
Bureau	Conflict and Stabilization Operations
Project Description	<p>The United States government is often forced to make quick decisions in the emergence or aftermath of a crisis. There is little time for in-depth review of U.S. actions in similar cases in the past, or to consider a broad range of options or creative, new approaches. This project aims to fill that gap, creating a set of 'playbooks' of potential policy and programmatic options the USG could consider when strategizing about what it should do to prevent or respond to specific conflict-related scenarios. The primary audience for these playbooks would be U.S. State Department officers working on a specific country-related contingency. They could also inform USG players taking part in Tabletop Exercises related to such contingencies. This project foresees three playbooks exploring possible actions the USG could take to: 1) Prevent instability and conflict in a non-democratic country facing potential leadership succession crisis 2) Restore democratic governance and prevent violent conflict following a coup 3) Deter or mitigate escalation of hostilities from a large, powerful state against a smaller, weaker state (without U.S. kinetic military action) The playbook(s) will be composed of actions that the U.S. government has taken (or considered) in response to such situations in the past. They should not create a prescriptive set of policy recommendations, but rather lay out the conditions that existed, actions taken, and the result/response.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Please describe what type of "deliverable" your office would like to receive. Do you need a 20-page research paper, a 4-page options memo, a presentation, a data analysis, or something else. The final product will be a list of actions the U.S. government has taken (excluding direct military action) in response to the above scenario(s). Each item on the list will concisely describe: • The action taken • The timeframe in which it was taken. • The context in which it was taken where/why) • The result (both intended and unanticipated) •Actions •Should include political, diplomatic, messaging, public information, economic, development, and non-kinetic defense. The final product can also contain a list of possible actions that could be considered in the future, even if they were not used in the past, and when/why they might be appropriate. For new, untried ideas, each item on the list will concisely describe: • The action to be taken • Any necessary preconditions for effective use • Potential risks • Intended results •Each action should be no longer than a paragraph (½ page), be consistent in format/structure across the list, and make heavy use of bullets.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction
Additional Information	<p>An example of what a good entry in a playbook will be provided later to teams after selection. Teams can be creative about sources and research methods, but may want to consult existing policy and academic research and any relevant volumes of the State Department's "Foreign Relations of the United States."</p>

Title	DipLab2203101
Project Name	Will I get a fair trial in Latin America? Assessing inclusion, equity, and accessibility in the criminal legal systems of the Western Hemisphere
Office	Office of Western Hemisphere Programs
Embassy	None
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	The Western Hemisphere Program Office of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau (INL/WHP) oversees more than \$300 million in foreign assistance annually to support the professionalization and capacity of law enforcement and criminal legal institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. INL is committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in our programs and policy engagements. As part of that commitment, the INL/WHP Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Task Force is conducting a vulnerability assessment of marginalized populations in the countries where INL works: Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina. In June, ten Virtual Student Federal Service interns will conclude an initial research phase to identify what populations are marginalized and assess the country's government and civil society interactions with these groups. During this Diplomacy Lab, you will review the deliverables from the intern program. Then you will build on the initial research and resource collection to finalize a common rubric to: rate how equitable the country's criminal legal system is based on a variety of factors; forecast possible tensions between the country and marginalized populations that could arise if left unaddressed; and offer recommendations for how INL programs could address equity, inclusion, and access for marginalized populations.
Final Product Format	Rubric to assess current state of marginalized populations and track progress over time. 4–5-page report for each country defining the local marginalized populations and offering recommendations for targeted INL programs to improve their inclusion, equity, and access to justice.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Civil Society; Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Gender Studies; Global Health; Human Rights; Western Hemisphere Studies.
Additional Information	The INL/WHP D&I council looks forward to mentoring and supporting a group of researchers on this topic. Thank you for your consideration.

Title	DipLab2202718
Project Name	Science Informing Effective Mitigation of Plastic Pollution
Office	Bureau of Oceans, and International Environmental & Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Quality
Embassy	None
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	The United National Environment Assembly is expected to approve the formation of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to establish a legally binding instrument to combat the growing problem of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. While the enormity of this problem is understood, there are many aspects for which more information will be needed to design, implement, and assess effective local, national, and international strategies to mitigate plastic pollution. These include: - better knowledge of the amount of each type of plastic waste that is mismanaged; - the strengths and weaknesses of measurement protocols; - the various processes and rates by which improperly managed plastic waste makes its way through land, air, and water to inland water bodies and to the ocean; - the health risks of microplastics on wildlife and humans; - the options for designing plastic products to improve their circularity; and - life cycle analyses of resource use for plastic products and their possible alternatives. We invite bids for a Diplomacy Laboratory project that help address these gaps in our knowledge with research and communication and to inform policy with up-to-date scientific synthesis.
Final Product Format	The project would choose a subset (e.g., 2-4) of the topics listed above and provide a series of policy briefs (2-4 pages each), with supporting documentation, demonstrating how science can help inform international negotiations on actions needed to combat plastic pollution. An oral presentation will be made to the ENV/OES office, either virtually or in person, depending upon conditions.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Global Health; Oceans; Science and Technology
Additional Information	Resource links: https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastics/

Title	DipLab2202717
Project Name	Explore the geopolitical, economic, and climate change impact on the Mekong River basin water flow changes
Office	Office of Multilateral Affairs
Embassy	None
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	This Mekong-U.S. Partnership diplomacy lab project request will explore how climate anomalies exacerbate water availability for food and energy production and human infectious disease risk in the Mekong watershed region. Faculty and students will explore 1) the interdependence of climate anomalies, human infectious disease, and food and energy production; 2) how upstream infrastructure projects will change water flows, access, and quality for agriculture and fisheries; and 3) interdependence impact on geopolitical strategies. Participants will formulate geopolitical strategies to direct the United States Government in its foreign development investments and programmatic initiatives to address challenges in optimizing environmental resource use in food production, processing, and distribution, to reduce biodiversity loss, pollution, human infectious disease, water use, soil degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions. These issues are essential to formulating responsive geopolitical policy strategies. In addition, they will provide insight into possible geopolitics focusing on regional economic stability issues relating to climate anomalies in the future.
Final Product Format	Our office would like a concise geopolitical strategy report, a presentation, and data analysis, including risk management recommendations supported with background research highlighting possible geopolitical risk factors.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Climate Change; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; Energy Security; Food Security; Science and Technology; Water Security; Global Health; Youth Issues; Gender Studies.
Additional Information	Content Resources: Mekong-U.S. Partnership [mekonguspartnership.org] Mekong Water Data Initiative [www.mekongwater.org] Mekong River Commission Publications [https://www.mrcmekong.org/publications]. MRC is an intergovernmental organization established for regional dialogue and cooperation in the lower Mekong River basin. The commission serves as a regional platform for water diplomacy as well as a knowledge hub of water resources management for the sustainable development of the region. Basin Development Strategy for the Mekong River Basin 2021-2030 [http://interactive.mrcmekong.org/basin-development-strategy-and-strategic-plan/cover/] Global climate anomalies and potential infectious disease risks [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4323421/]

Title	DipLab2202716
Project Name	Develop climate change adaptation training modules as open educational resources for the Mekong-U.S. Partnership
Office	Office of Multilateral Affairs
Embassy	None
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) diplomacy lab project request focuses on two major areas: 1) formulate geopolitical strategies to deploy climate change adaptation education and propose education infrastructure to reduce vulnerability and build resilience; and 2) develop climate change adaptation curriculums that will improve general education to enhance Mekong citizens adaptive capacity. In addition, faculty and students will develop active learning curricular materials that can be deployed as open educational resources to assist in training Mekong citizens to enhance their adaptive capacity promoting resilience. Education can be a powerful tool in enabling effective adaptation to climate change, but its policy value has been limited by vague definitions of education and by poor cross-field communication that prevents important ideas from one discipline or policy domain from reaching another. Climate change adaptation education is more important now than ever. Understanding the causes and effects of climate change is the first step in shifting mindsets, establishing new ways of limiting its impact, and adapting to its unavoidable effects. With high-quality teaching materials, innovative methods, and a network of relevant stakeholders, our MUSP aim is to create conditions for more and improved climate change adaptation education to bring about urgent environmental, societal, and economic transformation. The Mekong-U.S. Partnership is motivated by the belief that education can bring about fundamental changes in the Mekong region. Our strategic efforts are to develop a network to provide teacher training on climate change adaptation education, create teaching materials, organize workshops and academic discussions, and contribute to regional, national, and international committee work. Climate change adaptation education are Mekong and global challenges that must be addressed through a combination of local learning and action in addition to wider systematic mindset shifts. For the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, quality climate change adaptation education explores and disseminates knowledge about the climate, climate protection and adaptation measure and supports individual and Mekong Countries' climate resilience. Climate change adaptation education is transdisciplinary, a climate protection strategy, and a strategy for promoting sustainable climate adaptation across the entire Mekong social system. Beyond shaping political and economic action, knowledge of climate change adaptation helps mindful citizens serve as important climate change advocates while strengthening climate resilience at the local and global levels.</p>
Final Product Format	Our office would like to receive a concise geopolitical strategy report regarding recommendations to deploy climate change adaptation education infrastructure, a presentation, and curriculum and educational materials, supported with background research leading to realistic strategies to promote Mekong citizen adaptive capacity and resilience. The curriculum and educational materials must be developed as active learning modules and open education resource toolkit.

Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Climate Change; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; Science and Technology; Youth Issues; International Development; Communications
Additional Information	<p>Content Resources:</p> <p>Learning to act: climate change education in sustainable development [https://www.siemens-stiftung.org/en/foundation/education/climate-change-education/]</p> <p>Mekong-U.S. Partnership [www.mekonguspartnership.org]</p> <p>U.N. Sustainable Development 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all - [https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4]</p> <p>2020 Global Education Monitoring Report [https://gem-report-2020.unesco.org/]</p>

Title	DipLab2202715
Project Name	Develop data-driven geopolitical strategies for the Mekong-U.S. Partnership to strengthen climate adaptation strategies in the Mekong region
Office	Office of Multilateral Affairs
Embassy	None
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	This project focuses on potential geopolitical challenges from Climate NEXUS issues on the Mekong River basin and its impact on Mekong countries, including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. This diplomacy lab requires faculty and students to develop geopolitical risk factors or 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 in the Mekong Region. In addition, faculty and students will explore geopolitical 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 geopolitical strategies, including risk management, 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 geopolitical strategies during this continually changing environment and will provide insight into possible regional stability issues in the future.
Final Product Format	Our office would like a concise geopolitical strategy report, a presentation, and data analysis, including risk management recommendations supported with background research leading to realistic strategies to promote Mekong Countries' climate resilience.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Climate Change; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Energy Security; Food Security; Water Security; Science and Technology; Economic & Finance Issues.
Additional Information	Content Resources: Mekong-U.S. Partnership [www.mekonguspartnership.org] Stimson Center Mekong-U.S. Partnership Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue Report - [https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PPD2-Summary-Report_Final_Single-Page.pdf] Mekong Water Data Initiative [www.mekongwater.org] Mekong River Commission Publications [https://www.mrcmekong.org/publications]. MRC is an intergovernmental organization established for regional dialogue and cooperation in the lower Mekong River basin. The commission serves as a regional platform for water diplomacy as well as a knowledge hub of water resources management for the sustainable development of the region. Basin Development Strategy for the Mekong River Basin 2021-2030 [http://interactive.mrcmekong.org/basin-development-strategy-and-strategic-plan/cover/] SERVIR-Mekong Resources and Publications [https://servir.adpc.net/publications/by-topic/18].

Title	DipLab2202714
Project Name	Assessing Impact of Federal Regulations for Accreditation and Approval of Adoption Service Providers on Adoption Disruptions and Dissolutions
Office	Office of Children's Issues
Embassy	None
Bureau	Consular Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Department of State is the designated U.S. Central Authority for the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) and is responsible for the federal regulations and standards that govern the accreditation and approval process for providers of intercountry adoption services. In 2014, the Department amended 22 CFR Part 96 to implement the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 (UAA), thereby ensuring that all adoption service providers are held to the same federal standards without regard to whether the country from which a child is being adopted is party to the Hague Convention. The Office of Children's Issues is interested in research determining whether the federal regulations in 22 CFR Part 96 ensure adequate protection for children, birth parents, and adoptive or prospective adoptive parents involved in adoptions from non-Hague countries. We have a particular interest in looking at this through the lens of disrupted placements for adoption and dissolved adoptions, as both situations have devastating consequences for the children and families involved. It may be useful to consider a comparison of the rates of and reasons for disruptions and dissolutions involving non-Convention countries before and after the UAA went into effect on July 14, 2014. We are also interested in ascertaining whether there have been meaningful differences in the numbers and characteristics of disruptions and dissolutions since the accreditation and approval framework went into effect in 2008.</p>
Final Product Format	Open to discussion with the research team/s selected.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	You can find additional information about intercountry adoption and the Office of Children's Issues. at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption.html

Title	DipLab2202713
Project Name	Strategic Competition and Conflict in South Asia
Office	Office of East Asia & Pacific and South & Central Asian Affairs
Embassy	None
Bureau	Conflict and Stabilization Operations
Project Description	The Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) seeks to anticipate, prevent, and respond to conflict that undermines U.S. national interests. In support of this mission, CSO works to create a shared understanding of conflict drivers in specific settings. In South Asia, the People's Republic of China's (PRC) influence continues to grow as a result of the country's rising economic and military power. This growing influence, and resulting strategic competition, threatens to alter intra- and inter-state conflict dynamics. CSO welcomes a partner university to help develop and understand the links between strategic competition and conflict in South Asia.
Final Product Format	Project deliverables could include research papers, shorter more focused white papers, and a presentation to CSO.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction; South/Central Asian Studies.
Additional Information	For more information about CSO's work, please visit: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-conflict-and-stabilization-operations/

Title	DipLab2202712
Project Name	Where Are Chilean Young People? Analyzing Opportunities for Public Diplomacy Engagement
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Chile
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Chile recently elected the youngest president in its history, and the country is considering a re-write of its dictatorship-era constitution in part to reflect the whole of Chilean society. Social media participation is widespread in Chile but could be reaching a tipping point especially for young people. And the United States and Chile will celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations in 2023. Within this context, the Public Affairs Section is reviewing its strategy for engaging with emerging voices—sharing the United States and strengthening ties with our country. We are looking to understand the trends and interests of young people, ages 15-25 in particular, who have neutral or no opinions about the United States and could be persuadable now and influential in the future. Where are they, and where can we meet them with messaging and programming to impact their awareness, attitudes, and action related to the United States? And which are the potential partner organizations in Chile that already connect with these young people? We hypothesize some arenas for engagement are arts, music, film, sports, e-sports, video games, technology, entrepreneurship, education, and social media, among others. And consistent challenges have been reaching people outside the major cities, indigenous-descendant and immigrant residents, as well as women in science and business—while maintaining connections with urban communities. Our public diplomacy efforts this year will prioritize advancing social and economic inclusion, promoting partnerships for climate action, celebrating U.S. engagement and people-to-people ties, bolstering free and independent media, and protecting Chilean cultural patrimony. And we are strengthening the network of affiliated American Spaces throughout Chile to widen and deepen our reach. This research will help us develop new and tailor existing programming to a specific audience.
Final Product Format	A five-page options memo prioritizing arenas and themes for engagement with young people, as well as recommended partner organizations or government agencies in each area (with an optional appendix containing any data analysis or supporting details).
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Youth Issues; Western Hemisphere Studies; Civil Society; Education & Cultural Studies.
Additional Information	Our Embassy website (https://cl.usembassy.gov/) and linked social media accounts, as well as those of the American Spaces network (https://cl.usembassy.gov/education-culture/american-spaces/) could be a starting point to understand current topics and levels of engagement. However, we are primarily looking for the analysis to identify new areas of opportunity.

Title	DipLab2202711
Project Name	Open Access Education on ‘Becoming a Smart Sustainable City’
Office	Multi-lateral Affairs
Embassy	None
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (USASCP) is a whole of government approach, working with over 16 U.S. gov’t agencies as well as with regional embassies and partners, to improve the delivery of essential urban services in cities and to promote an enhanced and sustainable quality of life for ASEAN residents. The United States has committed over \$13m in approximately 23 smart cities projects to address sub-national, urban challenges of transportation, water, resource recovery, research and innovation, energy, health, cybersecurity, among others. ASEAN cities are experiencing some of the fastest rates of urbanization in the world, compounded by increasing vulnerabilities to climate change, creating new demands and stresses on basic systems. Many cities in the ASEAN region are struggling to provide adequate drinking water, sanitation, waste management, flood control, electricity, and food security while demand for basic services from industry and residents only increases. USASCP is motivated by the desire to more fully inform a range of audiences and stakeholders on the multi-functional importance of urban environments and their pivotal role in accelerating the access and delivery of critical urban services, strengthening climate action, and advancing healthy and equitable quality of life. Smart Sustainable Cities can lead this charge by taking a comprehensive and holistic approach towards policy, planning and investments. Yet, there is a political and economic tendency for companies, investors and cities to pursue technology driven solutions that are often luxury items, e.g.: integrated city data platforms, particularly in developing countries, where basic services such as wastewater treatment ie: only 40% at best, is treated before being returned to the natural environment, and where lack of proper waste management exacerbates urban flooding. Also, the risk of being sold a package of ICT solutions by untrusted vendors increases lock-in to specific technologies and jeopardize data security. Issues of privacy and best local interests abound as was the case in the infamous Google’s Sidewalk Labs project in Toronto.</p> <p>https://www.theverge.com/2020/5/7/21250594/alphabet-sidewalk-labs-toronto-quayside-shutting-down.</p> <p>Rather smart sustainable city investments should be driven by critical urban needs and sustainable, affordable and inclusive solutions, whereby technology can be a valuable tool to help communities accelerate and/or leapfrog to provide essential urban services. Smart sustainable solutions are premised on integrated urban planning, forward-thinking policies and investments in sustainable, low-carbon/net-zero infrastructure. SSC tools also include application of nature-based solutions, embracing circular economy principles, co-creation and sustainable design with communities, resource recovery and reuse, value capture, among others. More education is needed across all audiences and stakeholders to better understand the ultimate purpose and value of a smart sustainable city. This project can provide an important foundational basis for such learning. The USASCP new website and database will be an open access depository of city resources and knowledge gained from across the USASCP portfolio.</p>

Final Product Format	Project outcomes may include narratives in the form of short briefs (2-4) pages on the following topics. Briefs may include and/or be complemented by PowerPoint slide deck, graphics, metrics and other supportive informational medium. 1) Foundations of a Smart Sustainable City (SSC) 2) Climate priorities of smart sustainable cities (SSC) 3) Priority sectors and ensuring critical urban services 4) Tools for designing and managing a SSC 5) Financing a SSC 6) Role of eco-innovation and ICT in the SCC 7) Ensuring equity, health and sustainable quality of life in a SCC 8) others.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; International Development.
Additional Information	https://www.usascp.org/

Title	DipLab2202710
Project Name	Circular Waste Management and Industrial Symbiosis for Eco-innovation in ASEAN and U.S. Cities
Office	Multi-lateral Affairs (MLA)
Embassy	None
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The project aims to support the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework citing measures to promote transition towards green and circular economy and increase resilience and contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, natural disasters, and other shocks as well as the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Marine Debris. The U.S. also aims to engage our Indo-Pacific dialogue partners, such as the Republic of Korea (ROK), a global leader in industrial symbiosis to support our ASEAN efforts.</p> <p>Deliverables/Outcomes: - Map industrial symbiosis and circular waste management facilities, policies, projects and related economic values in ASEAN countries and cities - Identify and document best practices/lessons learned of industrial symbiosis (IS) in the Republic of Korea (ROK) and its impact on waste management policies and eco-innovation/IS investments in key sectors as well as collect related metrics on GHG reductions, use of virgin materials, waste volumes and GDP (or other economic indicators) - Within the U.S., conduct interviews/desk research with relevant stakeholders, eg: government policy makers, city planners, waste management operators/facilities, universities and material science experts, and private sector and industry actors, to document the state of circular waste management implementation and practices and industrial symbiosis facilities for relevant products such as solar panels, e-Waste, plastics, organics, etc. - Use above information to create a series of one-page narratives and/or info-graphics to communicate/message key points to policy-makers in U.S. and ASEAN cities, highlighting key sectors and transferable practices. The project outcomes will help guide USG programming and fundings towards the replication of best practices, promotion of new policies and eco-innovation projects.</p>
Final Product Format	Narrative factsheets, case studies, metrics and graphic representation of outcomes may be part of the final format. see program description for more details.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	Email DipLab Coordinator for Additional Information

Title	DipLab2202709
Project Name	From Black to Green: How Can North Macedonia Successfully Pull Off the Energy Transition?
Office	Political Economic Section
Embassy	Macedonia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Diplomacy Lab Project Proposal: From black to green—how can North Macedonia successfully pull off the energy transition? Summary: The university students would carefully evaluate the feasibility, coherence, and strategic foresight of North Macedonia’s published energy strategy. Primary research would happen through direct interviews with local experts. The completed product would examine the implications of global and regional energy trends on North Macedonia’s energy market, analyze the feasibility of the country’s energy goals, and assess its progress in meeting them. It could also identify gaps and future opportunities, such as eventual hydrogen production. The final product would inform Embassy Skopje’s engagement with the host government on energy, and might be used by the government itself to guide strategic planning and investment. Background: North Macedonia is currently in the midst of an energy crisis. The country has set ambitious goals to reduce emissions and diversify its energy supplies, and has released an official energy strategy, but the lack of a strong government body dedicated to energy issues has traditionally hindered its ability to transform the sector. The country continues to rely heavily on locally-mined coal and Yugoslav-era generation equipment, resulting not only in some of the worst air pollution in Europe but also frequent production failures. One pipeline from Bulgaria supplies natural gas from Gazprom to power certain industries and the capital’s central heating system. Imports of electricity are possible but increasingly expensive, posing a threat to the state budget. A successful, strategic energy transition will reduce North Macedonia’s CO2 emissions, reduce its dependence on Russian gas, result in millions of euros of savings to the state budget, and secure the energy necessary for the country’s development. Without it, many of North Macedonia’s other strategic interests will be imperiled, including hindered economic growth and vulnerability to Russian pressure. The United States has a clear interest in supporting the newest NATO Ally to effectively navigate the energy transition.</p>
Final Product Format	A report analyzing the country's energy strategy with recommendations on the best way forward. Graphs and data analysis welcome. Length to be determined following first meeting.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Climate Change; Energy Security; European & Eurasian Studies; Science and Technology
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2202708
Project Name	How to Attract the Best Lawyers to Pursue a Judicial Career
Office	Political Economic Section
Embassy	Macedonia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Democracy Lab Project Proposal: How to Attract the Best Lawyers to Pursue Judicial Careers? Summary: The university students would focus their project research on polling three state and two private universities' law students about their interest level in pursuing public service careers, especially as judges and prosecutors. They would investigate what factors law students consider most important as they decide to pursue careers in public service, in private practice, or in other fields. The students could also engage faculty and a select group of government and justice sector officials to solicit ideas for how to engage diverse groups of law students and instill ideas that would help generate greater interest in serving the public as judges and/or prosecutors.</p> <p>Background: North Macedonia has seen a decline in top law graduates' interest in pursuing careers as judges and prosecutors. According to contacts—judges, management at the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, private attorneys, and academics—the factors driving graduates away from public service include: political and business sector interference with the judiciary; a demanding and lengthy application process for the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors; a theoretical rather than practical focus in the curricula; uncompetitive salaries; overburdened dockets and generally poor working conditions; politically driven promotions; and insufficient legal protection against quick dismissals. (Note: North Macedonia trains future judges and prosecutors exclusively through the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors.) Without a sustainable strategy to attract top young legal minds to careers in the judiciary, North Macedonia continues to lose opportunities to strengthen its justice sector and improve adherence to the rule of law. Citizens' distrust of the judiciary and other critical institutions, in turn negatively impacts the country's democratic and economic prospects. It is in the United States' strategic interest to help North Macedonia, as NATO's newest Ally and longtime strategic partner, to strengthen the rule of law to fight corruption, protect human rights, ensure equal access to justice, and promote economic prosperity.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page research paper - but we are open to data analysis as well, we are looking for an analysis of the problem and suggested solutions.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; International Law
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2202708
Project Name	Video Oral History of the Early Days of the Embassy of North Macedonia
Office	Political Economic Section
Embassy	Macedonia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Diplomacy Lab Proposal: Capture a Video Oral History of the Early Days of the Embassy of North Macedonia</p> <p>Summary: Students would interview four individuals who have been with Embassy Skopje, either since the Embassy opened or shortly thereafter. They would film, edit and compile an engaging oral history of the Embassy's operations over the past 28 years, which would also document the evolution of the U.S. North Macedonia relationship from friends to Allies. This could be seen either as a media or a history project. Length can be determined by the group.</p> <p>Background: The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, North Macedonia, opened in 1993. Two of the Embassy's current employees have been with the Embassy since the beginning, and two more joined two years later. The idea for an oral history came about as a response to the news that one of the individuals, Mitko Burcevski, will be forced to retire soon, and with his departure we will be losing institutional memory. Mitko is a consummate storyteller who is fiercely devoted to his work in the Political section of the Embassy as well as to the ideals of American democracy. His knowledge of the politics of the region and fledgling North Macedonia, a country that came out of the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, is vast, and continues to inform his work today. He has worked alongside every one of the U.S. Ambassadors to North Macedonia. Due to national law, Mitko will be required to retire in two years. Months after Mitko joined the Embassy, Mimoza Naumova, now working in Protocol, also joined. Within in a couple of years, Rozita Mrenoski and Arben Gega, both working in the Political-Economic section, also joined. These four individuals have experienced the dissolution of socialist Yugoslavia and embraced an incipient democracy that has grown into NATO's newest member and a country on the verge of EU accession talks. The road has been rocky, they have been party to turbulent times in the past 28 years, reported on the 2001 insurgency and Bloody Thursday – the storming of North Macedonia's Parliament. This country, though young and small, has repeatedly found itself in the cross hairs of history. It is determined to move forward democratically and take its place in the European Union. These four individuals know the importance of the role played by the United States of America and U.S. Embassy Skopje in supporting North Macedonia's progress.</p>
Final Product Format	A video oral history of the history of the US Embassy in North Macedonia- potentially could be used for the 30th Anniversary of U.S.-North Macedonia Relations. We were thinking 15 minutes but are open to suggestions.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; European & Eurasian Studies; Sociology; Anthropology
Additional Information	The primary subject is a consummate story teller and historian. Your students will find in him wonderful relevant material.

Title	DipLab2202707
Project Name	Multilateralism for the Middle Class: APEC for America
Office	Office of Economic Policy
Embassy	None
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>World powers will convene in the United States as it hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in 2023. Throughout the year, APEC will bring thousands of delegates from the Asia-Pacific region to multiple cities across United States, culminating in a Leaders' Meeting at the end of the year led by the President. As the premier platform for the United States to advance economic policies in the region to bolster American competitiveness and demonstrate U.S. economic leadership, hosting APEC allows the United States to demonstrate the positive tangible impact economic diplomacy and foreign policy has on the American people. With U.S. support, APEC initiatives over the past two decades have: facilitated trade and investment, reduced barriers to U.S. businesses, supported structural reforms, and advanced digital innovation. Through dozens of sector-specific working groups, the United States has sought to advance U.S. prosperity in collaboration with the private sector and other non-government stakeholders. The United States has prioritized issues including women's economic empowerment and skills development to widen the impact of these measures. This project will examine the impact that APEC and its initiatives have had on U.S. prosperity, with a particular focus on the impact to middle-class American workers. The Administration's "Foreign Policy for the Middle Class" agenda recognizes that a strong U.S. middle class and domestic competitiveness and national security are mutually reinforcing, and that there is an interconnection with issues from trade to climate to supply chains, and U.S. domestic prosperity. This project will seek to assess the impact of U.S. engagement with APEC economies on broad-based U.S. prosperity and help articulate how the United States government can incorporate local stakeholders in its APEC work, particularly during APEC 2023. Help us tell untold stories through case studies or illustrative examples that demonstrate particular impact to U.S. workers or the middle class. The results will help assess the impact of U.S. engagement with APEC economies, highlight specific APEC initiatives and workstreams that have resonated, and examine potential focal points for future work within APEC that would have the greatest benefit to middle-class American workers. Teams interested in seeing multilateral diplomacy in action should apply!</p>
Final Product Format	5–7-minute video on why APEC matters to America, including impact of APEC's work on the American middle class and what local stakeholders may expect or want to see in a 2023 U.S. host year. The video should be accompanied by a reference paper with case studies and interviews, as well as any relevant data analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; Communications.
Additional Information	Teams are welcomed to engage with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the U.S. Consortium of APEC Study Centers, including The Asia-Pacific Center for Economics and Business – Brandeis University; APEC Study Center – Columbia Business School; Berkeley APEC Study Center – University of California at Berkeley; The East-West Center – University of Hawai'i; University at Buffalo APEC Study Center –University at Buffalo-SUNY.

Title	DipLab2202706
Project Name	Giving Serbian Coal Miners New Purpose in the Green Economy
Office	Embassy Belgrade Economic Section
Embassy	Serbia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Serbia is highly dependent (70%) on heavily subsidized, domestically mined coal for its electricity production, but must transition away from coal to meet its EU accession commitments. Serbia has financing options, significant hydropower capacity, and strong interest from the private sector in renewable-sourced energy, which together could provide a path to a low-carbon future. Despite all the reasons to turn away from coal, politically it is very difficult to close even small, economically non-viable coal mines. The coal mines employ up to 30,000 people and pay better than average wages. The coal mining unions are a powerful political force: a miners' strike played a key role in the overthrow of former President Slobodan Milosevic. When the current Energy Minister attempted to halt the construction of a new coal-fired power plant in 2021, workers immediately protested, prompting the President's personal intervention. Funds are available through the World Bank to help Serbia close its coal mines, but the government is unconvinced that it is politically feasible to do so. Serbia needs a compelling roadmap to provide viable alternative livelihoods for miners and their communities.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>We are looking for an analytical paper for an audience of policymakers that examines how other coal mining regions have successfully supported coal miners through an economic transition from mining to other high-value industries and how these lessons could be applied to the Serbian context. How could the Serbian government mitigate the socio-economic impact of moving away from coal, and how can it convince the community that a transition is in its best interest?</p>
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Economic & Finance Issues; Climate Change; Sociology
Additional Information	<p>In 2018-2019, Serbia supported coal-based electricity generation with loans and guarantees of nearly €1.2 billion, the highest level of subsidies in the region. By 2023, Serbia's commitments to the European Energy Community will require it to begin shutting down coal-fired power plants. The current fleet of thermal plants is outdated and heavily polluting, and the coal mines are poorly managed. Serbia's electricity production system suffered a severe blow in December 2021, as the country's largest thermal power plant came to a near standstill due in part to mud-contaminated coal, leaving more than 24,000 local consumers without electricity for two days and forcing the country to spend up to half of its annual energy profit for the next several days importing electricity to compensate for the loss of domestic capacity. Furthermore, coal plant emissions have led to serious public-health problems. According to a report by the Europe Beyond Coal campaign, emissions from Western Balkan coal power plants were responsible for around 3,900 premature deaths in Europe, as well as 8,500 cases of bronchitis in children and a number of other chronic diseases. Serbia holds the record for most pollution-related deaths in Europe at 175 per 100,000 people. Serbia's emissions are already higher than its limits under European Energy Community commitments, which has prompted the Energy Community to launch a case against Serbia for non-compliance.</p>

Title	DipLab2202705
Project Name	U.S.-Mexico Student Mobility
Office	Public Affairs Section/Cultural Affairs
Embassy	Mexico
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The relationship between the United States and Mexico is as dynamic, broad, and consequential as that of any bilateral relationship in the world. While student exchanges are just one aspect of this deep relationship, it is one that affects nearly all of our strategic =bilateral priorities. Despite the shared heritage and strong ties that unite our countries, Mexico ranks 9th as country of origin of international students enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions, and 6th for Mexican students enrolled in U.S. Community Colleges, with 12,986 and 3,325 Mexican students enrolled per year respectively. Mexico ranks 12th as country of destination of U.S. students enrolled in Mexican higher education institutions with approximately 3,000 U.S. students enrolled in the 2019-20 academic year. The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City seeks research on practical ways to increase the numbers of students who participate in exchanges in the U.S. and Mexico. We ask that solutions at a range of resource levels be offered. We have set an objective to increase student mobility by 25% by the end of CY2023 (over CY2020 based of 6,340 U.S. & 14,349 Mexican students) as measured by the Open Doors report. (Mobility=total exchanges in both directions) We have identified the challenges to increasing student mobility numbers as financial, the decentralized nature of U.S. higher education, acceptance of university degrees (only degrees that are at least 80% the same as a validated program in Mexico are accepted), perceptions of the U.S./Mexico as a study destination among youth, language, and competition and workforce development programs (add-ons). The project should confirm these challenges and define/add others as appropriate within the context/requirements of the Open Doors report issued by IIE.</p>
Final Product Format	A useful deliverable would include a 4-page (multipage) options memo and a presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Education & Cultural Studies; Youth Issues
Additional Information	If this project is selected, I can provide our embassy-developed strategy.

Title	DipLab2202704
Project Name	How can skills assessments be used across countries and contexts?
Office	Monitoring Evaluation Learning and Innovation Unit
Embassy	None
Bureau	Educational and Cultural Affairs
Project Description	<p>Many of ECA’s programs focus on skill development, including both technical skills and soft skills. ECA’s Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Innovation (MELI) Unit conducts data collection with participants, alumni, and other stakeholders to assess the level of skill development. However, the majority of data collection is based on self-reported perceptions of participants rather than testing the potentially acquired skill. For this project, the MELI Unit would like the research team(s) to review data collection instruments used outside of the United States that have been proven to be valid, reliable, and effective measures of skill improvement. Recognizing that that data collection instruments can vary across contexts due to cultural, social, and linguistic differences, the MELI Unit is specifically interested in developing or identifying assessment instruments that can reliably test the same skill across multiple contexts. This project will require research teams to explore existing assessment instruments as well as an develop an understanding of best practices in developing and validating new skill assessment instruments. Working with the MELI Unit, the research team(s) will gain insight into the way in which public diplomacy exchange programs are designed and measured and provide insights to help us better assess expected outcomes of ECA programs. This project will primarily involve a review of existing literature and potential interviews with subject matter experts, working in close collaboration with the ECA MELI Unit. We would love to have a final report (length TBD by the research team) including a bibliography; a virtual presentation (or in-person if circumstances allow) would also be useful.</p>
Final Product Format	Draft research paper, presentation, final research paper
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Anthropology; International Development; Public-Private Partnerships; Sociology
Additional Information	The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public -private partnerships. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us.

Title	DipLab2202703
Project Name	Hostage Diplomacy - What Makes Countries Tick?
Office	S/SPEHA - Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs
Embassy	None
Bureau	Counterterrorism
Project Description	Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs We are interested in understanding why a state actor uses arbitrary detention/wrongful detention/unjust detention as a tool to gain political leverage against another country. Looking at three countries (China, Russia, Iran), we are particularly interested in a comparative analysis that examines the cultural, behavioral, historical, political, and geopolitical variables of specific regional actors who practice this form of coercive diplomacy. Questions to ask: What may be the impact of global dynamics /trends, such as the Cold War or post 9/11? What countries are targeted for arbitrary detention by these regional actors? What is the outcome of these detentions? How do the countries of the arbitrary detainees respond? What can we learn from country specific or group specific behaviors? How can we break their cycles, deter this activity, and prevent U.S. citizens and dual nationals from being arbitrarily detained? Regional Actors: Iran, China, Russia.
Final Product Format	Research paper and presentation to the SPEHA and his staff.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	The Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA) leads the Department of State's diplomatic efforts in recovering U.S. hostages and wrongful detainees held abroad.

Title	DipLab2193038
Project Name	Examining Online Gender-Based Violence: Typologies and Impacts
Office	Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues
Embassy	None
Bureau	Secretary of State
Project Description	Gender-based violence (GBV) 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. 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 women. The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues seeks further research into GBV that occurs online, particularly as it relates to the greater use of online platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations may be used to inform forthcoming national and global U.S. Government strategies for addressing gender-based violence. Research projects will primarily examine the typologies of online and technology-facilitated GBV that women and girls around the world face (e.g. tactics used, common perpetrators, etc.), particularly in accounting for variation across geography or culture and the relationship between online and offline GBV. It will also outline the impacts of these forms of 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: - The role of this form of GBV on the digital divide, taking into account any existing assumptions about the definitions of the digital divide; - 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; - Opportunities for private-sector and civil society engagement with technology companies, non-government organizations, and similar entities that are active in ensuring women's safety online; and - Evidence-based/informed risk mitigation techniques for online programming with women and marginalized communities.
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/Expertise	International Relations; Civil Society; Cyber Security; Democracy & Human Rights; Gender Studies; Human Rights; Information & Communication Technology
Additional Information	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> .

Additional resources on tech-facilitated GBV may include, but are not limited to:
Hubbard, C., & DeSoi, C. (2016). Votes Without Violence: A Citizen Observer's Guide to Addressing Violence Against Women in Elections (Toolkit). Washington, DC.

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.

Duggan M. Online Harassment. Pew Research Center. 2014.
<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/22/online-harassment/> as cited in Hinson, et al.

Bauman S, Toomey RB, Walker JL. Associations among bullying, cyberbullying, and 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). #NotTheCost Stopping Violence Against Women in Politics (A Call to Action). Washington, DC.

Web Foundation. (2021). Tech Policy Design Lab: Online Gender-Based Violence and Abuse Outcomes & Recommendations. <https://ogbv.webfoundation.org/>

Title	DipLab2193035
Project Name	Reducing Methane Emissions in Turkmenistan
Office	Central Asia (SCA/CEN)
Embassy	Turkmenistan
Bureau	South and Central Asian Affairs
Project Description	<p>Reducing Methane Emissions in Turkmenistan is the largest natural gas producer in Central Asia and has the sixth largest proven natural gas reserves in the world. Production occurs both on and offshore and significant methane emissions are known to occur in both. Onshore fields are remote and require extensive pipelines through harsh desert conditions. Venting in these fields is known to occur, especially where there is limited access to pipelines or processing facilities, and has regularly been detected by satellite. Leaks in pipelines are also common and may last indefinitely. To date, the Government of Turkmenistan has not publicly admitted to methane leaks or venting. Flaring of associated gas at offshore facilities is also well known. Petronas and Dragon oil operate offshore production facilities and are estimated to flare more than 10 bcm annually. The government has indicated it will include reduction of methane emissions as part of their climate change commitments at COP26 in Glasgow, but not offered specifics. We want to encourage that commitment and help the government identify the areas where it can address methane emissions, as well as real world examples of how they can achieve reductions. We propose two projects: 1) Onshore Methane Reduction – The problem with onshore methane emissions is that the government has not acknowledged the leaks or venting, and the large geographic area, combined with the harsh conditions, make monitoring, maintenance, and repair challenging. We first need to explain the scale of the problem to the Turkmen government, then provide practical solutions, derived from the real-world experience of other countries. The onshore project would thus be divided into two parts. First, students would collect all available open-source data on methane emissions in Turkmenistan (the Embassy will provide additional information if available). Students will analyze the data and present their findings, ideally through data visualization, including the potential dollar value of the vented gas. Second, the students, using their analysis, will find relevant examples of how other hydrocarbon producing countries have reduced methane emissions in similar situations (for example, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, etc...). These examples should include the technologies and policies used, as well as public statements from the governments or other organizations noting environmental and economic benefits of their efforts. 2) Offshore Methane Reduction – The problems of offshore methane emissions are quite different than onshore. Offshore is primarily flaring of associated gas that has no other outlet. This is more an economic and political problem than technical. The emissions are not a secret and the companies involved would prefer to monetize the gas rather than flare it. However, thus far the government of Turkmenistan has not been willing to invest in the infrastructure necessary to treat and ship the gas to existing pipelines, or build new processing facilities to use the gas. We propose the students analyze the current situation using open-source information and data provided by the embassy to demonstrate the scale of the problem and understand the specific technical requirements of dealing with associated gas. Second, students, using this analysis, would find relevant examples of how other offshore producers have</p>

	reduced flaring, or propose their own novel solutions which could produce environmental and economic benefits.
Final Product Format	We propose that Group 1 analyze onshore methane reduction by collecting all available open-source data on methane emissions in Turkmenistan (the Embassy will provide additional information if available). Students will analyze the data and present their findings, ideally through data visualization, including the potential dollar value of the vented gas. Second, the students, using their analysis, will find relevant examples of how other hydrocarbon producing countries have reduced methane emissions in similar situations (for example, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, etc...). We propose that Group 2 analyze the current offshore methane emission situation using open-source information and data provided by the embassy to demonstrate the scale of the problem and understand the specific technical requirements of dealing with associated gas. Second, students, using this analysis, would find relevant examples of how other offshore producers have reduced flaring, or propose their own novel solutions which could produce environmental and economic benefits.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	This subject would be ideal not just for international relations majors, but for environmental engineering majors as well. We expect universities with an oil and gas focus would also be interested in this project.

Title	DipLab2193034
Project Name	Perception of GMOs in West Africa
Office	Political and Economic
Embassy	Mauritania
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Analysis of how the GMO debate is discussed and legislated in West African states, with a focus on Mauritania's agricultural sector.
Final Product Format	15-minute presentation and 10–20-page research paper.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Food Security; African Studies; Global Health; International Law; International Development
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2193033
Project Name	Artisanal Gold Mining in Mauritania
Office	Political and Economic
Embassy	Mauritania
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Team(s) would develop a deeper understanding of the financial flows in and out of Mauritania related to artisanal gold mining.
Final Product Format	Data analysis and 5–10-page research paper.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Economic & Finance Issues; African Studies
Additional Information	This project may take greater than 4 months due to the limited availability of existing research.

Title	DipLab2193032
Project Name	Mapping Iceland's Arctic Economy
Office	Office of Political and Economic Affairs
Embassy	Iceland
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The Arctic is changing, as the climate crisis creates new challenges and opportunities for the United States and global competitors in the high north. Iceland is a key U.S. ally in the region, and the country has formally identified Arctic affairs as a priority issue in its foreign policy. As interest in the Arctic has expanded, so have business opportunities, such as new shipping routes, increased cargo traffic through the region, scientific research, data centers, energy exploration, Arctic tourism, increased fishing, and aviation. Icelandic companies are already profiting from increased activities in Greenland by providing services such as flights and cargo freight. U.S. Embassy Reykjavik would like to collaborate with a university in the United States to develop a map of Iceland's current and potential Arctic commercial activities. The questions are myriad: What Icelandic products are going to Arctic communities in Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Alaska? What trade routes currently exist between Iceland and other Arctic regions, and how would these routes change as melting polar ice allows for new routes? Is Iceland's Arctic tourism competing with or complementing Arctic tourism elsewhere? How is Iceland benefitting from economic development in Greenland? How is Iceland's Arctic municipality, Akureyri, capitalizing on new interest in the Arctic to attract investment? Research should also include commercial ties to areas historically linked to the Arctic, such as Maine and the Faroe Islands. The Embassy hopes to understand these ties better both to identify commercial opportunities for U.S. business and in support of Arctic policy advocacy more broadly.</p>
Final Product Format	The Embassy foresees the final product format in the form of a research report. The report should identify major trends, provide supporting data, and make recommendations for potential U.S. business or investment.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Arctic Region Studies; Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2193030
Project Name	Drive International Study in Saudi Arabia
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Saudi Arabia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>As part of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 plan, the government of Saudi Arabia aims to have at least five universities among the top 200 universities in the world by 2030, with all universities boasting modern curricula and strong standards. The recruitment of international students and researchers is an important indicator of the success of this initiative, as diversity on campuses drives creativity and positively impacts the communication, interpersonal, and strategic thinking skills of students. According to the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors report, Saudi Arabia sent approximately 31,000 students to the U.S. in 2019/2020. Conversely, only 4 American students studied abroad in Saudi Arabia in 2018/19, representing a -50.0% change from the prior academic year. The Saudi Ministry of education has noted the availability of as many as 357 full scholarships designated for American students to attend public universities in the Kingdom that largely go unclaimed each year. An increase in U.S. exchange students in Saudi Arabia would support the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 goals and promote mutual understanding between Saudi Arabia and the United States. This project aims to identify unique educational opportunities in Saudi Arabia to highlight to attract international students, as well as opportunities for collaboration between U.S. and Saudi higher education institutions to promote deepened exchange. We hope to find a Diplomacy Lab partner that will: (1) research key institutional and social barriers international students face when considering studying in Saudi Arabia (e.g. lack of information about schools/scholarships, language/cultural barriers, lack of information about credits transferring, minimal advertising to international students, perceptions of the study experience in Saudi Arabia, etc.); and (2) identify a robust set of educational institutions/exchange opportunities that already exist in Saudi Arabia and are suitable for international students and exchanges, and (3) propose models for study abroad and exchange study that meet the needs of both international students and Saudi objectives in this area. Ideally, we would also be interested in (4) recommendations on policy or programmatic interventions by U.S. and/or Saudi stakeholders that would promote greater participation by American students in Saudi study programs, and recommendations for linkages/exchange partnerships between U.S. and Saudi higher education institutions focused on key subject areas of interest to both countries – STEM, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), tourism/hospitality, culture and arts, etc.</p>
Final Product Format	A report and 30-minute to 1-hour presentation to Mission and Department stakeholders. Depending on the outcomes, there may be an opportunity to present to Saudi stakeholders as well.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Education & Cultural Studies; Communications; Marketing; Public-Private Partnerships; Youth Issues; Civil Society; Middle East/North African Studies; Sociology

Additional Information

This project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team. The U.S. Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has close relationships with the Ministry of Education and educational institutions. We would be happy to facilitate introductions to individuals/organization who can provide information.

For further information, please see the following links. This is not an exhaustive list, but provided as a starting point.

- <https://opendoorsdata.org/>
- <https://studyabroad.state.gov/countries/saudi-arabia>
- <https://www.ksauniversities.com/en/blog/list-of-universities-in-saudi-arabia-for-international-students.html>
- <https://www.moe.gov.sa/en/education/ResidentsAndvisitors/Pages/default.aspx>

Title	DipLab2193029
Project Name	Understanding and Unleashing Youth Entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Saudi Arabia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>According to data from the “Saudi Youth Report in Numbers” released by the Saudi General Authority for Statistics in 2020, over two-thirds of Saudi Arabia’s population is under the age of 35. Specifically, 30.3 per cent of the kingdom’s population are from 0-14 years and 36.7 per cent from 15-34. Unemployment in the Kingdom stands at 11.7 per cent in first quarter of 2021 and is concentrated among youth. In recent years there have been an unprecedented number of changes and reforms to employment and immigration opportunities in the Kingdom, as the Saudi government works to increase the representation of its citizens in the workforce – dubbed “Saudization.” The Kingdom’s Vision 2030 plan sets ambitious goals for social and economic transformation, which can be bolstered by supporting the entrepreneurial skills and spirit of Saudi youth aged 25 to 35. Elimination of burdensome regulations, an easing of the business licensing process, and reductions in other barriers to entry are improving the environment for entrepreneurship. In addition, numerous institutions have been created to support both domestic and foreign-owned startups, including business incubators and accelerators, the Monsha’at SME Authority, and new private investment firms. However, despite these changes significant challenges for youth remain, such as: lack of access to capital; lack of experience in business planning and management; lack of mentoring from experts; and a perception that startups by young entrepreneurs will be unable to pay bank loans. Further, a majority of small startups teams fail to conduct a thorough market analysis. This results in a tendency to copy trendy new business models and driving emerging sectors to saturation and unprofitability very quickly. For instance, when food truck business first started in Saudi Arabia, many entrepreneurs hopped on this trend and almost every street was lined with food trucks. Competition and the inability of many businesses to shift into new lines of work made it very hard for these businesses to cope, resulting in the closure of many of the food trucks. This scenario was repeated with upscale coffee shops. The U.S. Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes to support Vision 2030 youth workforce development and economic diversification goals by fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of among Saudi youth. In order to best allocate our resources, we hope to find a Diplomacy Lab partner that will help us understand the current entrepreneurial landscape in Saudi Arabia. This includes identifying the opportunities created by business climate reform, efforts by the Saudi government under Vision 2030 to educate and prepare Saudis to participate in the changing economy, common challenges and barriers to entry, existing startup incubators/accelerators, primary channels for and barriers to access to capital, and 5-10 leading Saudi entrepreneurs with a connection to the U.S. Ideally, the outcome will identify potential areas for cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia and deepen our understanding of the policy and programming options ahead.</p>
Final Product Format	A report and presentation including: (1) key findings related to challenges/barriers, and lessons drawn from them; (2) a list of current startup incubators/accelerators in the Kingdom and their portfolios; (3) a list of public and private investment institutions that target SMEs with a profile of their portfolios; (4) profiles of 5-10 leading U.S.-affiliated entrepreneurs; and (5) suggested policy or programmatic interventions that would support youth entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia. Depending on the outcomes, there may be opportunities to present to Mission and Department officials, and to Saudi stakeholders.

Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Public-Private Partnerships; Civil Society; Economic & Finance Issues; Education & Cultural Studies; International Development; Middle East/North African Studies; Youth Issues
Additional Information	<p>This project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team. The U.S. Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has close relationships with successful entrepreneurs and good connections at the Social Development Bank (SDB) and Riyadh Chamber of Commerce. We would be happy to facilitate introductions to individuals/organization who can provide information.</p> <p>For further information, please see the following links. This is not an exhaustive list, but provided as a starting point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.arabnews.com/node/1335021 • https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/saudi-arabias-vision-2030-aims-to-empower-the-non-profit-sector-here-are-three-areas-to-focus-on/ • https://books.google.com/books?id=c8XaDwAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&ots=tqLZ21Wh2P&dq=vision%202030%20and%20entrepreneurship&lr&pg=PA6#v=onepage&q=vision%202030%20and%20entrepreneurship&f=false • https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-30/saudi-arabia-s-jobless-rate-falls-in-progress-for-crown-prince#:~:text=The%20jobless%20rate%20decreased%20to,the%20General%20Authority%20for%20Statistics/

Title	DipLab2193026
Project Name	The United States of America as an Arctic actor in Finland
Office	Public Diplomacy
Embassy	Finland
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	The Arctic has become an increasingly important area for both the United States and Finland. Collaborating closely with Finland on Arctic issues is one of the key priorities for the U.S. Embassy in Finland. Thus, we would like to get a clearer picture of U.S. investments and research in the region (both private and public). Importantly, the Embassy seeks increased understanding of Finnish perspectives of the U.S in the Arctic, and specifically, in Arctic Finland. Suggested questions: Do Finns think of the United States as an Arctic state? How do Finns see the U.S. as an actor in the circumpolar north of Finland? Is the U.S. considered a positive/neutral/negative partner? Are there geographical or demographic differences in attitudes towards the U.S.? What industries receive the most U.S. investment? Are there some specific areas, whether public or private, where (Arctic) collaboration is particularly active? Comparisons of U.S., PRC, and Russian engagements in the region.
Final Product Format	A research paper and a shorter, summarizing memo of the key results.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Arctic Region Studies
Additional Information	https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163247

Title	DipLab2193022
Project Name	How can Monitoring and Evaluation be used as a tool to promote cross cultural competency and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts?
Office	Monitoring Evaluation Learning and Innovation Unit
Embassy	None
Bureau	Educational and Cultural Affairs
Project Description	The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us. ECA has created a robust monitoring and evaluation system that provides the Bureau and the public a framework for understanding exchange program outcomes. The ECA Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Innovation unit (MELI) conducts data collection with participants, alumni, and other stakeholders from around the world, representing countless cultures, histories and lived experiences. With this responsibility in mind, MELI is interested in understanding the effectiveness and potential for ECA monitoring and evaluation efforts to help promote cross cultural competency and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). For this research project, MELI would like a review of their recent evaluations as well other international (preferably public diplomacy, but can expand to the international development sphere as well) evaluations to understand which strategies and methods were effective in promoting cross cultural competency and DEIA among monitoring and evaluation experts, ECA program staff, program participants and alumni, and other stakeholders. This should include considerations such as stakeholder engagement, participant-led evaluation, use of in-country evaluation firms, and bias mitigation strategies. Attention should also be given to distinguishing which methods work for which stakeholders.
Final Product Format	We would love to have a final report (length TBD by the research team) including a bibliography; a virtual presentation (or in-person if circumstances allow) would also be useful.
Discipline/Expertise	Anthropology; Democracy & Human Rights; International Development; International Relations; Sociology
Additional Information	Working with the MELI unit, the research team(s) will gain insight into the way in which public diplomacy exchange programs are designed and measured, and provide insights to help us assess how the findings and conclusions from existing ECA evaluations apply more widely to the Bureau. This project will primarily involve a review of recently-completed ECA evaluations and any additional literature the research team deems necessary, with close collaboration with the ECA Evaluation Division expected.

Title	DipLab2193020
Project Name	Understanding Japanese University Students' Perceptions about Studying Abroad
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Japan
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	Do you love diving into qualitative data to focus-in on the key findings? Are you interested in promoting cross cultural exchanges? Then this project is for you! The Public Affairs Section in U.S. Embassy Tokyo is delving into the question, where are Japanese university students studying abroad and how do they develop their preferences for which countries to study abroad? Since the 1990s, the number of Japanese students studying in the United States has declined by 60%, a worrying trend that will impact the future of the U.S.-Japan relationship. For this project, the team will investigate these questions in the hope of understanding the current generation of Japanese university student's perceptions about studying in the United States and other competitor countries. As part of the project, we would like to survey Japanese students in the United States about why they decided to study abroad.
Final Product Format	We would like two products: 1) a 10-15 slide deck with executive summary and talking points to be able to present the data internally to USG stakeholders and 2) a 2-page memo on what our next steps should be: a qualitative survey to participants, focus groups, or an alternative recommendation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Education & Cultural Studies
Additional Information	Email DipLab Coordinator if interested in available data

Title	DipLab2193010
Project Name	X Marks the What? Mapping Risks for U.S. Citizens in Kenya
Office	U.S. Embassy Nairobi Consular Section
Embassy	Kenya
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	Ahead of Kenya's next general elections in 2022, U.S. Embassy Nairobi's American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit is working to consolidate information about U.S. citizen concentrations, Kenyan government and civil society crisis response capabilities, and past trends of post-election violence to better anticipate potential crises facing the more than 26,000 Americans that visit, live, and work in Kenya. This project would combine data from the U.S. Embassy's American Liaison Network, Kenyan Immigration, existing U.S. Embassy data on Kenyan hospitals, and several open-source databases on previous Kenyan elections to produce an interactive Google Map overlay that seamlessly integrates resources available during an emergency to support the ACS Unit's ability to respond and assist American citizens in crisis, especially in more rural areas outside of the major cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. The final product would be able to be shared in real time with other U.S. government representatives in Nairobi, task forces in Washington, or with neighboring Embassies and Consulates.
Final Product Format	The project would produce an interactive, real time Google Map with requested data on U.S. citizens present in Kenya, crisis response resources (such as hospitals, airports, police stations, and other safe haven locations), and hotspots from previous election periods. The map would be integrated into contingency planning for large-scale crises by the ACS Unit, as well as routine use for U.S. citizens that may need emergency assistance in more rural areas of the Embassy's consular district. The map would also be tested during emergency drills conducted by ACS staff in the lead-up to elections in summer 2022 to ensure that other staff are trained in its use and that pre-election consular outreach is filling in any potential knowledge gaps. The project will be supervised by ACS, but will involve other U.S. government entities in the security, medical, and political fields.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Statistics; African Studies; Computer Science; Geography; Information & Communication Technology
Additional Information	U.S. Embassy Nairobi welcomes any and all potential university and/or college partners.

Title	DipLab2193009
Project Name	A Critical Analysis of Thailand's Higher Education Participation
Office	U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Public Affairs Office
Embassy	Thailand
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	Thailand is one of our most important allies in the Indo-Pacific. Countless Thai political, economic, and academic leaders studied in the United States, and these are often the most outspoken voices advocating for a stronger U.S.-Thai relationship. The United States continues to be the country of choice for higher education. However, over the past seven years there has been a steady decline in the number of Thai students going to study in the United States at both the undergraduate and graduate level. This decrease in Thai students is an exception, as other countries in the region continue to see an increase in students choosing U.S. institutions. While it's unclear what is motivating this decline, there are several factors to explore: a decline in English language capacity in Thailand, a strong recruitment strategy and scholarships offered to study in China, financial concerns, U.S. recruitment lapses, or other factors. Thai government agencies lack statistics and documentation regarding higher education in Thailand. Embassy Bangkok seeks a collaboration to help research factors involved in Thai students' decisions to study abroad, including an assessment of the realities of Thai participation in higher education, and recommendations to fine tune U.S. educational outreach more efficiently. There are excellent high schools and universities that serve as a starting point to assess students' historical higher education choices and we look forward to a dynamic conversation where your team would be at the forefront of researching higher education potential for Thai students, assessing U.S. university recruitment efforts, and providing concrete recommendations for increasing the number of Thai students studying in the United States.
Final Product Format	Embassy Bangkok requests a thorough data analysis of student's higher education choices broken down by region in Thailand, assessing financial potential, particularly among the middle class, an analysis of U.S. recruitment efforts, and a brief paper of recommendation for increased U.S. engagement in recruiting middle class Thai students.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; Statistics
Additional Information	EducationUSA Thailand is one of 400 EducationUSA centers dedicated supporting U.S. universities and helping international students who want to study in the United States. The main website for EducationUSA can be found here: https://educationusa.state.gov/find-advising-center We also expect to be able to provide an initial study done by an American and Thai undergraduate student.

Title	DipLab2193008
Project Name	Strategic Analysis of Higher Education Participation in Thailand
Office	U.S. Embassy Bangkok Public Affairs Office
Embassy	Thailand
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>Thailand is one of our most important allies in the Indo-Pacific. Countless Thai political, economic, and academic leaders studied in the United States, and these are often the most outspoken voices advocating for a stronger U.S.-Thai relationship. The United States continues to be the country of choice for higher education. However, over the past seven years there has been a steady decline in the number of Thai students going to study in the United States at both the undergraduate and graduate level. This decrease in Thai students is an exception, as other countries in the region continue to see an increase in students choosing U.S. institutions. While it's unclear what is motivating this decline, there are several factors to explore: a decline in English language capacity in Thailand, a strong recruitment strategy and scholarships offered to study in China, financial concerns, U.S. recruitment lapses, or other factors. Thai government agencies lack statistics and documentation regarding higher education in Thailand. Embassy Bangkok seeks a collaboration to help research factors involved in Thai students' decisions to study abroad, including an assessment of the realities of Thai participation in higher education, and recommendations to fine tune U.S. educational outreach more efficiently. There are excellent high schools and universities that serve as a starting point to assess students' historical higher education choices and we look forward to a dynamic conversation where your team would be at the forefront of researching higher education potential for Thai students, assessing U.S. university recruitment efforts, and providing concrete recommendations for increasing the number of Thai students studying in the United States.</p>
Final Product Format	Embassy Bangkok requests a thorough data analysis of student's higher education choices broken down by region in Thailand, assessing financial potential, particularly among the middle class, an analysis of U.S. recruitment efforts, and a brief paper of recommendation for increased U.S. engagement in recruiting middle class Thai students.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	<p>EducationUSA Thailand is one over 400 advising centers working with international students who wish to study in the United States. The EducationUSA main website is https://educationusa.state.gov/.</p> <p>If accepted we expect to have an initial study done by an American and Thai undergrad that will be available soon. We would also provide contact information for Thai schools and universities.</p>

Title	DipLab2193005
Project Name	Sanctions Impact on Belarus Potash Market
Office	4657
Embassy	None
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	The U.S.' and EU's latest sanctions against Belarus - the U.S. under E.O. 14038 - includes sectoral sanctions against the potash sector. EB/Sanctions wants information and an economic assessment regarding the potash sector sanctions' impact(s) on the U.S. and our partner countries. Additionally, the assessment should comment on other providers' abilities to replace Belarussian potash. Belarus provides 30% of the global potash market. Many partner countries receive Belarussian potash for internal use and for global redistribution. Impact assessment is important before the U.S. can think about tighter sanctions. On the other hand, Belarus' potash industry is a significant source of funds for the Lukashenko regime so more sanctions may be necessary.
Final Product Format	We are open to the final product but prefer a research paper with graphs and supporting data.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Economic Sanctions; Economic & Finance Issues; Food Security; International Development
Additional Information	We expect this project to take one month.

Title	DipLab2193004
Project Name	Connectivity as a Driver of Immigration
Office	Consular
Embassy	Mexico
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	U.S. Consulate Matamoros is at a crossroads of immigration. The groups of migrants traversing Tamaulipas to enter the U.S. are cosmopolitan, but it is a major entry point for many people arriving from Central America. This project aims to look at the role of connectivity (specifically, telecommunications, uptake and adoption of smart phones, and possibly telecommunications infrastructure) as a driver of Central American migration. The increase in irregular migration comes over a time period when connection technology has become increasingly accessible to everyone. Is that merely a correlation, or is there something more? The project could integrate desk-based research of telecommunication infrastructure, purchases of smart phones, etc. with personal accounts from migrants to the U.S. about their decisions to leave their previous country and how technology-enabled connectivity to family, friends, or others in the United States may have informed their decisions. One goal of the project is to add empirical texture to the stylized narratives of immigration, with a special focus on the role of technology.
Final Product Format	Presentation of data and findings. Post may work the results into a front-channel cable or use the results as a basis to identify topics for future validation studies.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Information & Communication Technology; Human Rights; Communications; Civil Society
Additional Information	This study speaks directly to a major priority area for the Biden-Harris administration, and it's close enough to the U.S. to combine desk-based research and field research. It also presents opportunities to work with NGOs / Civil Society Organizations dealing with migrant or human rights.

Title	DipLab2193002
Project Name	Audience Analysis of Burmese Diaspora in Asian Countries
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Burma
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	The U.S. Embassy in Burma is looking for a motivated group of students to analyze the Burmese diaspora in Southeast Asia, China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Participants will build target audience profiles for the Burmese diaspora in each country, researching demographics, values and beliefs, behavior, psychographics such as aspirations, desires for the future, fears or concerns, and finally sources of information and preferred media channels. This project will enable the U.S. Embassy to better tailor its messaging and outreach efforts to the Burmese diaspora in the region.
Final Product Format	Target audience profiles for the Burmese diaspora in Southeast Asia, China, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2132272
Project Name	Mapping Biotechnology Policy with Climate Change Commitments, Emissions, and Impacts
Office	Office of Agriculture Policy
Embassy	None
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. 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/Expertise	African Studies; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; European & 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.

Title	DipLab2132270
Project Name	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. 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. 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: - 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 multiplier effects; and - 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/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues; International Relations
Additional Information	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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Title	DipLab2132269
Project Name	Mapping the Science and Technology Ecosystem in Africa
Office	Office of Science and Technology Cooperation
Embassy	None
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	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. 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.
Final Product Format	A presentation accompanied by a 4–5-page memo with data analytics tabs.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	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. 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/

Title	DipLab2132265
Project Name	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	None
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. The objectives of this DiplomacyLab 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. 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: 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.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	Democracy & Human Rights; Anthropology; International Relations; Science and Technology; Western Hemisphere Studies; Civil Society; Climate Change
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2132255
Project Name	What Happens After? Taking Measure of Heritage after an Embassy Moves
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage
Embassy	None
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The Embassy Effect 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. 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. 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/Expertise	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>

Title	DipLab2132254
Project Name	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. 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/Expertise	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.

Title	DipLab2132252
Project Name	The impact of executive training on criminal justice change
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	None
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	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. 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: Are there specific principles that need to be conveyed to executive level officers in these courses in order to create systematic change? 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)? 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?
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline/Expertise	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.

Title	DipLab2132251
Project Name	Understanding what makes adult centered training effective
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	None
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	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. 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: What number of hours are ideal for classroom training/learning? 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.
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline/Expertise	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.

Title	DipLab2132245
Project Name	Dynamic Drug Trends in a Changing Climate
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	None
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: Identification of countries who are expected to see the most dramatic effects of climate change, particularly on agricultural and political systems dimensions.</p> <p>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]).</p>
Final Product Format	Research report and visualization
Discipline/Expertise	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 these issues.
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Title	DipLab2132243
Project Name	Understanding Accreditation’s Role and Limitations in International Criminal Justice Development
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	None
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	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. This research project will: 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). Identify where non-U.S. donors have supported criminal justice accreditation (INL will provide research guidelines to assist in this identification process). 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). Identify which accreditation practices in non-western nations have shown promise or success. 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. 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.
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline/Expertise	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 Masters or Ph.D., or equivalent, level Diplomacy Lab Team.

Title	DipLab2132241
Project Name	Adapting Criminal Justice Technologies for Developing World Operating Conditions
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	None
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	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. We currently don't have a good understanding of the intersection of these issues: What is a criminal justice system technology? How can these be classed or categorized based on their utility and functionality for criminal justice agencies? Where are non-U.S. foreign assistance providers offering or pushing for the adoption of certain technologies with criminal justice system applications? What are the capabilities of a select group of donor recipient nations (INL will provide focus countries) in criminal justice technologies? What is the underlying capability of the selected group of INL focus countries to absorb new, or existing, criminal justice technologies? At what stage of development are these countries in the U.S. or criminal justice technologies? 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? 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.
Final Product Format	Research report
Discipline/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Narcotics & Law Enforcement; Science and Technology
Additional Information	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. INL is open to innovative, enterprising, and "ok to fail" approaches to this project. INL requests a masters or Ph.D., or equivalent, level Diplomacy Lab team.

Title	DipLab2132238
Project Name	How Do Local Circumstances Shape Best Rehabilitation and Reintegration Practices?
Office	Office of Countering Violent Extremism
Embassy	None
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/Expertise	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/ .

Title	DipLab2132234
Project Name	Impact of Women Justice Sector Professionals
Office	Women Peace and Security
Embassy	None
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/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement; Gender Studies; Human Rights; International Law; International Relations.
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2132232
Project Name	Dynamic Routing for High Threat Posts
Office	High Threat Programs/Special Programs
Embassy	None
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. 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.</p> <p>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/Expertise	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. 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. About the Bureau of Diplomatic Security: www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/bureau-of-diplomatic-security/</p>

Title	DipLab2132231
Project Name	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	None
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. 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/Expertise	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.

Title	DipLab2132224
Project Name	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. 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. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research paper and presentation with description of research design for data collection, analysis, and application of results.
Discipline/Expertise	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

Title	DipLab2132222
Project Name	Mining Remediation in the Pacific
Office	Suva
Embassy	None
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 decertified tracts of land. In one case, nearly all residents of the island had to be evacuated. The livelihoods and wellbeing 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. Choose one or more of the following: Phosphate Mining: Kiribati (Banaba), Nauru Bauxite Mining: Fiji (Vanua Levu) Gold Mining: Fiji (Two operations underway in Viti Levu with plans for Vanua Levu) 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/Expertise	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>

Title	DipLab2132217
Project Name	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	Caribbean
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.</p> <p>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. Further information and for background on</p>

	<p>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/Expertise	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.

Title	DipLab2132216
Project Name	Prospects for hydrogen energy expansion in Portugal and California - a comparative analysis
Office	Politics and Economic Section
Embassy	Portugal
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	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. 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. 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.
Final Product Format	10-page research paper with presentation
Discipline/Expertise	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.

Title	DipLab2132215
Project Name	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	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. 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. 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. 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. 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?
Final Product Format	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. The research paper should provide analysis on the pros and cons of ownership vs. access. 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).
Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues; European & Eurasian Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Law; Marketing; Science and Technology; Statistics
Additional Information	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. 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?

Title	DipLab2132214
Project Name	GIS - Site Selection and Site Analysis
Office	Planning and Real Estate (Master Planning Division)
Embassy	None
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	Using ArcGIS, identify vacant parcels and industrial land of specific sizes in select cities. Conduct analysis to determine and depict proximity to points of interest (e.g., foreign missions, government offices, public transportation, grocery stores, schools, hospitals, etc.). Develop drive/walk time analysis from existing Embassy and other points of interest. Determine vulnerability of parcels/land identified to natural hazards (e.g., flooding, sea-level rise, seismic issues, pollution, etc.). Determine vulnerability of parcels/land identified to social/economic issues (e.g., crime, decreasing property values, etc.). Complete a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) for each parcel/land using based on GIS data.
Final Product Format	Map package files for each city; a zip file with shape files for each layer (by city); and a presentation that presents the GIS data (mapping) and the SWOT analysis
Discipline/Expertise	Geography; International Relations; Urban Planning; Urban Studies
Additional Information	The number of cities will be decided in collaboration with the student teams.

Title	DipLab2132208
Project Name	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	<p>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.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page research paper with presentation
Discipline/Expertise	Cyber Security; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Education & Cultural Studies; European & Eurasian Studies; Information & Communication Technology; International Relations; Science and Technology; Computer Science
Additional Information	<p>Below are two reports that might be useful points of reference/background.</p> <p>https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/chinas-influence-on-uk-research-has-grown-ten-fold-in-past-20-years</p> <p>https://www.aspi.org.au/report/mapping-chinas-tech-giants</p>

Title	DipLab2132205
Project Name	The Changing Face of Finland
Office	Consular Section
Embassy	Finland
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	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.
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/Expertise	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

Title	DipLab2031331
Project Name	Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design
Office	PDCS/DE/AD
Embassy	None
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>Zero-Energy design has emerged as an attainable goal for United States embassies and consulates around the world. Rapid progress in building systems design, energy capture and water conservation technologies, and passive site and building approaches can address the increasing challenges of global water scarcity and energy resource depletion. The Overseas Building Department Architectural Design Division invites graduate and undergraduate proposals from accredited schools of Architecture and Engineering for a net-zero, resilient embassy design studio.</p> <p>Proposals should include;</p> <p>Studio level (I.e. 4th year, advanced graduate).</p> <p>Interdisciplinary initiatives and formal participation by other academic disciplines</p> <p>Studio course curriculum description, including studio structure and pedagogy</p> <p>Proposed design studio schedule</p> <p>Curriculum vitae of lead studio critic/professor</p> <p>OBO will work with the successful proposer to select an appropriate project program and site.</p>
Final Product Format	Course curriculum and final Student Project Presentation Booklet
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; Architecture
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2027325
Project Name	Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage
Embassy	None
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 national 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 Americas 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</p>

	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.
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/Expertise	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.