



Fall 2023 Project Menu

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Title	DipLab2330801
Project Name	Diplomacy in the Metaverse: Creating a virtual U.S. Embassy
Office	Master Planning and Evaluations / Master Planning Division
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The United States has a relationship with, and an embassy in, almost every country on the planet. The Department of State’s mission “to represent America’s foreign policy abroad” can be challenging as we attempt to “advance the interests and security of the American people”, and lead “America’s foreign policy through diplomacy, advocacy, and assistance” across diverse lands, often distanced from the Capital city and the U.S. Embassy located therein. While we maintain 291 diplomatic locations, we cannot reach the dispersed rural communities across our globe efficiently. A virtual diplomatic presence in the metaverse may provide a solution. There are political, legal, design, and technological dimensions to exploring this alternative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€¢ Politically, could an official diplomatic presence in the metaverse serve both the representational (diplomatic) and consular (American Citizen Service & Consular Services) of the Department of State? â€¢ Legally, where or how would a metaverse presence fit within the boundaries of international law? â€¢ Architecturally, the design of a virtual facility must possess the representational qualities of our brick-and-mortar facilities while demonstrating the best of the American people to the world. â€¢ Technologically, how would the Department of State run and maintain a virtual presence at a consistently high-level of customer service?
Final Product Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital presentation package (PowerPoint or pdf) including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. slide deck b. detailed report 2. Final virtual presentation (if applicable)
Discipline/Expertise	Architecture, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Democracy & Human Rights, Education & Cultural Studies, Geography, Information & Communication Technology, Science and Technology, Sociology, Youth Issues
Additional Information	<p>Is the Metaverse the appropriate platform?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€¢ The metaverse could be a beneficial second reality to diplomats, especially in terms of negotiations, visa applications, visa processing, etc. Through fully immersive environments, diplomats from around the world may gather and negotiate, collaborate, and build a communication face-to (virtual) face. â€¢ The metaverse offers an opportunity bring for small countries, with limited physical resources, to prosper in the virtual plane, doubling their size and their economy. This also provides an opportunity to open new posts in this second reality allowing for additional diplomatic representation and interactions <p>What alternatives exist? What about Mixed Reality?</p> <p>Mixed reality is the next wave in computing followed by mainframes, PCs, and smartphones. Mixed reality is going mainstream for consumers and businesses. It liberates us from screen-bound experiences by offering instinctual interactions with data in our living</p>

spaces and with our friends. Online explorers, in hundreds of millions around the world, have experienced mixed reality through their handheld devices. Mobile AR offers the most mainstream mixed reality solutions today on social media. People may not even realize that the AR filters they use on Instagram are mixed reality experiences. Windows Mixed Reality takes all these user experiences to the next level with stunning holographic representations of people, high fidelity holographic 3D models, and the real world around them.

Title	DipLab2330802
Project Name	Leveraging Science Diaspora Communities in Foreign Policy
Office	Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary
Embassy	
Bureau	Science & Technology Adviser
Project Description	<p>Scientists around the world share “citizenship” in a scientific community that solves local, regional and global challenges. Science diasporas have a unique combination of expertise, networks and cultural understanding that can lead the way in solving shared global challenges and building the innovation economies of the future. In an age of increased mobility and connectivity, this group includes scientists, students, innovators and entrepreneurs, as well as science policy experts that are working outside of their country of birth, speaking a common language and building partnerships.</p> <p>This project would focus on studying existing science diasporas (such as EURAXESS) to understand 1) what countries maintain science diaspora networks, 2) what countries are working to set them up, 3) what are commonalities and key differences between these programs, and 4) how can these science diaspora networks be used more effectively to support and advance U.S. science and technology diplomacy in the 21st century.</p>
Final Product Format	Different types of deliverables are possible. For 1) a visual or table layout with information could be provided, for 2) a crosswalk might be easiest, and 3) a short research paper and/or presentation would be sufficient.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Civil Society, Science and Technology
Additional Information	<p>This recent study will be a good starting point:</p> <p>https://www.sciencepolicyjournal.org/uploads/5/4/3/4/5434385/warner_etal_jspg_20-3.pdf</p>

Title	DipLab2330803
Project Name	Data Supporting (or Not) the Narrative of the PRC as a Benevolent Partner to Brazil and the Southern Cone
Office	Regional China Office (Brazil and Southern Cone)
Embassy	Uruguay
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	In the last decade, scholars and thinktank researchers have addressed the “growing influence” of the PRC in Latin American countries. As trade with the PRC grows dramatically year on year in Brazil and Argentina, the narrative of the PRC as a crucial trading partner buying major regional commodities has led to PRC political influence growing. But, is the narrative correct? Our research proposal for the diplomacy lab is to track how Brazil and Southern Cone countries have voted in the UN and other multilateral fora in the last decade, and how often have they followed the PRC vote in different issues. The project could be narrowed down to analyze the behavior of just a smaller set of countries that offer interesting characteristics such as ties and investment projects that have been amplified by media coverage (e.g., Argentina, Chile), countries that belong to a bloc (e.g. Mercosur) or even focus in a single country (e.g., Brazil).
Final Product Format	We would envision a presentation to BSC posts as well as a potential 1-2 page talking points and background paper for posts to use.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	We would not expect the project to take more than one semester. The below white paper from the WHA Regional China Officers program does entail the PRC's influence in this region, as well as perceived “successes” supporting the narrative.

Title	DipLab2330804
Project Name	Improving the Business Climate in Turkmenistan
Office	Economic and Commercial Officer
Embassy	Turkmenistan
Bureau	South and Central Asian Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat would benefit from a report providing options, or research backed recommendations, for reforms to Turkmenistan’s business climate which would improve opportunities for U.S. companies.</p> <p>Turkmenistan remains one of the more isolated countries in the world, including economically. However, as one of the largest natural gas producers globally, the country has significant potential to be an export market for U.S. companies, as well as attract U.S. private sector investment. Supporting U.S. jobs through exports and investments is a priority of the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat. The Embassy accomplishes this by providing commercial services to interested U.S. companies (such as matchmaking between U.S. and Turkmen companies or advocacy with the Turkmen government for U.S. companies bidding on public projects), as well as promoting reforms that improve the trade and investment climate.</p> <p>A significant gap for the embassy in its efforts to promote positive changes in the business climate is lack of clear reform recommendations. This largely stems from the small number of foreign companies active in the country, so there are few direct experiences to draw from. Furthermore, there are no private sector organizations focused on supporting businesses, such as an American Chamber of Commerce, which can collect information or identify barriers faced by companies.</p> <p>A particularly useful resource for the U.S. embassy in Ashgabat would be a comparison with Turkmenistan of the business climates in other Central Asian countries, or other countries that could be considered analogous. This could include any aspect of a U.S. company “doing business” in the foreign countries, such as registration, taxation, employment, contracts, customs, tariffs, workforce, etc.</p> <p>A simple matrix showing the situation in each country would offer a valuable roadmap. However, taking it a step farther and identifying a “best practice” for at least some elements would add additional value. Further, being mindful of the need for a practical, step-by-step approach to reform recommendations is also helpful. It is unlikely that sweeping changes would be made in any area, so identifying first steps or progressions, as opposed to desired end states, is also helpful.</p>
Final Product Format	Written Report
Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/turkmenistan/

Title	DipLab2330805
Project Name	Research Project on Malicious Cyber Attacks on US Critical Infrastructure
Office	Office of Rewards for Justice
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	<p>Rewards for Justice (RFJ) is proposing a comprehensive research project on malicious cyber-attacks on the 16 sectors of U.S. critical infrastructure. RFJ authorities include counterterrorism, North Korea, Foreign Election Interference reward offers, and an up to \$10 million reward offer for information on malicious cyber-attacks against U.S. critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Topics for this project should include: types and scope of cyber-attacks (numbers of ransomware, DDOS, malware attacks); emerging trends, technics and tactics by bad cyber actors; identifying US and foreign partners responsible for countering cyber-attacks including available tools (indictments, arrests, sanctions, rewards); impact of government actions against malicious cyber actors; motivation of the hacker mind and options for countering; and a detailed list of malicious cyber actors and groups broken out by country (criminal versus state-sponsored). Finally, the project would include empirical research, and a list of potential options to counter the cyber threat to include a synopsis of available and future tool sets.</p>
Final Product Format	Deliverables would include a comprehensive paper and executive summary, charts and graphs, an options paper and detailed presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Counter Terrorism, Cyber Security, Political/Military Affairs
Additional Information	A detailed concept is available if the project is selected. RFJ will consider additional topics related to malicious cyber activity as well as counterterrorism.

Title	DipLab2330806
Project Name	Reviewing the Relevance of UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures and Investigative Mechanisms
Office	Multilateral and Global Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Project Description	<p>The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) is the principal inter-governmental forum within the United Nations for questions relating to human rights. When states wish the HRC to address a particular thematic issue or country-specific situation, they call upon the members of the Council to adopt a resolution regarding that issue or country. Such states often wish to take the matter further by creating mandates for experts to conduct an in-depth analysis of a particular human rights issue or situation and create a “special procedure” to investigate. Special procedures examine, monitor, advise and publicly inform on respect for human rights. Their activities are diverse: preparing thematic studies, collating best practices, responding to individual complaints or making recommendations to national authorities. These resolutions are often renewed year to year, taking into account various changes in the country.</p> <p>In some cases where there is a need for accountability for human rights violations and abuses, the Council may decide to establish a UN-mandated investigative mechanism such as an International Commission of Inquiry, Commission on Human Rights, or Fact Finding Mission. A total of 37 Human Rights Council-mandated investigative bodies have been established since the Council was created in 2006.</p> <p>For this diplomacy lab project, we are asking teams to look at the current UN Human Rights Council special procedures and HRC-mandated investigative bodies and advise on which mandates should come to an end due to improvements in the country's human rights record. With your in-depth research, the Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Multilateral Team hopes to reflect on the current mandates’ relevance and our efforts moving forward to most effectively target human rights situations across the world. This is a great opportunity to delve into human rights from a multilateral perspective and develop a strong understand of the United Nations Human Rights Council. We do not anticipate this project taking more than a semester. We are excited to work with you!</p>
Final Product Format	We are open to a range of different final products - short report (5-10 pages), a presentation, data analysis, etc. Whichever works best for your findings.
Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society, Democracy & Human Rights, Human Rights, International Law, International Development
Additional Information	<p>Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Background: DRL: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/ DRL Thematic Programming Priorities: https://www.state.gov/key-topics-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/programs/thematic-programming-priorities/</p> <p>Preliminary Research/Reading Materials:</p>

United Nations Human Rights Council Pamphlet:
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/PracticalGuideNGO_en_0.pdf
HRC Sessions Page: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions>
HRC Special Procedures: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>

Title	DipLab2330807
Project Name	Emerging Technologies and how State can apply or learn from them
Office	DS/INV/CR
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	Research how and why emerging technologies such as block-chain based digital identification can be implemented at Department of State (i.e., Personal Identity Verification (PIV) cards, passports, passport cards, and other identification mechanisms), and explore how the Department of State can utilize machine learning and generative AI tools to develop additional leads and increase efficiencies in criminal fraud investigations.
Final Product Format	4 page summary memo and short presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Additional Information	The research topic of emerging technologies such as block-chain based digital identification, machine learning, and generative AI tools is important for the Department of State because it has the potential to significantly impact and improve operations. Block-chain based digital identification could facilitate the next iteration of secure and reliable identification of individuals, which is crucial for national security, law enforcement, and diplomatic activities. Additionally, by coupling the use of machine learning and generative AI tools, the department may apply predictive learning to react to criminal behavior before it happens or spreads, identify certain criminal conduct not readily apparent given human bandwidth, and ultimately increase the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal investigative operations.

Title	DipLab2330808
Project Name	Data analysis of smuggling and trafficking with international nexus
Office	DS/INV/CR
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	Historic data related to international Human Trafficking has never been supported by an academic study that “objectively” identifies the volume of international trafficking which originates outside the U.S. and then moves the victim to the U.S. Most studies are somewhat skewed by the organizational bias associated with the organization that depends on the data to maintain funding streams/donor relationships.
Final Product Format	Data analysis
Discipline/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Trafficking in Persons
Additional Information	A comparative assessment of Human Trafficking crimes prosecuted within the United States to: identify prosecutions specific to labor and sex trafficking, victim information related to method of entry to the U.S. or Visa types, nationality, as well as trafficker information and analysis - relation, recruitment, facilitation, operations, or other. Data would be publicly available - NCIC, NIBRS as well as State and Local level arrest and prosecution, for example several years of DOJ press releases/statistics to identify federal prosecutions. We need more data analysis of smuggling and trafficking akin to how we try to track drug trafficking, and this data would be assessed against internal solicitations from DSS personnel assigned overseas to potentially identify trends or help with education/training management.

Title	DipLab2331501
Project Name	Nowhere to Hide: PRC censorship and intimidation of Americans in the United States
Office	Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	<p>This research project will result in a report on the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) government-directed or supported censorship and intimidation of Americans in the United States, U.S. territories, and U.S. companies that conduct business in the PRC. The report will be sent to Congress as mandated by section 5515 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23 NDAA) and will be made public through U.S. government websites. This is an exciting opportunity for students and their universities to shape U.S. strategy and policy on one of the Biden Administration’s top priority issues!</p> <p>Research activities include:</p> <p>(1) assessing major trends, patterns, and methods of the PRC’s efforts to censor and intimidate Americans, including American companies conducting business in the PRC.</p> <p>(2) assessing PRC censorship and intimidation impacts on Americans, including American companies conducting business in the PRC, that criticize the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the PRC Government, the authoritarian model of the PRC government, or particular CCP or PRC policies.</p> <p>(3) identifying implications for the United States on matters described in the assessments carried out under (1) and (2).</p> <p>(4) assessing the methods and evaluating the efficacy of PRC efforts to limit freedom of expression in the private sector, including media, social media, film, education, travel, financial services, sports and entertainment, technology, telecommunication, and internet infrastructure interests.</p> <p>(5) providing policy recommendations for the United States Government, including recommendations regarding collaboration with U.S. allies and partners, to address PRC censorship and intimidation.</p> <p>(6) providing policy recommendations for Americans, including American companies that conduct business in China, as well as U.S. allies and partners facing similar issues, to address PRC censorship and intimidation.</p>
Final Product Format	A research report (number of pages to be determined) and a presentation to administration officials on report findings.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, East Asian/Pacific Studies
Additional Information	<p>The report is due to DRL by November 15, 2023.</p> <p>Promoting freedom and democracy and protecting human rights around the world are central to U.S. foreign policy. The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) leads U.S. efforts in promoting democracy, protecting human rights, and advancing labor rights globally. DRL’s Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (DRL/EAP) focuses on these issues in the EAP region, with China as one of the priority countries. As highlighted in the National Security Strategy, the PRC uses its technological capacity and increasing influence to export and gain support for its own authoritarian model. In doing so, the PRC’s reach</p>

outside its borders to harass, intimidate, and threaten individuals into silence who speak out against its repressive policies, including cyber-attacks, stalking, and physical violence against Americans and others on U.S. soil, and against American companies conducting business in China. Described as transnational repression (TNR), these efforts are a direct threat to state sovereignty, and addressing and countering these practices, including raising awareness domestically and globally, is a priority for the Biden Administration and Congress.

Title	DipLab2331502
Project Name	Engaging the Haitian Diaspora
Office	Office of Haitian Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>Only 600 miles from Florida and experiencing its most protracted crisis in thirty years, Haiti is a top U.S. foreign policy priority.</p> <p>The Department seeks deeper engagement with the widespread Haitian diaspora to understand and incorporate the insights and perspectives of its members. We also aim to share how the U.S. Government works to help Haiti improve health, economic development, and security, and to reach a stable solution to political impasse. The Department regularly discusses Haiti with Members of Congress representing diaspora members as well.</p> <p>We seek further assistance from the Diplomacy Lab to identify diaspora groups to engage and help us understand their priorities. In Spring 2023, students at two universities started an information bank for us on certain groups, contact information, and Congressional representatives. We seek to deepen the mapping exercise to additional groups and to include priorities for the groups. This would enable greater partnership with the Haitian diaspora in supporting Haitian-led solutions to the country's challenges.</p>
Final Product Format	Informational bank
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2331503
Project Name	The Impact of Innovation: Understanding the dynamics driving Regional Innovation Hubs
Office	Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary
Embassy	
Bureau	Science & Technology Adviser
Project Description	<p>Science, technology and innovation have tremendous potential to support and uplift communities. Areas with concentrations of innovation are often able to create wealth and opportunity, although the advantages are not always shared equally. As the U.S. works to ensure we retain our technological competitiveness internationally and promote equitable outcomes domestically, we want to better understand what dynamics drive the success of regional innovation hubs. In particular, this research would identify the metrics which would lead us to consider an area as a regional 'tech hub' or cluster, what dynamics led to it's emergence and how communities experience the costs and benefits of that growth.</p> <p>This project will seek to answer questions like: How do regional innovation hubs emerge? What can be done to promote their growth in a way that is inclusive, ensuring that all members of the community are able to access their advantages? How can the U.S. support this growth both domestically and internationally?</p>
Final Product Format	The exact deliverable can be flexible. The ideal format would likely be a 10-20 page report with an executive summary. The report should include a high-level overview of the dynamics involved as well as illustrative case studies and policy recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	Science and Technology, Economic & Finance Issues, International Development
Additional Information	<p>There is a wide array of academic literature on the topics of what makes regional innovation hubs or technology clusters. An example, not exclusive and not an endorsement, could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.nber.org/digest/sep20/world-war-ii-rd-spending-catalyzed-post-war-innovation-hubs - https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2023/02/09/how-research-universities-are-evolving-to-strengthen-regional-economies/ <p>This research would likely entail a review of academic literature on the dynamics involved, consideration and evaluation of current innovation hubs, and analysis of what can be done to promote responsible, equitable growth.</p>

Title	DipLab2331504
Project Name	Changing Institutional Behavior
Office	Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>In 2010, Chip and Dan Heath summarized behavioral change research in their book, Switch. It's been a minute and behavioral science research has exploded.</p> <p>INL is a foreign assistance bureau working to support the rule of law overseas. We often do so in partnership with host government institutions.</p> <p>We are looking for students interested in summarizing findings from behavioral change research from the last 13 years that focus on how change happens at an institutional level (e.g., a Ministry of Justice or Security). The project would include developing clear criteria for what research would be included in the review, a methodology for describing the strength of a finding about what does/doesn't work when seeking institutional change, and a concise summary of the key findings.</p>
Final Product Format	Written paper and presentation. The paper can be up to 20 pages, with an executive summary and annexes as needed.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Behavioral science
Additional Information	<p>Information about INL available at: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-international-narcotics-and-law-enforcement-affairs/</p> <p>One organization working to make behavioral research available to practitioners: https://behavioralpolicy.org/</p>

Title	DipLab2331506
Project Name	ASEAN Priorities for Engaging in Clean Energy
Office	ENR/EDP/MEA
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	What are the distinct energy priorities of ASEAN countries? How do they engage with each other, the United States, with other nations, and with companies and organizations abroad? Develop a project that analyzes one country's priorities for engaging in clean energy and how these priorities align with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC). Assess how these priorities regional processes to support, clean energy, regional energy or carbon trading , regional integration priorities and cooperation between the United States, other dialogue partners and ASEAN.
Final Product Format	The final product should focus on providing the energy and carbon trading priorities of each chosen country and that country's energy cooperation relationship with ASEAN, the U.S. and other relevant ASEAN Dialogue Partners.
Discipline/Expertise	East Asian/Pacific Studies, Energy Security, Public-Private Partnerships, Science and Technology, ASEAN, Southeast Asian Studies, Climate Change
Additional Information	Each group will focus on analyzing one to two member countries of ASEAN. The key is comparing the specific energy goals of that country to the goals of ASEAN and to those of the United States. High-performing projects will analyze the country's energy cooperation relationship with ASEAN, the U.S. and other relevant ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

Title	DipLab2331507
Project Name	PRC Overseas Energy Activities
Office	ENR/EDP/MEA
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	The People’s Republic of China is heavily involved in energy supply chains abroad. Where specifically are they involved? Where and which types of energy supply chain investments is China making? How does these investments compare with U.S. or other like-minded countries’ investments? How does China’s strategies of involvement differ based on different countries? What is their broad strategic purpose of involvement and how might it evolve moving forward in response to geopolitical and geo-economic flux?
Final Product Format	The key for this project is detail. Final product should be a comprehensible, credibly sourced database of how the PRC is involved in energy supply chains globally. Comparisons should be made to U.S. and other like-minded countries’ activities in these countries. The final product should also include expectations of future PRC strategic direction and implementation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	<p>Each team should focus on a different method of research e.g. a statistical team, a rhetoric team, a country relationship team, etc. However, team efforts should be operationally planned for synchronization and phasing.</p> <p>A good project will aim to predict how PRC leverages energy involvement to further its regional and global strategic goals. This gathering and analyzing data, facts and relationships to understand the PRC energy strategy and energy-related implementation in support of its grand strategy.</p> <p>This project could employ a statistical method of predictive modeling, incorporating factorial analysis and measurement errors as appropriate. However, the project should also aim to include rigorous qualitative research with proactive bias control. The goal is to predict the future of another country (incorporating factors such as country risk premium, vulnerability to economic coercion, political stability, etc) but base these predictions on a vast amount of detail and facts.</p>

Title	DipLab2331508
Project Name	How to Modernize Local Employee Compensation Around the Globe
Office	EX
Embassy	
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Department of State seeks new innovative perspectives on how to modernize our approach to local compensation around the world. The Department employees more than 50,000 “local employees” (typically local nationals of the host country) at our missions around the world. In each country, the Department establishes a local compensation plan that serves as the legal basis for pay and benefits for the local employees in that nation. In accordance with the Foreign Service Act of 1980, “To the extent consistent with the public interest, each compensation plan shall be based upon prevailing wage rates and compensation practices (including participation in local social security plans) for corresponding types of positions in the locality of employment....” The Department’s current “cost of labor” model for “prevailing wage rates,” using wage surveys purchased from commercial vendors, often fails to consider the exceptional circumstances in many labor markets around the world. In some countries, this leads to local staff not receiving a living wage; in fact, the Department lacks a living wage standard.</p> <p>The Department has convened a Tiger Team that will take on this challenge from within the department, but we also need an infusion of fresh ideas, best practices, and revolutionary approaches. Depending on the progress the Tiger Team makes in the next few months, the Diplomacy Lab team(s) might provide an independent review of our current methodology, including to determine where inefficiencies or inaccurate assumptions create issues; research and assess the best practices of other multinational employers; review the compensation practices of other diplomatic missions; propose improved methodologies to collect and analyze data that more effectively capture prevailing wage rates and compensation practices; suggest opportunities to maximize Department resources to produce more timely and accurate reviews; and/or assess opportunities to incorporate a broader definition of the public interest, including a standard for defining living wage, into our compensation practices. This project has the potential to significantly positively impact the lives of our local employees, their families, and their communities around the world while also better aligning our compensation practices with our national interests, modern labor realities, and obligations as an employer.</p>
Final Product Format	Data analysis with options/recommendations memo
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	The Department of State employees local staff in 184 countries, and each has a unique Local Compensation Plan. We purchase salary survey data from four vendors: Birches Group (https://birchesgroup.com/), Mercer (https://www.mercer.com/), Korn Ferry (kornferry.com/), and Willis Towers Watson (wtwco.com). Each year, compensation analysts in Washington, DC review the salary survey data and determine whether local employees receive a salary increase based on the results and the country's labor market target percentile.
Title	DipLab2331509

Project Name	Montenegro: Comparative Strategies to Reduce Polarization and Foster Democratic Norms of Dialogue and Compromise
Office	Political-Economic Section
Embassy	Montenegro
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>Although a NATO member and an EU candidate, Montenegro currently finds itself in a serious crisis as its democratic institutions have not managed to cope with the challenges of transitioning away from 30 years of one-party rule, which ended with the defeat of the former ruling Democratic Party of Socialists in the August 2020 elections. Two successive short-lived coalition governments have been unable to overcome deepening political polarization and looming religious and ethnic divisions. While this crisis has multiple causes, one of the key contributing factors has been the lack of meaningful dialogue and readiness to compromise among the political elite, who have instead focused on short-term political gains and taken a zero-sum approach to many critical issues. We are interested in a comparative analysis of what strategies worked in other countries making the transition from authoritarian rule to encourage the development of democratic norms and a political culture of compromise. While we lack the bandwidth to conduct such a study ourselves, we would be eager to collaborate with a team of university students, and happy to share our fine-grain knowledge of Montenegrin politics, which is not well-studied in U.S. or European political science literature, as far as we have been able to determine. Though small, the country is highly diverse, and thus presents an interesting test case for strategies to overcome multiple and overlapping political, ethnic, and religious cleavages. The project will be highly useful to the Embassy in informing our efforts to help stabilize the country, ensure it remains a strong NATO Ally, and moves expeditiously to become the next member of the European Union, all key strategic goals of United States policy.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Post would like a 5 page options memo detailing what strategies/programs have been successful in promoting a culture of dialogue and compromise in other countries making the transition from a long period of one-party and/or authoritarian rule. We would also welcome an accompanying presentation and if the research team is willing, a longer research paper with the data and analysis to support the recommendations in the options memo.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	Democracy & Human Rights, European & Eurasian Studies, East Asian/Pacific Studies
Additional Information	<p>We expect the project could be completed in one semester. As a starting point on Montenegro, students could read Kenneth Morrison, <i>Nationalism, Identity, and Statehood in Post-Yugoslav Montenegro</i> (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018). While other post-Socialist countries might provide interesting points of comparison, we would also be interested in lessons learned from democratic transitions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.</p>

Title	DipLab2331510
Project Name	Storage Full of Sunshine
Office	Caribbean Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	Caribbean governments need affordable and resilient clean energy battery storage solutions to accelerate the clean energy transition from fossil fuels, lower energy costs and enhance energy security.
Final Product Format	We're open to discuss that with the student research team.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Economic & Finance Issues, Energy Security, International Development
Additional Information	<p>The US-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis by 2030 (PACC2030) seeks to encourage Caribbean countries to change energy regulatory frameworks to incentivize clean energy investments.</p> <p>Caribbean countries have enormous potential for growth in renewable production due to their access to sunlight and wind power. However, these countries lack sufficient infrastructure for both production (i.e. fuel cells, turbines) and storage capacity (i.e. long-term electrical stores) to implement such a transition.</p> <p>Some of the hurdles towards creating a more sustainable energy structure in these countries include natural disasters, such as hurricanes or large storms. These disasters create a vicious cycle of destruction while increasing the need for sustainable energy storage.</p>

Title	DipLab2331511
Project Name	Mapping Risk Zones in British Columbia and the Yukon
Office	U.S. Consulate General Vancouver Consular Section's American Citizen Services Unit
Embassy	Canada
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Bottomline: We seek a team of innovative and energetic students versed in GIS software and geo-mapping to create an interactive map that lays out the risk zones in British Columbia and the Yukon, the potential U.S. population in the area, and resources available from the local government.</p> <p>Context: The U.S. Consulate General Vancouver American Citizen Services unit is tasked with safeguarding the interest of the over 200,000 U.S. citizens who live in or visit British Columbia and the Yukon. This vast region covering more than 1.4 million square kilometers contains densely populated areas, such as Vancouver, and sparsely populated areas. The risk zones are many - seismic fault lines, avalanche risk zones, tsunami zones, and wildfires. To allow us to nimbly and effectively prepare for and respond to crises, we seek to emulate Mission Mexico and create an interactive map that lays out the risk zones in British Columbia and the Yukon, the potential U.S. population in the area, and the resources available from the local government. If possible, it would also be interesting to see if there are ways to model what are the likeliest natural disasters to occur within the next five to ten years.</p>
Final Product Format	An interactive map that lays out risk zones in British Columbia and the Yukon (seismic fault lines, flood zones, fire zones, tsunami zones, and avalanche risk zones), the potential U.S. population in the area, and resources available local government resources.
Discipline/Expertise	Computer Science, Geography, Oceans, Climate Change, Arctic Region Studies, Statistics
Additional Information	<p>I am looking for innovative ways to leverage modern technology to help my unit prepare for emergencies that can arise in my consular district. The American Citizen Service Unit in Vancouver is small - two officers and eight local employees.</p> <p>The idea for doing this came from reading what Mission Mexico did in 2019. It is my understanding they did a similar project with Indiana University and IUPUI.</p> <p>This may be outside the scope of what is feasible, but in addition to risks zones based on natural disasters, I would be interested in seeing if we could identify risks zones based on human-made factors. For example, there is the Trans Mountain Pipeline System that runs from Alberta to British Columbia. Is there a way to target those areas most likely to be impacted by an oil spill?</p> <p>Attached is a project charter developed for the proposal.</p> <p>If more lead time is necessary, this is something we are fine doing in the Fall of this year or later.</p>

Title	DipLab2331512
Project Name	Observatory on Organized Crime
Office	INL Ecuador
Embassy	Ecuador
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>INL works towards improving the response of the criminal justice system and the design of public politics, including legislative reforms Through the Observatory of Organized Crime INL will produce technical and analytical document and public policies proposal to improve GOE decision making.</p> <p>INL will continue to collect information on the needs of the institutions involved in the project. This will include i) analysis of statements based on a large representative sample, ii) analysis of the functioning of the criminal justice system, iii) think tanks and inter-agency technical sessions (i.e., cybercrime among other themes), and iv) identification of mechanisms oriented at legal strengthening against TOC (i.e., directives, resolutions, bills, litigation of strategic cases).</p>
Final Product Format	The Organized Crime Observatory will prepare specialized inputs to aid decision-making to improve current knowledge criminal justice (focused on organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering) and the related dynamics and to develop a better institutional response against this problem. The report will analyze the legal and operational challenges that the criminal justice system and based on the findings, will develop technical tools that may consist of interpretive guides for related criminal offenses, operational action protocols or specialized investigation plans.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Sociology, Statistics
Additional Information	<p>https://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/</p> <p>INL would like that Ecuador has eventually a sentencing council for data analysis of sentencing.</p>

Title	DipLab2331512
Project Name	Combating Climate Change through Technology and Data
Office	SAIT
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	FSI/SAIT seeks to understand the use of technology and data in combatting climate change. Separate student teams in different countries conducting research in their respective locations on the use of technology and data to combat climate change will allow a wide breadth of understanding of 1) what technologies are used in various countries to measure, understand, mitigate, and combat the effects of climate change; 2) the use/application of existing technologies to develop responses to climate crises; 3) the emerging technologies or data collection practices which are being developed to measure and mitigate the effects of climate change. FSI is the educational institution of the Department, and a project of this nature will allow FSI to develop and then implement multi-level training on the use of technology and data on climate change issues to include familiarization, use/application, and expertise. This will allow all Department personnel, including the technical and non-technical workforce, to be professionally prepared and ready to purposely lead modernization efforts and ensure the United States remains the legitimate leader and partner of choice in emerging technologies, especially in this critical area.
Final Product Format	A comprehensive benchmarking report would provide analysis of the ways and means that each country uses technology and data to measure, understand, mitigate, and combat the effects of climate change. Further, it could compare/contrast training each country provides (if any) to their respective foreign service on the use of technology and data. The findings of a benchmarking report should also be linked to recommendations which could be implemented by the US or by the Department.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Science and Technology
Additional Information	A side benefit of this report is that it would provide valuable insight into the areas of potential collaboration with the countries on multiple areas, including all Diplomatic, Information, Military and Economic areas.

Title	DipLab2331513
Project Name	Moon Dust and the Impending Global Economic Collapse
Office	SAIT
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	Chinese lunar program is a multi-level strategic and economic program that is advancing its interests and ensuring that China is the greatest beneficiary when the utilization of lunar resources is realized. China's lunar exploration programs appear to be designed to increase Chinese influence and to dominate the lunar landscape, to the exclusion of the United States. If China dominates the lunar landscape, including exploration and exploitation of lunar resources, the United States will be excluded from the riches of the commons as well as effectively sidelined from energy production using the alternative energy source of Helium-3.
Final Product Format	20-40 Page Research Paper
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	The country which establishes a moon base and begins successful mining and transportation operations of Helium-3 will have a monopoly over a resource of almost unlimited power. The moon contains Helium-3, which can be used for nuclear fusion power generation. Due to the volume of Helium-3 on the moon, the moon has been coined the "Persian Gulf of the solar system." Fusion is readily achievable on a small scale now, and it will be a major factor in energy production soon. The Chinese have already developed nuclear fusion technology on a small scale; thus, the application of Helium-3 as an alternative source of energy is a real possibility. In these fusion plants, a single gram of the hydrogen isotopes could produce the equivalent amount of power as if 11 metric tons of coal had been burned - without the subsequent pollution. China has aggressively been mapping the moon over the last several Chang'E lunar satellite missions. When China begins to generate power using Helium-3, it will have a virtually inexhaustible supply of energy that is unrelated to the petroleum industry and not reliant upon any other country for production. In addition to having an inexhaustible supply of energy for its purposes, it will have a monopoly on the resource necessary to power most nuclear fusion technologies.

Title	DipLab2331701
Project Name	Future Fabric
Office	A/LM/PMP/DPM/CPM - Classified Pouch and Mail (Branch) in Diplomatic Pouch and Mail (Division) in Policy Management and Programs (Office) in Logistics Management (Directorate)
Embassy	
Bureau	Administration
Project Description	<p>We need a novel or existing covering material to replace laminated burlap and staples on our courier-accompanied classified diplomatic crate-pouches. Each sealed courier accompanied pouch is classified Top Secret and must be covered in a way to thoroughly conceal the contents. The old and current practice of covering crate-pouches is to wrap them in burlap and staple the burlap to the underlying boxes. The staples can come off and be a safety and security hazard, injuring couriers and possibly exposing classified contents. The following public links show some examples crates with burlap and cross-banding, but without the diplomatic pouch tags and seals.</p> <p>https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6531822/diplomatic-crates-and-pouches-arrive-aafb https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6531825/diplomatic-crates-and-pouches-arrive-aafb https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6531826/diplomatic-crates-and-pouches-arrive-aafb</p> <p>We need a light but strong covering material that will not fall apart after rough handling. It should have tensile strength close to that of laminate burlap and be cost competitive with for material and labor requirements in applying the product to crates. The following link so a spray-on fabric points to one possible solution we may explore:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKZuPPjoxHQ</p>
Final Product Format	The final product should include a prototype material that can take the place of laminated burlap covering diplomatic crate pouches. This product can be a novel material or an existing commercial product. It should also include recommendations for procurement, implementation, and possible future product development. The product must be cost competitive with labor and materials for burlap and cross-banding. Upon request, I can provide the names of vendors of laminated burlap and of vendors who provide both labor and materials to burlap and cross-band crates. The main purpose of the burlap is to protect the contents from outside eyes, so it must hold together. The cross-banding is needed to provide an intersection for the diplomatic seal to be looped around.
Discipline/Expertise	Materials Science, Engineering
Additional Information	<p>Additional Information:</p> <p>The Diplomatic Courier Service is over 100 years old, but its crate pouches have hardly changed in that time. Links below is a photo showing current crate pouches alongside sealed pouch bags.</p> <p>https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6531822/diplomatic-crates-and-pouches-arrive-aafb https://washdiplomat.com/none-swifter-than-these-reveals-little-known-but-vital-work-of-diplomatic-couriers/</p> <p>Strong nylon and vinyl sealed bag are much more secure, but also much more expensive and labor intensive. They also add substantial weights, leading to much higher cargo costs. For every dollar spent on burlap and banding labor and materials, the taxpayer saves on average \$2.20 just on the shipping weight along going overseas and returning. Bags also take up costly extra space in tightly packed aircraft containers. Below are photos of these crate</p>

pouches and pictures of Diplomatic Courier history going back to 1918.
Future Pouch 1, this is the first of a series of development projects to modernize our classified pouch program before we move into a newly constructed warehouse in 2026. Modernization will apply to all aspects of our pouches, automation, facilities, and work force. If this Diplomacy Lab project is successful, it should be the first of many more to come. Please contact Classified Pouch Branch Chief John Brandt (BrandtJW@state.gov) with any questions.
<https://diplomacy.state.gov/a-century-of-service-us-diplomatic-courier-services-turns-100/>
<https://afsa.org/us-diplomatic-couriers-historic-timeline>
<https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/diplomatic-couriers>

Title	DipLab2331001
Project Name	Measuring the Efficacy of the Accusatorial Federal Justice System in Argentina
Office	U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires
Embassy	Argentina
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Embassy Buenos Aires is seeking a team of researchers for a data analysis of the benefits and impact of the transition to the accusatorial justice system at the federal level in the Argentine provinces of Salta and Jujuy. The goal of the project is to find evidence that the accusatorial justice system - based on public, oral proceedings - provides a significant benefit to the victims in criminal proceedings. Researchers should seek to identify those benefits, which may include a faster, more efficient process to achieve justice; protection of the rights of individuals; greater control over dispute resolution; less bias in the courtroom setting; etc. The Embassy seeks to help Argentina speed the transition to the accusatorial justice system nationwide at the federal level and would use the evidence and research provided to educate the public on the benefits of an adversarial justice system.
Final Product Format	Data Analysis and Research Report including Testimonies and Conclusions
Discipline/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Additional Information	<p>Argentina is amid a slow transition from an inquisitorial criminal justice system based on closed, written proceedings toward a more democratic adversarial system that is open to the public and based on oral proceedings. Under the adversarial (or accusatorial) system, prosecutors (as opposed to judges) lead investigations related to federal crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering. Various political parties, human rights groups, and bar associations advocated the reform, which justice minister Leon Carlos Arslanian guided through the Argentine Congress in 1992.</p> <p>The implementation of the accusatorial system in Argentina is being carried out on two levels: a transition at the provincial level and a transition at the federal level. The transition towards the accusatorial system in provincial jurisdictions has a longer history, beginning in Cordoba and Buenos Aires provinces in the late 1990s, which later spread successfully to other Argentine provinces. Today, almost all the provinces have adopted the accusatorial, or adversarial, system.</p> <p>At the federal level, this transition has been slower. A new federal criminal procedure code passed in 2014 (and was amended in 2018), replacing the country's hybrid federal inquisitorial system with an accusatorial system. However, the implementation has been slow or postponed for various reasons. In 2019, the provinces of Salta and Jujuy implemented the accusatorial system at the federal level, while Mendoza and Rosario's federal circuits have been identified as the next provinces to transition to the new system by the Bicameral Commission in charge of implementation.</p> <p>https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/juries-lay-judges-and-mixed-courts/rise-of-the-jury-in-argentina/34D3DE2AECF3FF193705D9F623B58B87</p> <p>https://civiljuryproject.law.nyu.edu/the-dawn-of-the-civil-jury-in-argentina/</p>

Title	DipLab2331002
Project Name	Corruption and Good Governance in Europe/Eurasia
Office	Area Studies - Europe and Eurasia
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	In 2021 Transparency International conducted one of the largest studies on corruption in Europe and the EU, finding that almost 2/3 of Europeans believe that government corruption is a problem in their country. From money laundering, extortion, nepotism, etc. nearly every segment of most European and EU-member states experiences some level of corrupt practices that in turn undermine good governance, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights etc. This is of great concern as Europe and EU are often seen more transparent than other regions of the world. This project should examine the intersection of corruption and good governance from Europe writ large perspective-examining and comparing different nations across Europe or analyzing the EU as an institutional body. Project participants can also examine various mechanisms implemented to fight/combat corruption and their relative levels of success.
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project participants should produce a final written report to include: (1) key case studies examined, and lessons drawn from them; (2) Suggested courses of action for implementing and/or supporting effective anti-corruption efforts. - Project participants should produce a final presentation of key findings and recommendations. - Final products will be used in Foreign Service Institute regional and sub-regional courses, as well as seminars addressing the problem of corruption and good governance in Europe/Eurasia.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Democracy & Human Rights, Political/Military Affairs
Additional Information	<p>Our office provides area studies training to diplomats and other U.S. Government foreign affairs specialists serving in or working with Europe and Eurasia.</p> <p>Transparency International Report: https://www.transparency.org/en/news/gcb-eu-2021-survey-people-worry-corruption-unchecked-impunity-business-politics</p>

Title	DipLab2331003
Project Name	Hybrid Threats and Hybrid Warfare in Europe and Eurasia
Office	Area Studies - Europe and Eurasia
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	What is the contemporary landscape of hybrid threats and hybrid warfare across Europe and Eurasia? This should be the driving question of the project. Many argue that hybrid threats/warfare are not particularly new across Europe and Eurasia, but that methods and actors have expanded. This project should explore the range of courses of actions open to malign state or non-state actors to employ in order to achieve strategic goals, short of conventional wars. The project should engage in providing comprehensive interdisciplinary literature review on the contemporary character of hybrid threats/warfare across Europe and Eurasia, identify relevant state and non-state actors, their methods and techniques to encompass all instruments of national power, in order to achieve their goals below the threshold of conventional war. Comparative case studies can be used to demonstrate the applicability of hybrid threats/warfare across Europe and Eurasia.
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project participants should produce a final written report to include: (1) literature review white paper (2) key case studies examined, and lessons drawn from them - Project participants should produce a final presentation of key findings and recommendations - Final products will be used in European and Eurasian regional and sub-regional courses, as well as seminars addressing the problem of hybrid threats/warfare in Europe and Eurasia.
Discipline/Expertise	Democracy & Human Rights
Additional Information	Our office provides area studies training to diplomats and other U.S. Government foreign affairs specialists serving in or working with Europe and Eurasia.

Title	DipLab2331004
Project Name	Lessons from Post-Conflict Nation Building Applicable to Ukraine's Post-War Reconstruction
Office	Areas Studies - Europe and Eurasia
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	Russia's invasion of Ukraine is inflicting significant damage to Ukraine's energy, transportation, medical, education, residential, and defense infrastructure, which will have to be rebuilt to ensure Ukraine can thrive following the cessation of hostilities. The U.S., EU, and other nations and organizations will most likely support these efforts, which will require significant time, energy, and resources. The international community has extensive experience with post-conflict reconstruction, including but not limited to post-WWI Europe, post-WWII Europe and Japan, the Republic of Korea, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, and Afghanistan. What lessons learned from these efforts are relevant to Ukraine's situation, and can be drawn upon to increase the probability of successfully rebuilding Ukraine after its war with Russia has ended?
Final Product Format	A research paper or report on key case studies examined and lessons drawn from them, a 1-2 page executive summary, and a presentation on the paper/report's key findings and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, European & Eurasian Studies, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	<p>About us: Our office provides area studies training to diplomats and other U.S. Government foreign affairs specialists focused on Europe and Eurasia. FSI's website: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/foreign-service-institute/</p> <p>Potential resources and readings: https://www.voanews.com/a/ukraine-begins-plans-for-post-war-reconstruction/6963528.html https://www.rand.org/blog/2022/11/politics-of-ukrainian-reconstruction.html https://whc.unesco.org/en/reconstruction/ https://www.pmi.org/learning/library/post-conflict-reconstruction-planning-implementing-6416 https://www.csis.org/analysis/play-win-report-post-conflict-reconstruction-commission https://www.gov.uk/research-for-development-outputs/good-practice-in-post-conflict-reconstruction https://cdn.cfr.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/Post-Conflict_Capabilities_final.pdf</p>

Title	DipLab2331005
Project Name	Reaching American Citizens in Nepal
Office	American Citizen Services
Embassy	Nepal
Bureau	Consular Affairs
Project Description	<p>Sandwiched between China and India, Nepal is a country that welcomes millions of tourists each year. Tourists visit Nepal to trek in the Himalayan mountains, find tigers on jungle safaris in Chitwan, and take part in unique and rich cultural experiences. Approximately 7,500 American citizens currently live throughout Nepal, and approximately 85,000 American tourists have visited Nepal in the past year. These numbers are only expected to increase in coming years.</p> <p>The American Citizen Services section of the US Embassy Kathmandu prides itself as a 24/7, full-service operation, helping American citizens with everything from routine services (like passports and notaries) to more complex routine services (like Consular reports of birth, citizenship repat) to much more time-sensitive cases (such as welfare and whereabouts, arrests, death). American citizen services can become increasingly sensitive in times of natural disaster, such as earthquakes, monsoons, or landslides, all of which are common occurrences in Nepal.</p> <p>To best assist American citizens in Nepal, whether they are tourists or longer-term residents, we need to determine the best practices for reaching American citizens, especially in an emergency. Keeping in mind that an emergency could involve one person or thousands, or an emergency could be in an extremely remote, mountainous region or in an urban city, how can we improve our outreach information and improve on accountability? Our current practices are marginally effective, but we need to build on our current experience and practices to best support American citizens in Nepal. To do this, it would be useful to learn more about responses in representative emergencies, the role of social media and other communication outreach efforts, and the potential benefits of a digital-go bag for long-term residents and tourists. How can we better promote our services and encourage tourists to register for these services, which can benefit them in the event of an emergency? How can we best contact American citizens in remote locations, many of whom have not registered with the embassy, in the event of a personal, small-scale or large-scale emergency?</p>
Final Product Format	We would like a presentation that discusses best practices in reaching American citizens in remote places, during emergencies, etc. This presentation could be shared to the American Citizen Services section, as well as the larger consular section and other sections of the US Embassy, who may benefit from this information. We would like this to culminate in a 4-page option memo that provides various responses to improve our outreach information and improve on our accountability.
Discipline/Expertise	Information & Communication Technology, Communications
Additional Information	Our American Citizen Services section is a small and flexible team of 5 people. We are a flexible unit, with all of us working closely together to cover both routine services and

more sensitive cases. We have a large number of ACS cases in Nepal and want to ensure that we are supporting our citizens in the best and most efficient way possible.

Title	DipLab2331006
Project Name	The Impact of Bolivian Counternarcotic Efforts on Coca Supply and Demand
Office	Political/Economic Section
Embassy	Bolivia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The Plurinational State of Bolivia, the third-biggest cocaine producer in the world, regards the coca plant as integral to its cultural heritage. According to a 2013 European Union (EU) study, 30 percent of the Bolivian population chew coca and the majority consume coca tea. At the same time, coca is used as the principal input for cocaine production, which continues to devastate communities around the world. To support coca's cultural importance, while recognizing the need to prevent cocaine production, the Bolivian government restricts coca cultivation to 22,000 hectares (ha) and regulates the legal coca market. In 2021, the U.S. government estimated coca cultivation totaled 39,700 ha, 80.5 percent more than the 22,000-ha limit and estimated the potential for pure cocaine production to be 317 metric tons.</p> <p>The Bolivian government (GOB) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have monitored coca production, conducted eradication programs, and engaged in counternarcotic operations for decades. Analyzing a 30+ year GOB dataset with partners provides a unique opportunity to understand the impact of government efforts to control coca and cocaine production. Multivariate statistical analyses and modeling will help identify significant interdiction measures that combined with coca price data, may answer what impact these efforts have had on the economics of coca and cocaine in Bolivia. Cooperation in analyzing these data will help advance Mission La Paz Integrated Country Strategy Goal 3 by increasing Bolivia's capacity for fighting transnational crime.</p>
Final Product Format	Statistical Data Analysis, Summary of Results, and a Powerpoint Presentation
Discipline/Expertise	Narcotics & Law Enforcement, Statistics, Economic & Finance Issues, International Development
Additional Information	https://bo.usembassy.gov/political-economic/ https://www.unodc.org/bolivia/es/unodc_en_bolivia.html https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/bolivia.html https://www.state.gov/2022-international-narcotics-control-strategy-report-2/

Title	DipLab2331007
Project Name	“Justice delayed is justice denied.” Clearing court backlogs as part of the fight against gun related crimes in Jamaica
Office	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section
Embassy	Jamaica
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>Gun related crimes are a perennial challenge for law enforcement in Jamaica. The problem can be traced to the 1970s when there was a sharp increase in the use of illegal firearms. The parliament established the Gun Court in 1974 to address the problem. The Gun Court was supposed to deter gun crimes by dispensing swift justice. However, these expectations were not realized and by the 2000’s the court’s backlog reached unmanageable levels and cases took 3-4 years to be completed. Over the past six years, the Gun Court has steadily reduced the average processing time to 14 months. The court’s success is attributable to the judiciary’s improved case management practices and fewer cases going to trial following the passage of legislation giving sentence reduction incentives for pleading guilty. The Gun Court’s backlog reduction success could be reversed by the new Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act which was enacted in November 2022 in response to the public’s outcry for harsher sentences for gun offenses. According to the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) 2021 report, 76% of Jamaicans believe that criminals should receive more severe punishment. In 2022, Jamaica’s homicide rate was the highest per capita in the world at 53 per 100,000 and firearms were used in 80% of the 1,500 recorded homicides. The new Firearms law introduced a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years for illegal possession of firearms. Defense attorneys warn that fewer defendants will be incentivized to plead guilty, resulting in more trials which will strain the court system and reverse the backlog reduction made by the Gun Court.</p> <p>INL Kingston’s mission is to strengthen U.S.-Jamaica bilateral relations and increase regional stability by developing and implementing programs that increase Jamaica’s capacity to combat transnational organized crime that impacts Jamaican and American citizens. The Rule of Law program advances this mission by supporting court reforms which improve efficiency and reduce case backlogs. The Parish Courts have been the main recipient of INL’s assistance. The Parish Courts’ backlog fell from 18% in 2016 to less than 2% in 2022, and cases are processed within seven months on average. INL wants to extend its backlog reduction support to other courts. The Gun Court is an ideal candidate for the assistance, given the likely increase in trial volumes. The court’s capacity to efficiently process cases is critical to Jamaica’s efforts to tackle gun related crimes. The research project will help INL tailor its backlog reduction program to adapt to the introduction of laws which disincentivize guilty pleas. The project findings will assist at the policy and operational levels by providing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the impact of mandatory minimum sentences on crime rates in the U.S. - Analysis of the impact of harsher/mandatory minimum sentences on the court system. - Strategies successfully implemented in the U.S. to address the backlog challenges. - Recommendations, specific to the Jamaican context, for dealing with the likely impact of harsher sentences on criminal justice institutions or additional ways to reduce the case backlog and improve access to justice. - Effective alternatives to harsher sentences - Recommendations for improving offender rehabilitation.

Final Product Format	Research report with recommendations
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	https://supremecourt.gov.jm/content/legal-system https://supremecourt.gov.jm/sites/default/files/publication/READ%20ND%20QUARTER%20NEWSLETTER%20%28July-September%202020%29%20.pdf https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/gun-control-developing-nation-gun-court-act-jamaica-0

Title	DipLab2331008
Project Name	A Marketing and Communications Strategy for Small U.S. Embassies Overseas
Office	Public Affairs
Embassy	The Gambia
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	<p>For this project, U.S. Embassy in The Gambia seeks a team of marketing and communication students to develop an evidence-based and cost-effective marcom strategy that “brands” U.S. investments in countries where U.S. public diplomacy sections have minimal budgets and resources. We are looking for more than an ad campaign. This must be a comprehensive, multi-platform approach that includes methods for pre-and-post campaign testing and market research, competitor analysis, messaging, strategies for paid and earned media, and an estimated budget.</p> <p>This project will be Phase Two of an ongoing project involving embassies from three West African countries (Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Liberia) which came together in 2023 to make a big statement to promote U.S. government investment in each host nation. This was the first such messaging campaign of its kind and the first attempt to “brand” America’s investment in Anglophone West Africa. For Phase Two, we will take lessons learned from this campaign and develop the next campaign ---smarter and perhaps more impactful than our first attempt. Phase Two may or may not be a regional campaign -that is for our group to decide.</p> <p>The team will receive mentoring from a member of the embassy team who has 30 years’ experience in marketing and public relations, was a faculty member at five U.S. universities, authored a marketing manual, and was a Fulbright scholar teaching marketing and public relations in Eastern Europe and West Africa.</p>
Final Product Format	The deliverable is the plan: We request an evidence-based and cost-effective marcom strategy. While we are specifically looking for a campaign relevant to The Gambia, we seek a structured plan that could serve as a template for other small posts. Note that this is more than an ad campaign. The deliverable must be a comprehensive, multi-platform approach that includes methods for pre and post campaign testing, competitor analysis, messaging, strategies for paid and earned media, and an estimated budget.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Marketing, Communications
Additional Information	Please see below, an internal q and a on the current campaign and a very brief powerpoint

Title	DipLab2331009
Project Name	Zimbabwe Sanctions - A Quantitative and Qualitative Review and Analysis
Office	Embassy Harare, Political-Economic Section
Embassy	Zimbabwe
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>U.S. Embassy Harare seeks to better understand the full implications of sanctions on the average Zimbabwean citizen and the Zimbabwean economy. The Embassy requests a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the impact of U.S. sanctions on Zimbabwe - those targeted and the remaining majority of the population. The U.S. government maintains its sanctions program is targeted and not aimed at the Zimbabwean people rather only the 60 individuals and 39 entities on the sanctions list. Note, the U.S. government has reduced the number of individuals and entities on the list over time. The Government of Zimbabwe blames all of the country's economic woes on sanctions (the United States is not the only country with sanctions regimes in Zimbabwe) versus its own economic mismanagement and high levels of corruption. The Government of Zimbabwe claimed in 2019 that Zimbabwe had lost over \$42 million in revenue because of sanctions. To date, no independent, objective entity or institution has conducted an assessment of the real impact of sanctions on the Zimbabwean economy and people.</p> <p>The United States government implemented sanctions on Zimbabwe in 2003 via Executive Order 13288. The Zimbabwe Sanctions Program remains one of the longest standing sanctions programs on the African continent and globally. The U.S. government initially instituted the program in response to members of the Zimbabwean government undermining democratic processes and institutions and engaging in politically-motivated violence. Subsequent executive orders aimed to target actors who also violated human rights and facilitated corruption. Sanctions are supposed to be targeted and only effect the ability of designated individuals or entities from accessing or moving financial assets through the U.S. financial system. The length of Zimbabwe's sanctions program has affected the country's reputational risk with international financial institutions - it's one more factor that banks have to worry about in addition to poor banking practices, a multiple currency regime, and a lack of a strong savings environment. As a result, Zimbabwe has fewer bank option than it did 20 years ago and mobile banking and money transfers using online platforms like PayPal and GoFundMe are not available to the Zimbabwean people. The U.S. government acknowledges that financial institution overcompliance has impacted more than just those on the sanctions list and that the program has had wider implications on the Zimbabwean people's ability to fully participate in financial markets. What, however, is the real impact of sanctions versus other factors in the Zimbabwean context?</p>
Final Product Format	A 10-page quantitative and qualitative analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	<p>Zimbabwe Sanctions Program (Treasury): https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/sanctions-programs-and-country-information/zimbabwe-related-sanctions</p> <p>Zimbabwe Sanctions Program (State): https://www.state.gov/zimbabwe-sanctions/</p> <p>Government of Zimbabwe claims: http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php/component/k2/item/49-impact-on-zimbabwe-and-the-</p>

region-of-the-unilateral-sanctions-imposed-by-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-european-union

Title	DipLab2331010
Project Name	The Potential for Climate Change Impacts to Destabilize Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa
Office	Regional Environmental Office
Embassy	Ethiopia
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	Ethiopia is often seen as a key to maintaining stability in the Horn of Africa. It is also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In addition to direct effects on food security, water security, and heat-related health effects, Ethiopia is vulnerable to a number of second order effects: economic effects due to loss of agricultural production, internal conflicts over resources, conflicts over transboundary water resources, and stresses on systems caused by internal and transboundary climate-driven migration, among many others. Ethiopia's neighbors are vulnerable to many of these same threats. We are interested in how these various climate-related impacts might lead to destabilization of Ethiopia and the larger Horn of Africa, as well as what policies could serve to mitigate the threats.
Final Product Format	Research paper
Discipline/Expertise	African Studies, Climate Change, Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Water Security
Additional Information	<p>Papers we have on the topic:</p> <p>Hansen, J., Hellin, J., Rosenstock, T. et al. Climate risk management and rural poverty reduction. <i>Agric. Syst</i> 172 (2018). doi:10.1016/j.agry.2018.01.019</p> <p>Zinsstag J, Crump L, Schelling E, et al. Climate change and One Health. <i>FEMS Microbiol Lett.</i> 365, 11 (2018). doi:10.1093/femsle/fny085</p> <p>Ibrahim, B., Mensah, H. Rethinking climate migration in sub-Saharan Africa from the perspective of tripartite drivers of climate change. <i>SN Soc Sci</i> 2, 87 (2022). doi:10.1007/s43545-022-00383-y</p> <p>Kendon, E.J., Stratton, R.A., Tucker, S. et al. Enhanced future changes in wet and dry extremes over Africa at convection-permitting scale. <i>Nat Commun</i> 10, 1794 (2019). doi:10.1038/s41467-019-09776-9</p> <p>Osima, S., Indasi, V., Zaroug, M. et al. Projected climate over the Greater Horn of Africa under 1.5°C and 2°C global warming. <i>Environ. Res. Lett.</i> 13, 6 (2018). Doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/aaba1b</p> <p>Carlson C., Bannon E., Mendenhall E. et al. Rapid range shifts in African Anopheles mosquitoes over the last century. <i>Biol. Lett.</i> 19, 2 (2022). Doi:10.1098/rsbl.2022.0365</p> <p>Bulitta B., Duguma L. The Unexplored Socio-Cultural Benefits of Coffee Plants: Implications for the Sustainable Management of Ethiopia's Coffee Forests. <i>Sustainability</i> 13, 7 (2021). doi:10.3390/su13073912</p>

Title	DipLab2331011
Project Name	Inventory of greenhouse gasses (GHG) in forestry and agriculture sectors of Kazakhstan
Office	Regional ESTH Office for Central Asia
Embassy	Kazakhstan
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The goal of this project is to study the U.S. experience in measuring and inventory of greenhouse gasses in agriculture and forestry to implement such practices in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. This project would help Kazakhstan’s EcoMuseum and its partners in Central Asia develop and implement the necessary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for such an inventory, as well as to determine which aspects are most applicable to countries in Central Asia. This could also further the implementation of Kazakhstan's nationally determined contributions on climate change.</p> <p>Although Kazakhstan has adopted legislation regulating greenhouse gas inventories, the legislation is not transparent. In Central Asia more broadly, almost no data are collected for monitoring, assessment and verification of greenhouse gasses, leaving GHG inventory incomplete.</p> <p>EcoMuseum and its partners hope the development of an MRV system in the forestry and other land use sectors would also help Kazakhstan or other Central Asian countries better address global sustainable development challenges as well as various international climate commitments.</p>
Final Product Format	Multiple teams can participate in this project. Expected deliverables are a presentation, report, and if appropriate, a round table discussion with local stakeholders on findings on the analysis of the monitoring system, assessment, and verification of data on greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry and agriculture sectors in the United States to implement such practices in Kazakhstan.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Water Security, Food Security
Additional Information	<p>Questions for the research team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What legislation regulates the monitoring of emissions in the agricultural or forestry sectors? 2. Who is responsible for conducting this at sub-national levels? 3. What institutions or enterprises are required to report on greenhouse gas emissions, depending on the field of activity, volume of production or other factors? 4. Which methods or methodologies are used for calculating emissions from various sectors of forestry and agriculture? 5. How transparent is the inventory of information on emissions in different spheres of forestry and agriculture and in different regions of the country? How accessible is this information to experts or the public?

Title	DipLab2331012
Project Name	Expanding U.S. diplomatic presence in the Indo-Pacific
Office	Diplomatic Security Service/Operations Planning & Innovation
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	As outlined in the fact sheet released by the White House on February 11, 2022, the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States aims to expand the U.S. diplomatic presence in the Indo-Pacific, including in the Pacific Islands. Pacific Islands pose unique security challenges to our people, property, and information crucial to expanding our diplomatic presence in this region. Teams are tasked with assessing these threats and developing a plan that supports our strategy for expansion of the U.S. diplomatic presence in the Indo-Pacific.
Final Product Format	Options memo and presentation
Discipline/Expertise	East Asian/Pacific Studies, South/Central Asian Studies
Additional Information	<p>The following fact sheet provides a general overview of the of the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/02/11/fact-sheet-indo-pacific-strategy-of-the-united-states/</p> <p>On the one-year anniversary of the release of the Indo-Pacific strategy the Department of State provided an update that can be found here: https://www.state.gov/marketing-one-year-since-the-release-of-the-administrations-indo-pacific-strategy/</p> <p>This update includes details regarding the expansion of the diplomatic presence. A new embassy in the Maldives has been established and discussions have been initiated on opening two new embassies in the Pacific Islands: one in Tonga, one in Kiribati. The United States also announced the opening of its embassy in Honiara, Solomon Islands in February. Information regarding the mission of the bureau of Diplomatic Security can be found here: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/bureau-of-diplomatic-security/</p> <p>Within the Diplomatic Security Service, the Operations Planning and Innovation Unit (OPI) creates, advises, assists, coordinates, and communicates the development of operational policy and deliberate planning; fosters innovation and creative initiatives; and coordinates risk management activities on behalf of the DSS Director.</p> <p>Teams should consider the following aspects when developing their plans: What does the minimum and maximum solution look like? Will you establish a full-scale solution for long term sustainability, or will there only be a minimum staffing solution, with minimal impact. How would allied partnership, or singular operations impact your proposed operations. Additional guidance will be provided throughout the project.</p>

Title	DipLab2331013
Project Name	The Policy Imperative of Climate Change as a Contributing Factor to Mass Atrocities
Office	Global Criminal Justice
Embassy	
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	<p>This project would allow students to scope and review literature to determine how the Global Criminal Justice (GCJ) office could advance policy engagement regarding the relationship between climate change, conflict, fragile states, and mass atrocities (including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide). The State Department considers the climate crisis to be a top priority from a foreign policy and national security perspective, whether the consequences are direct or indirect. There are significant reports that many of the most fragile states in the world are the most vulnerable to the dangerous impacts of climate change, with a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities. Climate change could increase conflict in a number of ways. For example, as increasing temperature and changes in precipitation affect farming and management of livestock, conflict over land, water, and other resources may increase. People may be displaced from their homes, creating conflict over boundaries. Poor state responses to humanitarian crises such as floods and wildfires may weaken the credibility and authority of a central government to the benefit of armed groups.</p> <p>Students will review scholarly literature and other credible sources to document how the climate crisis led to similar, indirect consequences in fragile states. The goal is to identify spaces and trends where GCJ can engage policymakers, affected communities, thought-leaders, and advocates for climate solutions on the nexus between climate change and mass atrocities.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The final product(s) include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1.) A literature review (drawing on a variety of sources, including the Fund for Peace’s 2022 Fragile States Index, academic publications, NGOs, and foreign policy institutions) of the literature about the link between climate change and mass atrocities; (2.) A review of policy formulation and initiatives by other countries, the United Nations, relevant regional/international bodies, and the Conference of Parties (COP) on the approach to climate change and mass atrocities; (3.) A literature/policy review and policy analysis of how transitional justice mechanisms could be relevant to the challenges posed by climate change, and how transitional justice mechanisms may not be fit for this purpose; and (4.) Recommendations for USG foreign policy-makers, in particular the Office of Global Criminal Justice about possible policy engagement in this space.
Discipline/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Climate Change, Human Rights
Additional Information	The Office of Global Criminal Justice's Webpage: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/office-of-global-criminal-justice/

Title	DipLab2331015
Project Name	Assess which emerging technologies will state and/or non-state cyber actors likely use to enhance their operational tradecraft as well as indicate how they will use these technologies to target the Department of State or its affiliated third-parties
Office	Cyber Threat Analysis Division
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	<p>Diplomatic Security’s Cyber Threat Analysis Division (CTAD) addresses cyber threats affecting the Department of State’s information infrastructure through analysis, threat reporting, and information sharing with partners. Knowledge of real-time cyber threat information is a core component of the Division’s objective to enhance proactive defense capabilities. The submitted project will be dual focused on emerging technologies, as well as how they will be used in the operations of prominent cyber threat actors targeting the Department of State and its affiliates on a global scale.</p> <p>This work will be completed through open-source research, interviews with subject matter experts, and the review of academic materials. Findings from non-U.S. government sources hold the potential to diversify CTAD’s data sourcing and gather information on key cyber threat intelligence requirements. Analysis of emerging technologies will also serve as a key mechanism for CTAD to prioritize cybersecurity efforts and develop future strategy critical to protecting the Department of State. If selected, your team will help support this analytical priority by delivering an assessment tailored to the threat landscape faced by the Department of State.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>1)An assessment paper in the form of a USG threat assessment and/or intelligence estimate (No longer than 15 pages). The assessment paper should provide a contextual picture of the cyber threat landscape, information on selected emerging technologies, examples of how these technologies could be leveraged, and a justification for why incorporated technologies are assessed as the greatest threat to the Department of State. The assessment should include an evaluation of which of the noted technologies will likely pose the greatest threats to the Department of State’s mission and why. The paper can also provide high-level recommendations on threat mitigation steps.</p> <p>2)Oral presentation on findings</p>
Discipline/Expertise	Cyber Security
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2331016
Project Name	Increasing International Support for Lasting Federal Democratic Reform in Burma
Office	Embassy Rangoon Diplomatic Support Unit
Embassy	Burma
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Two teams will focus on different angles of the Burma crisis to 1.) determine how to best increase public support for and maintain international attention on the Burma crisis and 2.) how to effectively advocate to distinct major ethnic groups within Burma for a federal democracy system. The teams will work independently for the first half of the project, with one team focusing on understanding trends in international media attention and support for Burma while the other focuses on researching Burma’s ethnic groups and their understanding of a federal democracy system. In the second half of the project, the two teams work interdependently, providing support for each other and shifting roles. The “ethnic understanding” team will aim to develop a strategy to rally international support, while the “media team” will use research from the ethnic understanding team to develop campaigns to increase awareness and promote a federal democratic system within Burma.
Final Product Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A strategy document that outlines who to target in each major ethnic group in Burma for a campaign to promote a federal democratic system. 2. A strategy document that outlines how to get and maintain international support for a timely resolution to the Burma crisis, or how to sustain international attention to the humanitarian needs in Burma in the interim.
Discipline/Expertise	Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction
Additional Information	<p>Team dynamics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team 1 will examine the trends in international media attention and public concern for Burma’s political crisis, identifying potential drivers of international support for toward an inclusive democracy. Working with Team 2 to learn the historical context and ethnic differences, Team 1 will suggest region-specific media campaigns to best promote a federal democratic system within Burma. • Team 2 will examine differences in ethnic understanding of the federal democratic system based on historical experiences and develop a strategy to influence opinions in each region, which largely correlates with where ethnic groups are located, of Burma. Working with Team 1, this team will assess the barriers to garnering and maintaining international media attention while Team 2 will develop a strategy to rally international public support for obtaining an inclusive democracy. <p>The sponsoring officers cover Burma’s public affairs and migration-related topics from the neighboring country of Thailand. The results of this project may be used to design public campaigns on social media, develop education or cultural projects, advocate for additional program-specific funding, and to help inform public policy on Burma’s crisis.</p>

Title	DipLab2331017
Project Name	Mapping the Global Burmese Diaspora and Their Sentiments Towards Federalism
Office	Embassy Rangoon Diplomatic Support Unit
Embassy	Burma
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>This project sets out to gauge support for inclusive democracy, sympathy with military control of government, and knowledge of a federal democratic system among the myriad ethnic groups that comprise Burma’s diaspora; within the diaspora, research could be broken up to focus on the non-US diaspora and the diaspora located in the United States or other likeminded democracies. It remains unclear where the Burmese diaspora is located around the world, when they migrated and by what means, where to (a large community of ethnic Chin live in Indianapolis, while there are also large migrant worker groups of likely other ethnic groups working in Thailand and the United Arab Emirates), what their migration status is in a particular country, etc. All this may impact their viewpoints on the pro-democracy movement (alongside other social factors such as religion).</p> <p>This project seeks to map out these viewpoints toward federalism (a likely necessity for a successful, democratic Burma) and the pro-democracy movement writ large, among the Burmese diaspora. This would increase our understanding in order to inform U.S. policy on matters including: level of support for the military regime (and military interference in government); general baseline knowledge about federal democratic systems among ethnic group diasporas; and how can the United States best design campaigns and programs that promote an inclusive democracy “either a federal democracy, such as the United States, or another system of democratic governance (to include non-conventional or even radical recommendations as warranted by the study of responses).</p>
Final Product Format	GIS or related map image, survey results with accompanying analysis and recommendations, descriptive paper or presentation cover diaspora, data visualization of sentiments are all welcome. Open to student/professor input on any research paper product.
Discipline/Expertise	East Asian/Pacific Studies, Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Democracy & Human Rights, Geography
Additional Information	Open to suggestions and ideas to refine the research question. The project should not take longer than a semester. Happy to share what tools/briefing templates or styles the State department prefers as well. The sponsoring officers cover Myanmar public affairs and migration-related topics from the neighboring country of Thailand. The results of this project may be used to design public campaigns on social media, develop education or cultural projects, advocate for additional program-specific funding, and to help inform public policy on Burma’s crisis.

Title	DipLab2331018
Project Name	In the Zone: Boundaries, Buffers, Diplomacy
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The delineation of boundaries for historic properties is essential to the management of cultural and natural resources. The boundary encompasses the significant features of a property, from a stand-alone object or building to a vast urban or natural landscape. The resources within the boundary line establish the property or district’s character with implications for view sheds and patterns of development over time. Those implications are considered under the mitigative process for federal properties pursuant to Sections 106 (domestic) and 402 (international) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, amended.</p> <p>For the 1157 sites currently inscribed on the United Nations Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List, boundaries are buffered by a defined zone with complementary legal or customary regulations to those adopted for the World Heritage Site proper. Thus, the buffer zone is a tool for protecting the character-defining elements of UNESCO sites and an instrument to guide change.</p> <p>States and municipalities administer the UNESCO sites within their borders. Adding to the multi-jurisdictional governing structure is the presence of the diplomatic corps and the buildings that house them. The U.S. Department of State, for example, oversees heritage properties in UNESCO World Heritage Sites in fifteen countries. Some of these diplomatic offices, known as chanceries, are signature elements of the UNESCO site, while others are within the buffer zones. Buffer zone properties may be aesthetically in character with the UNESCO site, such as American embassy properties in Paris. Or they may be later constructions that follow the design principles inherent to the World Heritage Site in a continuum of modernist design in Tel Aviv or reinterpretation of monumental scale in Cairo.</p> <p>Most of the U.S. Department of State properties embedded in World Heritage Sites are in Europe. This imbalance mirrors the overall proportions of the World Heritage List, recognized by ca. 2000, with initiatives to broaden the reach of the list in the following decades. The U.S. diplomatic properties outside of Europe, such as those in Curacao and Canada, offer an opportunity to explore the symbiotic relationship of district to cultural resource - to sustain local character and to highlight regional diplomacy. Brasilia and Montevideo could further this line of inquiry.</p> <p>As sample for analysis, the European properties share an architectural vocabulary and conservation tradition. They face similar constraints to expansion. Tourism, pollution, tall buildings, and climate pose risks to the urban fabric and to the U.S. diplomatic offices within those boundaries. Examples for study include U.S. chanceries and consulates in ten cities.</p> <p>In the Zone invites examination of boundaries and buffer zones as heritage management strategies through a series of maps and their analysis to make recommendations for stewardship and comment on trends in resource management. The maps should include</p>

	boundaries, buffer zones, approximate property lots, and building polygons for the chanceries in UNESCO sites. Additional data layers should highlight heritage status, local regulations, nearby landmarks, and types of use. Other maps should represent potential threats, i.e., floods or over-tourism, to the World Heritage Site and to the chancery within the boundary or buffer zone. Drawing on the larger sample of European properties for evidence of patterns, a case study for the chancery in Rome should be generated and presented through a story map or other data visualization product.
Final Product Format	A series of ArcGIS maps to present the physical, social, and cultural geographies of UNESCO World Heritage Sites with the U.S. diplomatic offices within the boundaries and an analysis of heritage protections and preservation management plans for the UNESCO site and buffer zones.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Architecture, Civil Society, Geography
Additional Information	Please see our public website: oboculturalheritage.state.gov for more information about the office and our portfolio.

Title	DipLab2331019
Project Name	Learning from Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Experience
Office	Political/Economic Office
Embassy	Papua New Guinea
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Papua New Guinea is one of the most diverse countries in the world. For tens of thousands of years, there was very little interaction between Papua New Guineans and the world. Within the last 100 years, Papua New Guinea has been modernizing with often painful results of inequality, underdevelopment, gender-based violence, substance abuse, negative health outcomes, and environmental degradation. Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders went through a similar process to varying success. How can Papua New Guineans learn from the experiences of Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders on how to develop equitably while preserving culture, protecting the environment, and combatting health challenges posed by changes to traditional diets.
Final Product Format	Research paper and presentation that could be delivered to Papua New Guineans online
Discipline/Expertise	East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance Issues, Education & Cultural Studies
Additional Information	None

Title	DipLab2331020
Project Name	Guidebook to Independence
Office	Political/Economic Office
Embassy	Papua New Guinea
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) in Papua New Guinea has conducted a non-binding referendum on independence in which over 95 percent of the population expressed its desire to be an independent country. As the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the government in AROB, negotiates with the Government of Papua New Guinea on its independence, it does not know what it needs to do to become an internationally recognized independent country. For the ABG, and other countries that may wish to make a similar move, there is no guidebook on what needs to be done both internally and on the international stage to become a recognized independent country. This project would be to develop that guidebook based on recent experiences and international law.
Final Product Format	A guidebook and presentation to the Autonomous Bougainville Government
Discipline/Expertise	Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Democracy & Human Rights, East Asian/Pacific Studies
Additional Information	https://www.abg.gov.pg/ https://www.c-r.org/programme/pacific/bougainville-conflict-focus https://www.mfat.govt.nz/cn/about-us/mfat75/bougainville-a-risky-assignment/

Title	DipLab2331021
Project Name	Two Decades of Vietnam’s Journey on Human Rights
Office	Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City Political Section
Embassy	Vietnam
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>On November 16, 2000, Bill Clinton was the first U.S. president to visit Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. The historic visit signified a transition for the United States-Vietnam bilateral relationship, especially in terms of increasing economic cooperation. Many at that time thought economic liberalization would eventually lead to increased protections for human rights. It has been more than 20 years since that visit and although there has been progress, State Department human rights reports and international human rights NGOs show persistent concerns, particularly related to freedoms of expression, association, assembly, and religion.</p> <p>This project seeks to collect, organize, and analyze open-source data on human rights incidents since 2000, including human rights related arrests, convictions, prison sentences, and frequency of protests. The project aims to infer trends from the data and compare them with key political developments, including domestic legal reforms, political developments, and key events in international affairs, with a particular focus on U.S. foreign policy toward Vietnam. Through this, the project will help assess progress on Vietnam’s journey on human rights, challenges that remain, and guide U.S. government efforts to strengthen protections for human rights in Vietnam.</p>
Final Product Format	The final product would be 15-20 page research paper, an annex that includes source data, and a presentation. The research paper should include data trend analysis and conclusions.
Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society, Democracy & Human Rights, Human Rights, International Law, East Asian/Pacific Studies
Additional Information	<p>The primary focus of the project is analyzing respect for freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of association in Vietnam. Based on discussions with the research team, the scope may be expanded to include religious freedom.</p> <p>Aside from materials and data provided from the U.S. Mission to Vietnam, the research team can leverage public State Department annual reports, independent and state media, UN reports and allegation letters, international NGOs, academic research papers, and testimonies from witnesses and activists.</p> <p>The project provides the research team an opportunity to learn about the socio-political landscape of a country that is a key partner to the United States. The research team will engage in human rights data analysis that will directly support the U.S. government’s efforts to promote human rights in Vietnam, a top U.S. government foreign policy priority. Finally, the project offers the research team practical insights into how a U.S. missions promote human rights internationally.</p>

Title	DipLab2209942
Project Name	Cows vs. Keyboards: Quantifying the True Contribution of the United States' Services Imports to Uruguay's Economy
Office	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Embassy	Uruguay
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Uruguay's economy was historically built on the export of meat and other commodities from its vast ranching and agriculture industry. The destination of these exports has shifted over time, but is now primarily sold to the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, over the last twenty years, Uruguay has also built a strong professional sector, including a globally-recognized IT and services industry. Most of these services, particularly software, are being exported to the United States. Unfortunately, these exports are not captured in Uruguay's reported foreign trade data. Every month when trade statistics are released, it appears the PRC has a larger and larger role in the Uruguayan economy while the U.S. role is receding and less relevant. The lack of reporting on how much money and jobs the export of services brings to Uruguay is not only misinforming the Uruguayan government and people on the policies needed to support it, but also the U.S. government about what role we play here. This lack of information also leads to the Uruguayan government undervaluing the relationship with the United States and potentially taking future political compromises to ensure continued PRC purchases of commodities.</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Montevideo is requesting a research project that provides as accurate an estimate as possible of the true weight of the U.S. market in the Uruguayan economy. Some estimates exist for sectors such as IT, but there is limited information about other service sectors. This project will involve synthesizing data on the export of services, including: accounting, auditing, and bookkeeping; advertising; education; architectural; engineering; legal; market research; public opinion and polling services; logistics/air transportation; management consulting; and research and development services. Based on some estimates, when added together, the United States jumps from Uruguay's distant fourth largest trading partner to second and close behind the PRC.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Ideal deliverable would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a presentation with graphs (with accompanying excel sheets of data used) and key take aways; and 2) a written description of methodology used (particularly if this methodology could be provided and repeated by Uruguayan authorities for their own data collection and reporting efforts)
Discipline/Expertise	Economics and Finance Issues
Additional Information	As far as we can tell, no one has determined a 100% solution for capturing service exports and we do not expect your team to determine one. Fully capturing the value of services in trade statistics has been an ongoing effort in economics for over two decades. Notable examples include:

- OECD's *Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade* (2020) and The Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (2010)
- World Trade Organization, *Measuring Trade in Services* (2010)
- UN/IMF *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (2002)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, *Measuring Trade in Services by Mode of Supply* (2017)

As a starting point, the U.S. Census Bureau gathers import data on services for the United States, but Uruguay is lumped in "Central/South America." U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Balance of Payments Division (you can request data from InternationalAccounts@bea.gov).

Additionally, the Embassy can provide resources in Spanish from Uruguayan chambers of different industries and economists who have started to work on this issue.

Title	DipLab2209940
Project Name	Making the Historical Record of Slavery and Antislavery in U.S. Foreign Policy More Accessible
Office	Office of the Historian
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	<p>The Office of the Historian (FSI/OH) is interested in learning more about the history of U.S. foreign policies relating to slavery and antislavery in the 19th century as documented in Department of State records. The National Archives recently completed the digitization of older Department records that had previously been published on microfilm, including correspondence between Washington and diplomatic and consular posts abroad (see https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/tag/59microdigi/). These records are now available online on NARA's website and represent a new opportunity to make the documentation of the Department's 19th century operations, including foreign policies designed to safeguard slavery within the United States and manage relations with both pro- and anti-slavery nations, much more accessible and useful. But, to seize this chance, the Office of the Historian needs to partner with historians who have more experience using and transcribing 19th century hand-written manuscript records and students eager to learn about the history of the Department, the history of U.S. foreign relations, and/or digital humanities methodologies.</p> <p>In this project, one or more partner institutions will collaborate with the Office of the Historian to develop a plan for systematically transcribing and enriching with metadata the digitized diplomatic and consular correspondence from a specific list of posts during a specified range of dates. Research teams at the partner institution(s) will then undertake the work of transcription and metadata enrichment, either in the context of faculty-supervised research seminars, methods courses, or independent study projects. All records processed and enriched in this way will be submitted to a central digital repository shared between the Office of the Historian and the partner institutions. Partner institution faculty will determine appropriate ways for their student researchers to leverage these records in their own projects. While the Office of the Historian does not currently plan to use the shared repository in any public-facing initiatives, we are excited to support and encourage efforts undertaken by the partnering institution to disseminate historical insights that their teams develop through their work on the project.</p>
Final Product Format	text files with text transcribed from pdfs of digitized microfilm and associated metadata stored as structured data aligned to cooperatively developed schema/format
Discipline/Expertise	Democracy & Human Rights, Human Rights, Trafficking in Persons, Western Hemisphere Studies
Additional Information	<p>To review the FSI/OH's public-facing resources, please visit our website, https://history.state.gov/, and GitHub repositories, https://github.com/HistoryAtState.</p> <p>FSI/OH will seed a database of potential transcription targets by listing events, posts, and individuals of interest, and systematically mining the footnotes of the following scholarship to identify references to material in Record Groups 59 and:</p>

- Baumgartner, Alice. *South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War*. New York; Basic Books, 2020.
- Fehrenbacher, Don E. *The Slaveholding Republic: An Account of the United States Government's Relations to Slavery*. Edited by Ward M. McAfee. Oxford; Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Karp, Matthew. *This Vast Southern Empire; Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy*. Harvard University Press, 2016.
- Kerr-Ritchie, Jeffrey R. *Rebellious Passage; The Creole Revolt and America's Coastal Slave Trade*. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Rothman, Adam. *Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery*. Cambridge; Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Whitfield, Harvey Amani. *Blacks on the Border; The Black Refugees in British North America, 1815-1860*. Burlington; University of Vermont Press, 2006.

Here is an example of the kinds of digitized records we are targeting in this project, in this case consular dispatches from Nassau which include reporting regarding the arrival of the Creole after its enslaved passengers seized control and steered toward freedom in the British Empire: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/212264529>.

In addition to digitized records at the National Archives, selected diplomatic documents from the time period have been published in several different ways. Researchers may find ways to use such edited representations of narrow slices of the overall record to inform their transcription and metadata enrichment efforts:

Congressional publications:

<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/pre-1861/serial-set/all>

Here's an example covering diplomatic correspondence relating to the Creole case:

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/SERIALSET-00396_00_00-045-0051-0000/pdf/SERIALSET-00396_00_00-045-0051-0000.pdf

Scholarly editions:

There are many examples, but one used by other scholars of slavery and U.S. foreign policy can be accessed here: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006685374>

Because the volume of digitized microfilm records is so vast, we hope to sustain this project for additional years. If you cannot participate during the Spring 2023 semester but wish to facilitate participation in the future by contributing to the cooperatively developed schema and format for transcription and metadata submissions, please submit a bid noting this level of interest in the project.

Title	DipLab2209933
Project Name	Multilateralism for the Middle Class: APEC for America
Office	Office of Economic Policy
Embassy	
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.</p> <p>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 <i>Foreign Policy for the Middle Class</i> 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	Communications, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance Issues
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 at Brandeis University; APEC Study Center at Columbia Business School; Berkeley APEC Study Center at University of California at Berkeley; The East-West Center

at University of Hawai'i; University at Buffalo APEC Study Center at University at Buffalo-SUNY.

Title	DipLab2209931
Project Name	"So What?" - Building Buy-In for Arms Control as a Necessary Tool of National Security
Office	Verification, Planning, and Outreach
Embassy	
Bureau	Arms Control, Verification and Compliance
Project Description	<p>The last nuclear arms control agreement was negotiated in 2009 and entered into force in 2010. Since that time, the political and security environment has shown signs of deterioration. The international community is currently wrestling with how to respond to a world facing increasing strategic rivalries. Often a false choice is presented between security through deterrence versus security through arms control, with arms control being painted as a tool of little utility to today's security challenges. However, the international community has seen periods where arms control worked to lower tensions and increase stability in otherwise hostile national relationships.</p> <p>The Office of Verification, Planning, and Outreach (VPO) knows arms control has a key role in ensuring national and global security. Arms control agreements provide stability and reduce the risk of arms races and armed conflict. They also stop or delay the spread of arms, build confidence amongst adversaries and offer a cost-effective and necessary early warning when things go wrong. VPO also understands the profound role the public has in shaping policy. It is for these reasons that VPO seeks research on effective communications strategies, messages, and practices for engaging two specific audiences: young adults and senior policy makers. Research partners have the option of choosing one of these three projects.</p> <p>1. Next Generation Capacity Building: VPO is seeking research into ways to increase high school and college students' interest in WMD and conventional arms issues to build an engaged and empowered next generation of arms control leaders. Through engagement with historical data, public polling, social media analysis, focus groups or other analytical methods, VPO seeks to learn what entry points to arms control and risk reduction resonate with young people. Understanding that <i>young people</i> is not a monolithic term, analytical effort should be put into understanding and characterizing the diverse target audience. Additionally, criteria should be developed to articulate and quantify the degree of resonance for particular engagement and messaging approaches. It may be useful to consider whether their attitudes have shifted following the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>2. Senior Policymaker Capacity Building: Arms control of the future will likely not look like arms control of the past. New technologies and players mean that traditional monitoring and verification approaches may prove insufficient for future needs. However, the choice to incorporate a technical solution into an arms control agreement is political decision that ultimately depends on how comfortable the senior negotiators feel with the proposed approach. As such, VPO seeks to identify effective ways to communicate with senior policymakers on emerging arms control verification technologies. VPO seeks assistance in communicating about complex scientific and technical terms to policymakers within the U.S. interagency who must ultimately make the political and legal decision to include them in arms control agreements. Technology</p>

	<p>may include topics such as information barriers, cyber, zero knowledge cryptography, synthetic aperture radar, spectroscopy, augmented/virtual reality, machine learning/artificial intelligence, materials accountancy, blockchain/ distributed ledger technology, and others. While policy makers may not need to have a deep understanding of the topics, they must trust that these technologies can be used to effectively verify arms control agreements even when they do not trust the other parties to the agreements. The study should provide analysis of the different domestic players in the U.S. systems, their attitudes towards arms control and verification, and how that influences what messages resonate. Communication approaches should consider these broad spectra of views alongside technical considerations.</p> <p>3. Building Enduring Political Will: Political will is a key ingredient to advancing arms control policy. At different times in U.S. history, engagement from citizens has helped to send a demand signal on the need to reduce nuclear risks. VPO seeks to better understand this history, and specifically identify key periods when government communication resonated with the public to inform current efforts to build a modern literacy on the importance of arms control as a tool of national security. The analysis should include a set of criteria by which engagement/resonance is assessed along with an identification and characterization of key audiences and resonant messages. Historical case studies could include key periods of arms control negotiation and the events that precipitated them. The final product should provide a framework for understanding and implementing effective public messaging on arms control that takes into consideration the nuances of the communication platform.</p>
Final Product Format	Project format is open to discussion with research team(s) selected. Final product must include a visual component alongside an interim and final presentation to VPO and the AVC front office.
Discipline/Expertise	Control/Non-proliferation, Communications, Information & Communication Technology, Science and Technology, Youth Issues
Additional Information	<p>VPO expects this project will take two semesters to complete, based on the scoping of the selected project. The ideal team leverages expertise from across multiple disciplines, to include history, engineering, political science, communications, and public policy.</p> <p>The Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC) is responsible for deterring conflict and enhancing strategic stability using tools such as arms control treaties, other international agreements, and transparency and confidence-building measures. AVC builds cooperation among allies and partners in order to control the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, space and cyber capabilities, and conventional weapons. AVC works tirelessly to strengthen current global arms control and transparency measures, increase government-wide support for verification activities, and maintain military transparency in Europe. AVC is committed to working intensively for the development of strategic engagement for international security, partnering with U.S. allies and other agencies in fielding missile-defense capabilities for international missile defense cooperation, and promoting U.S. security in outer space.</p>

Title	DipLab2209929
Project Name	Know Your Customer Principles to Disrupt Drug Trafficking
Office	Global Programs and Policy
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>Today's overdose epidemic is driven by illicitly manufactured synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl. Synthetic drugs like fentanyl pose a new challenge to global policy makers, law enforcement, and regulatory officials. Unlike traditional plant-based drugs, synthetic drugs can be manufactured virtually anywhere and their extreme potency means they can be trafficked in small, hard-to-detect volumes. A distinct challenge of addressing synthetic drug trafficking is that the chemical composition of controlled drugs can be slightly modified to avoid international and domestic control measures. Furthermore, synthetic drugs are increasingly manufactured using chemicals that are further removed from the end product, now using uncontrolled precursor chemicals that also have legitimate medical and industrial uses. In addition to these chemicals being dual use, national control measures differ between countries and private companies are not always aware of the regulations in the importing country. While some companies unknowingly trade chemicals without the proper export controls, others may deliberately mischaracterize chemical shipments by mislabeling the product on customs declarations and mixing them in with other trade goods, making them difficult to detect. This has caused greater challenges in denying criminals access to the materials needed to manufacture synthetic drugs.</p> <p>Solutions to precursor chemical challenges include both regulatory responses and voluntary cooperation with the private sector, especially the chemical industry. One promising solution is the implementation of Know-Your-Customer (KYC) laws and regulations, which require a company to conduct due diligence before transacting with a buyer to ensure they have a legitimate use for the chemicals and are not using otherwise licit chemicals in the illicit manufacture of drugs. This project will seek to identify which countries already have KYC laws in place or otherwise practice the principle of KYC through voluntary cooperation. This project will include research and a report and chart that: (1) outlines these laws and/or practices in countries with large chemical industries, (2) evaluates strengths and weaknesses of different know-your-customer legal approaches, and (3) provides recommendations for strengthening government-to-private-sector engagement globally to address the challenge of noncontrolled chemicals in drug manufacturing. INL requests a graduate student-level team for this project, which may also include law students.</p>
Final Product Format	Research paper with accompanying data visualization
Discipline/Expertise	Narcotics & Law Enforcement, Public-Private Partnerships, International Law
Additional Information	This project will be managed by INL's Drug Supply Reduction team in the Office of Global Programs and Policy. This team manages global foreign assistance programs that seek to develop tools and best practices for the international community to address drug trafficking challenges. Here are some links for more information on this problem set: https://www.state.gov/2022-incsr-volume-i-drug-and-chemical-control-as-submitted-to-congress/

https://www.incb.org/incb/en/precursors/technical_reports/precursors-technical-reports.html
<https://c4ads.org/reports/lethal-exchange/>

Title	DipLab2209926
Project Name	Automated Pipeline for Authentic Language Materials
Office	School of Language Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	<p>The School of Language Studies at the Foreign Service Institute trains US foreign service personnel in over 60 languages annually, preparing them to advance and promote US interests abroad. This project will support language curriculum and test kit development through automated discovery of authentic native language speech and text classified for both topic and ILR proficiency level.</p> <p>Background: Language curricula and testing materials for government personnel must be constantly updated to reflect current political, economic, and diplomatic realities in the US and abroad. Finding authentic materials in relevant topic areas that are appropriate for specific proficiency levels is one of the most time consuming and difficult aspects of curriculum and test development. Tools currently exist that can be applied/adapted to help automate a process to discover and classify materials (text and speech) appropriately. This is a triage step, with the final output subject to native speaker and developer review. This automated process has the potential to not only significantly reduce the amount of time spent in the development of authentic materials, but also has the potential to bring in a wider range of materials, reflecting more diverse perspectives and variation in language that will be useful to the learner. Current development is done manually, with developers reading and listening to each potential document (speech/text) and determining its applicability.</p> <p>We ultimately hope to create a pipeline for languages offered at FSI that will supply corpora of materials in the target language that are tagged for topic and ILR level. We invite partners to collaborate on any of our 60+ languages and on any aspect of that pipeline. We will first explore using open source tools and adapt them to our use case.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Report on existing tools</p> <p>Tools for web crawling, topic modeling, and/or ILR proficiency leveling</p> <p>Corpora of speech or text labeled for topic or ILR proficiency level in one or more of 60+ languages offered at FSI</p>
Discipline/Expertise	Computer Science
Additional Information	<p>All language training for the Department of State is conducted at or overseen by the School of Language Studies, at the Foreign Service Institute.</p> <p>https://www.state.gov/foreign-language-training/</p> <p>This project can be completed in parts that can be scoped to coincide with a semester. We hope to leverage existing tools that are open source or available from USG programs, such as web scrapers from IARPA MATERIAL (see attached) or an ILR leveler used at DLI (see W13-2904 attached).</p>

Title	DipLab2209922
Project Name	Task-based Foreign Language Assessment for Diplomats
Office	School of Language Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	<p><u>The Challenge</u> The Foreign Service Institute’s School of Language Studies is seeking partners who would be interested in developing task-based or scenario-based assessments for its task-based foreign language courses.</p> <p><u>Background</u> The Foreign Service Institute prepares diplomats to do their jobs well. In addition to specialized courses in diplomatic tradecraft, we offer job-relevant, task-based foreign language courses. We conduct needs analyses with diplomats working at embassies and consulates around the world to identify their most frequent and important mission-relevant tasks. We collect target discourse (samples of how diplomats talk when doing their jobs) and work with experienced diplomats to develop job-relevant task-based materials for our foreign language courses. In order to assess their progress throughout the entire language course, we are building in task-based/scenario-based assessments.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The FSI/SLS team will work with its partner to help define the final format of the project.</p> <p>Products could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€¢ Templates for developing reliable and valid task-based or scenario-based assessments â€¢ Scoring rubrics for task-based or scenario-based assessments
Discipline/Expertise	Education & Cultural Studies
Additional Information	<p>Discipline/expertise not in drop-down menu: Language Assessment; Second Language Acquisition; Applied Linguistics; Language Departments</p> <p>Comments: In any given year, the School of Language Studies has between 1-5 major curriculum development projects, where language curricula are completely redesigned. Additionally, any number of smaller projects take place each year, focusing on more incremental improvements. Creative and innovative proposals that facilitate or improve those processes are welcome.</p>

Title	DipLab2209918
Project Name	Promoting Antibiotic Stewardship in the State Department: Assess and Analyze the Risks of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
Office	Front Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Medical Services
Project Description	<p>Since the discovery of penicillin in 1928, antibiotics have prevented millions of deaths each year. They are effective, cheap, and widely available. The modern world has been able to make incredible strides in global health in the years since - coupled with other advances in modern sanitation, hygiene, and medicine - child and maternal mortality has plummeted, life expectancy has shot up, and medical care involving complex surgeries are not only possible but often trivial. Prior to antibiotics, simple maladies such as cuts, blisters, and toothaches could be a recipe for a much shorter than expected life. In the less than 100 years since we have had antibiotics in our medicinal arsenal, we already are showing the signs of overuse and harmful bacteria are getting harder and harder to kill. Nowadays, the WHO estimates that only 50% of antibiotics are used correctly, and drug-resistant bacteria kills approximately 700,000 people per year. If no action is taken, that figure is estimated to increase to 10 million people per year, a crisis more deadly than cancer.</p> <p>The Bureau of Medical Services (MED) at the State Department is responsible for the health and wellbeing of the US diplomatic community (including their families), manage and orchestrate care for those that need to return to the US, and advise the State Department on all health-related issues. From issues such as: the Ebola and COVID response strategy, to managing a pregnancy overseas, to evacuating employees out of Ukraine and Afghanistan, to taking care of a Foreign Service Officer's child's strep throat, the Bureau of Medical Services operates a large community of nearly 200 family medicine health units around the world. Antibiotic stewardship is the organizational healthcare strategy to promote the appropriate use of antibiotics through evidence-based interventions. MED is well-aware of the importance of proper antibiotic stewardship, and we want to investigate and ensure that we are doing enough to combat this global health risk. Please assist us in examining behaviors, habits, perceptions, and awareness related to antibiotic prescribing, stewardship, and care around the world! This will involve desk research, data collection, survey production and analysis, and strategy development. We look forward to working with you on this important issue!</p>
Final Product Format	Summary report of process and findings (data analysis encouraged): 10-15 pages; slide deck and presentation (20-30 minutes).
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Global Health, Science and Technology
Additional Information	Given the scale and number of health units, this project may span longer than a single class' semester. But tremendous work can be completed in the development of tools (such as surveys for medical providers), deliverables, and strategies, as well as initial findings.

Title	DipLab2209913
Project Name	Showing U.S. Climate Leadership in Azerbaijan
Office	Embassy Baku
Embassy	Azerbaijan
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	Climate Leadership - U.S. Embassy Baku is seeking ways to implement The President's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and to creatively show U.S. Climate Leadership in Azerbaijan. How can U.S. Embassy Baku show U.S. climate leadership in our engagements with local government, businesses, international organizations, and other diplomatic missions in Baku? What concrete steps can the Embassy take to make our internal operations more sustainable?
Final Product Format	A PowerPoint presentation to be presented virtually to Embassy leadership.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change
Additional Information	Please email DipLab coordinator for copy of The President's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Title	DipLab2209912
Project Name	A Qualitative Study of the Foreign Service Medical Specialist Assignment Process
Office	MED Front Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Medical Services
Project Description	<p>The Bureau of Medical Services provides primary health care at ~ 205 US Embassies and Consulates around the world. These US direct hire medical specialists are either physicians, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners or physician assistants. We also have a small cadre of Laboratory technologists who supervise our lab services around the world.</p> <p>Because of our small number (physicians 75, psychiatrists 24, nurse practitioners/physician assistants 120, and Laboratory technologists 12) the assignment process does not fully align with the overall department process.</p> <p>There is a significant amount of anecdotal evidence that the assignment process lacks transparency and accountability. However, it is unwise to develop policy or processes based on anecdotal and unverified evidence. This study would be the first effort to do a deep dive into the current processes and how it is perceived by the workforce as well as how current processes may have directly affected our personnel.</p> <p>This project will contribute to our other initiatives. We have an ongoing burnout survey, and have recently completed a qualitative interview project for personnel who have left or are thinking about leaving.</p>
Final Product Format	Demographic statistics of sample, brief history of bureau, history of assignment process, results (including qualitative thematic analysis) and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	Sociology, Statistics
Additional Information	As above, and an executive presentation would be nice.

Title	DipLab2209909
Project Name	Mapping the Historical Dynasty of the Longest Serving "Democratically" Elected Leader in the World
Office	Public Affairs Office, Embassy Malabo
Embassy	Equatorial Guinea
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	<p>Using primary source materials like the Historical Dictionary of Equatorial Guinea as well as other historical and current documents, social and traditional news stories, and oral sources, Embassy Malabo would like a Diplomacy Lab team to use Miro or a similar influence mapping tool to create an interactive influence map of the ruling family of Equatorial Guinea. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has been president of Equatorial Guinea since he orchestrated a successful coup against his uncle, Francisco MacÃas Nguema in 1979. Since then a culture of nepotism, favoritism, personal enrichment, graft, palace intrigue, and in-fighting has permeated every aspect of life and history of this small central African nation. As the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, Equatorial Guinea is already isolated from it's neighbors, but the high levels of paranoia and a complete reliance on patronage has hampered the country's development.</p> <p>Understanding how the elite and powerful are connected through familial and fealty ties will enable the embassy to be more effective in our engagement and programmatic planning. For example, by mapping Obiang's rise to power, we can see that one of his earliest allies and military supporters is not the father-in-law of his son, Gabriel Obiang Lima. However, Obiang Lima is the first son of President Obiang's second wife and is therefore in direct competition with his first son with his first wife, Vice President Obiang Mangue. The marriage between Lima and Maye, however, solidified Obiang Lima into the inner circle and now President Obiang's more loyal supporter has a strong incentive to protect Obiang Lima after the president passes.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>We see this taking two possible directions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A data science driven product that uses influence mapping to visualize the power connections of the ruling family and their spheres of influence 2. A historical living document driven product that dives deeper into the relationships and power dynamics of the ruling family and their spheres of influence <p>Either option will provide significant benefits to the embassy team and will enable us to better understand the ruling family and what we may be able to expect during a transition of power.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	Computer Science, African Studies, Anthropology, Democracy & Human Rights, Information & Communication Technology, International Development, Political/Military Affairs, Psychology, Sociology, Statistics
Additional Information	We have already compiled many of the source materials and can help add more to the list. We can also purchase a subscription to an influence mapping tool that the team can use to create the final product. Many of the source documents will be in Spanish, but we can either help with translations, or work to find other sources in English.

Title	DipLab2209907
Project Name	Effects of Climate Change of Agriculture in Absence of Deliberate Crop Adaptation
Office	Global Food Security
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	<p>This project would seek to develop an annotated list of countries where the effects of climate change on agriculture may particularly affect regional and/or global food security without deliberate crop adaptation. Information like this would:</p> <p>1) answer not only which countries' agricultural sectors will be affected by climate change, but how change in those particular countries may affect food security, and</p> <p>2) bolster the case for country and region-level scientific investment.</p>
Final Product Format	20 page paper with data analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Food Security, International Development, Science and Technology, Water Security
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209906
Project Name	Assessment of Crop Yield Increases and Population Growth
Office	Global Food Security
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	This project would look at and chart how crop yield increases are keeping up with population growth by crop in Africa.
Final Product Format	10 page research paper with data analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	African Studies, Food Security, Water Security, Science and Technology
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209905
Project Name	Top Crops by Nutrition in Africa
Office	Global Food Security
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	Top 12 crops for nutrition by country for Africa. Take into account crops that are important despite not being heavily commercialized. This might include home garden foods. It might also include non-food crops grown by small holders that supply income for buying food.
Final Product Format	20-30 page research paper with data analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	African Studies, Food Security, Water Security, Science and Technology
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209904
Project Name	Analysis of Agricultural Production Estimates
Office	Global Food Security Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	Document and explain the differences in future yield/production projections for crops that take into account climate change and those that don't.
Final Product Format	5-10 page research paper with data analysis
Discipline/Expertise	Food Security, Climate Change
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209903
Project Name	Major constraints to production of "orphan crops"
Office	Global Food Security
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	Explore major constraints to production of individual “orphan crops” and if that constraint might be addressed through improved varieties, then the applicability of gene editing technologies to overcome these constraints.
Final Product Format	Open to discuss with team involved, but a research paper with data would be helpful.
Discipline/Expertise	Food Security, Science and Technology, Climate Change
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209902
Project Name	Growing Together: The Impact of Temporary Farm Workers on Local Communities
Office	Consular Section
Embassy	Jamaica
Bureau	Consular Affairs
Project Description	<p>Jamaica’s H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker program remains among the most popular U.S. initiatives in the country, and with 5,000 workers participating, Jamaica is second only to Mexico in the volume of temporary agricultural workers engaged legally in the United States. Jamaica’s H-2A program is globally unique in the role Jamaica’s Ministry of Labour and Social Services plays as the exclusive recruiter and agent of such workers in the country, a practice that goes back to the origins of the program in a bilateral agreement on temporary labor between Jamaica and the United States.</p> <p>Jamaicans have been traveling to the U.S. for over seven decades on a variety farm worker programs rooted in post-war labor shortages in the United States. These workers help U.S. farms and business grow and succeed, and over the years have become integral features of Northeast and orchard operations. They in turn bring tens of millions in earnings back to Jamaica, which helps to support small businesses, farms and their families. Although workers are sourced throughout Jamaica, many are themselves farmers and highly concentrated in Jamaica’s rural regions and the agricultural sector. Their annual earnings play a major role in the economic activity of their home parishes and are literally the ‘seed capital’ of Jamaica’s primary food producers.</p> <p>That said, the program remains a significantly under-studied object of the bilateral relationship and the precise economic and developmental impact of this significant stream of earnings remains unclear. Jamaica’s competitors in the H2 market have been very active in recent years in helping their host countries promote the needs, interests and infrastructure of support for their own H2 workers. They have done so largely framing the case for expansion of their own participation in the program by citing how the earnings from temporary workers accrue more directly to the most disadvantaged areas of their countries and to the least developed sectors of their economies.</p> <p>Given the scope and bilateral importance of the H-2A program in the country, this project aims to produce a more comprehensive understanding of how the impact of the program is distributed in Jamaica, and the more precise role these earnings play in the function of Jamaica’s own domestic agriculture. Such an understanding could have a range of implications for further partnership with the Government of Jamaica for its own expanded participation in the program, as well as synergies for programming in the areas of agriculture, labor rights, and labor mobility as the use of H-2A workers continues to grow exponentially in the United States.</p>
Final Product Format	Post seeks a 10-page summary report and short presentation of findings sufficient to support mission reporting via cable on the project. Report should include policy recommendations that focus on options for expanding opportunity under the program, and rendering the distribution of positive impacts more equitably.

Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society, Democracy & Human Rights, Economic & Finance Issues, Food Security, International Development, Western Hemisphere Studies, Trafficking in Persons, Public-Private Partnerships, Gender Studies"]
Additional Information	H-2 visas are a significant bilateral issues in Jamaica and a key source of earnings and foreign exchange. This project offers the team(s) involved the chance to contribute directly to the lives and livelihoods of Jamaicans as the country seeks to both expand participation and better leverage the impact of the program for rural, agricultural, and workforce development.

Title	DipLab2209211
Project Name	Mapping the Digital Economy in Southeast Asia
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	Malaysia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Southeast Asia is home to the world’s fastest growing digital economy, with annual e-commerce growth at more than double the global average. The digital economy is more mobile-driven, with higher e-wallet penetration, and yet more room for development than other emerging economic blocs. The market is dominated by local players, yet provides opportunities for US businesses. Technical standards are being developed in real time, with the potential to integrate the region further into competing geo-financial spheres. The digital economy can be used to further economic empowerment in formal and grey markets, yet women, indigenous peoples, and rural communities greatly lag in participation. And the regulatory environment remains fragmented, as more countries push for business and data localization, governments revise their e-money regulatory frameworks, and new regional economic agreements come into effect. This project would explore the current landscape of Southeast Asia’s digital economy, with an emphasis on risks and opportunities for the US government and US businesses, with the goal of increasing openness, accessibility, and growth in a critical sphere. The project can examine from regulatory, financial, business, inclusivity, geostrategic, or other perspectives. The project focus must include Malaysia, but can be scoped to include a region-wide perspective or selected ASEAN countries as well.</p>
Final Product Format	Report (long form with summary memo) and slide deck.
Discipline/Expertise	Cyber Security, Economic & Finance Issues, Information & Communication Technology, International Development
Additional Information	<p>Recent research and guidance:</p> <p>https://publicpolicy.paypal-corp.com/sites/default/files/2022-09/paypal-accelerating-digital-readiness-malaysia-whitepaper-2022.pdf</p> <p>https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-10/southeast-asia-internet-economy-to-surge-to-363-billion-by-2025</p> <p>https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31803</p> <p>https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/digitalization-south-southeast-asia/</p>

Title	DipLab2209151
Project Name	Researching U.S. based international hosting programs for children ("orphan hosting") and the link to intercountry adoption
Office	Office of Children's Issues
Embassy	
Bureau	Consular Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Department of State’s Office of Children’s Issues is interested in graduate level research regarding international hosting programs for children without parental care (sometimes referred to as “orphan hosting”). These programs provide children with temporary visits to the United States of generally 4-6 weeks to experience life with an American family. While the Office of Children’s Issues does not play any role in these programs, we are aware that many of these children are later adopted by their host families through intercountry adoption. Hosting programs jumped into the spotlight earlier this year following the Russian invasion of Ukraine as many American families that had previously hosted children reached out to the Department seeking a way to temporarily bring these children to the United States for their safety.</p> <p>We would like to get more information about the operation of these programs in the United States and in the countries that allow international hosting of their children. Some questions we have are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are these programs organized in the foreign country? • What governmental organization, if any, provides oversight? • How are they regulated? • What are the eligibility requirements for children to participate? • How are host parents vetted by the foreign government? • How are host parents vetted by the U.S. based organization? • Are these organizations subject to any U.S. state licensing or require any other approval to operate? • What U.S. state laws pertain to this practice? • Are these programs advertised as a conduit to intercountry adoption? • Is there any tracking of how many children have been adopted internationally as a direct result of prior participation in a hosting program? <p>We are also interested in knowing which other countries allow their residents to host foreign children and whether there are any countries that previously allowed their children to participate that no longer do so. The research will be used to inform the development of public policy.</p>
Final Product Format	Research paper with the possibility of presenting the findings of the research to Department of State staff and other government colleagues with an interest in this issue.
Discipline/Expertise	Youth Issues, Human Rights, International Development, International Law, Sociology
Additional Information	This project would be suitable for research within a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to international studies, social work, public policy, child development, human rights, and law. We are also open to research of a subset of these questions. Additional

information about the Office of Children's Issues and the Department of State's role in intercountry adoption can be found at travel.state.gov.

Title	DipLab2209132
Project Name	Building Institutional Learning Capacity
Office	Office of Foreign Assistance
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Assistance
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Department of State is seeking to improve institutional evidence-based learning across the enterprise to enhance diplomacy and foreign assistance through the use of data to inform policy and operational decision-making. This is critical to advancing U.S. foreign policy objectives and promoting transparency, rigor, and data-informed policymaking at all levels of decision-making in the Department. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act) tasked Federal agencies with making decisions using the best available evidence and directed agencies to establish processes and practices that support the habitual reliance on evidence across agency functions and the demand for new evidence when needed. However, institutionalizing a culture of learning is highly complex due to the size and mobility of the Department's workforce and geographical reach, as well as evolving strategic priorities concomitant with changes in Administrations. As the Department implements its 2022-2026 Learning Agenda to inculcate a culture of evidence-building and learning, we seek recommendations for frameworks to advance organizational learning toward the goal of becoming a learning organization.</p> <p>This project aims to form a partnership with a higher-education institution that will identify how the Department can improve widespread institutional learning within the learning agenda context. There are a few questions we seek to answer in order to support current work that is being conducted on the 2022-2026 Learning Agenda:</p> <p>What framework(s) would be most appropriate to enhance Department-wide learning within the learning agenda context?</p> <p>What tools and resources are most effective in inculcating a culture of organizational learning in large organizations?</p> <p>What barriers may limit institutional capacity to improve learning? How can these barriers be minimized/overcome?</p> <p>How can the Department measure whether learning is occurring in offices and bureaus?</p>
Final Product Format	The goal of this activity is for the partner higher-education institution to present a final product answering the questions above. The selected institution may edit the questions in consultation with the Department. Expected deliverables are a Word report, PPT slides, and a virtual presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	<p>We expect this to be a six-month project for the partnering higher-education institution.</p> <p>Based on preliminary research, this project may need to utilize a literature review</p>

focused on private and public sector institutional learning, culture shifts, change management, systems thinking and organizational compliance practices.

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