



Spring 2023 Project Menu

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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	DipLab2209941
Project Name	Science, Technology, and Innovation Diplomacy in Africa: Strategic Foresight
Office	Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State
Embassy	None
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	<p>We are looking for a group of students to provide strategic foresight and recommendations to the U.S. Government on plausible future opportunities to engage in science, technology, and innovation (STI) diplomacy in Africa in 2027.</p> <p>Students will determine how the U.S. government can best leverage plausible future opportunities and existing US-Africa research and education networks to promote access to and adoption of key digital technologies, platforms, and services that align with U.S. values and international norms and standards.</p> <p>The ideal final products will provide strategic foresight recommendations for what entities the U.S. government would be best suited to engage with on various STI topics in 2027 (such as connectivity, health, climate, agriculture, or energy). These engagement opportunities can include real or fictitious expert groups and practitioners, educational and academic institutions, and enabling U.S. and Africa government policy mechanisms that already exist or may exist in the future. The end goal of these future engagements would be to enable a 21st century science and technology force multiplier for strengthening the capacities of science, research, educational, government and “community anchor” institutions in Africa.</p>
Final Product Format	5 to 10 page report with an executive summary that includes key recommendations and conclusions.
Discipline/Expertise	Science and Technology; Youth Issues
Additional Information	www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/office-of-the-science-technology-adviser/

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	DipLab2209939
Project Name	Science, Technology, and Innovation Diplomacy in Africa: Current Opportunities
Office	Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	<p>We are looking for a group of students to study and provide insights and recommendations to the U.S. Government on current opportunities to engage in science, technology, and innovation (STI) diplomacy in Africa.</p> <p>Students will determine how the U.S. government can best leverage existing US-Africa research and education networks to promote access to and adoption of key digital technologies, platforms, and services that align with U.S. values and international norms and standards.</p> <p>The ideal final products will be recommendations for what entities the U.S. government would be best suited to engage with on various STI topics (such as connectivity, health, climate, agriculture, or energy). These engagement opportunities can include identified expert groups and practitioners, educational and academic institutions, and enabling U.S. and Africa government policy mechanisms. The end goal of these engagements would be to enable a 21st century science and technology force multiplier for strengthening the capacities of science, research, educational, government and “community anchor” institutions in Africa.</p> <p>The group of students should be self-sufficient, independent workers who can determine their own key questions and answer them to provide recommendations on current opportunities.</p>
Final Product Format	5 to 10 page report with an executive summary that includes key recommendations and conclusions.
Discipline/Expertise	Science and Technology; Youth Issues
Additional Information	https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-economic-growth-energy-and-the-environment/office-of-the-science-technology-adviser/

Title	DipLab2209938
Project Name	Assessing the PRC Strategy and Engagement on Law Enforcement and Anti-Corruption Cooperation in the Caribbean
Office	Western Hemisphere Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>INL/WHP seeks assistance from our Diplomacy Lab university partner to assess and examine PRC influence on law enforcement and anti-corruption cooperation with the Caribbean.</p> <p>In 2018 at a CELAC meeting, the PRC promised to vigorously engage Latin America and the Caribbean through security cooperation, including expanded cooperation against drugs, corruption, and cybercrime. In September 2018, the PRC hosted the first-ever China-Caribbean Conference on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation in Grenada to discuss ways to strengthen Sino-Caribbean cooperation on anti-corruption and law enforcement affairs, develop exchanges between their judicial and law enforcement institutions, and discuss how to establish a formal cooperation mechanism. In May 2022, the PRC publicly signaled its intent to hold the Second China-Caribbean Conference on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation in the near term. To what effect do these strategic high-level dialogues translate into actual PRC follow-on engagement with the Caribbean on law enforcement and judicial sector issues?</p> <p>Under this project, INL/WHP seeks to better understand the PRC’s strategic vision for law enforcement and anti-corruption cooperation with the Caribbean region in comparison to its actual engagement with the region in these issue areas. What is largely symbolic and what is actual follow-on engagement? How if at all is the PRC leveraging its economic ties with the region to advance its cooperation on law enforcement and justice sector affairs? How is the PRC messaging its work on law enforcement cooperation to host nations and the public? What tools are they using to amplify its law enforcement cooperation with the region? In addition, the Caribbean is home to five of Taiwan’s fourteen diplomatic allies. INL/WHP would like to better understand how Taiwan is positioning itself in the Caribbean on these issues and if/how it is using its resources with its diplomatic supporters. Following Speaker Pelosi’s recent visit to Taiwan, how (if at all) will the PRC leverage its law enforcement and anti-corruption assistance to convince Taiwan supporters in the region to alter its diplomatic support?</p> <p>Overall, this assessment will help INL/WHP better understand the PRC landscape on law enforcement and anti-corruption affairs. INL/WHP intends to utilize the information presented to create a toolkit that we can incorporate into our law enforcement and anti-corruption programming around the region.</p>
Final Product Format	INL/WHP seeks an investigative report that examines PRC-Caribbean law enforcement and justice sector landscape, and that includes country case assessments for all 14 focus countries. We would appreciate a 1-2 page Executive Summary overview document that can be incorporated internally into a short policy brief for leadership.

	At the conclusion of the project, INL/WHP would welcome its University partner to present its assessment findings to the INL/WHP Caribbean team and its Directors stationed at our Embassies throughout the region, in addition to respective country desk officers and our interagency partners.
Discipline/Expertise	Western Hemisphere Studies, Narcotics & Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Additional Information	<p>Ideally, our University partner would commence this assessment in January 2023 for conclusion in May 2023. In December 2022 (or early January 2023), INL/WHP would work with the University partner to develop a robust workplan to ensure alignment on key research focus areas, assumptions, deliverable requirements, and anticipated challenges.</p> <p>This will be an exciting project that not only will provide direct practical applications for Western Hemisphere policy advisors, but this research can also help to fill a critical void in academic scholarship. Scholarship on the PRC's security engagement with the Caribbean region focuses primarily on the PLA's military to military ties and largely ignores law enforcement cooperation. This project has the opportunity to help contribute to this often-overlooked, budding area of literature.</p> <p>Countries to include in the assessment: The Bahamas, Guyana, Suriname, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Eastern Caribbean (Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).</p>

Title	DipLab2209937
Project Name	The Role of the Press in Covering PRC Investments' Impact on Human Rights
Office	Regional Security and Policy
Embassy	
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	The People's Republic of China has increasingly become one of the largest investors in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. These investments, while often lauded by local leaders as helping economic development, have also been criticized for their negative impacts on local communities, association with labor abuses, violations of human rights, and propensity to engage corrupt practices. The negative impacts of these investments are often revealed by news organizations, whether from the local country or by international press. This study would examine the role that the press plays in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands in discussing PRC investments in the region, as well as uncovering impacts of these investments. One part of this study could just be an inventory of specific PRC investments which have received significant press attention for their negative (or positive) impacts on local communities. The study could examine the comparative roles of local press outlets and international outlets; the sources used in reporting (leaked documents, anonymous sources, interviews with local community members, geo-spatial analysis, etc.). The study would also examine what happened as a result of reporting, including local and international government's reactions to the projects, political impact, and any backlash against the news organizations themselves.
Final Product Format	Paper or presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society, Communications, Democracy & Human Rights, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance Issues, Human Rights
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209936
Project Name	Haitian Diaspora Resources
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. The Department wishes to engage with the widespread Haitian diaspora in a more systematic manner to benefit from the insights of its members and their varied perspectives. We value them and, as appropriate, incorporate them into our policy approach. We also wish to explain to the groups more fully how the U.S. Government is working diligently to improve Haiti's health, economic development and security, and how it is encouraging all sectors of Haitian society to work together towards a stable solution to the current political impasse. The Department would also like to work more closely with members of Congress on issues involving Haiti.</p> <p>Our efforts at more effective diaspora engagement are hampered by incomplete information, and we lack the resources necessary to identify and reach out to the many diaspora groups scattered throughout the country. We seek assistance from the Diplomacy Lab to develop an information bank of Haitian diaspora groups, their points of contact, and the Congressional districts in which they are located. Having such tools would greatly facilitate the work of diaspora engagement.</p>
Final Product Format	An Excel Spreadsheet or similar list format of all known Haitian diaspora groups in the country, along with a list of members of Congress whose constituencies the groups are in.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2209935
Project Name	Advancing Human Rights in Asia Through Coordinated Ethical Investment with Partner Nations
Office	Regional Security and Policy
Embassy	
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>A key priority for leaders of many countries in the Indo-Pacific is how to ensure economic prosperity for their people. Many activists in the region often criticize their governments focus on economic development even at the expense of environmental degradation and violations of human rights. However, many nations and international organizations have been assessing how to use business and investments to better promote and protect human rights, e.g., the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, increasing use of environmental, social, and corporate (ESG) measures by investment firms, etc. Additionally, many countries have legal instruments in place that require businesses to avoid practices such as corruption and force labor. While the United States and many of its like-minded partners are increasingly focused on this nexus of business and human rights, there is a lack of comprehensive understanding of how each of these nations' own laws, regulations, and other legal instruments may align or diverge. This project would be intended to survey some of the largest investor countries in the Indo-Pacific and determine policy, legal, and regulatory alignment or divergence in each nations' foreign investment policies that would impact the democratic and human rights situation in countries receiving investment. An initial list of countries to be assessed (though open to team's discretion) would be: United States, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the Europe Union.</p>
Final Product Format	Paper, presentation, or database.
Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Human Rights, International Law, Public-Private Partnerships
Additional Information	N/A

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	DipLab2209932
Project Name	Disinformation in Conflict Environments
Office	Asia Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Conflict and Stabilization Operations
Project Description	<p>The Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) seeks to anticipate, prevent, and respond to conflict that undermines U.S. national interests. In support of this mission, CSO works to create a shared understanding of conflict drivers and develop approaches to mitigate these drivers. An emerging challenge in conflict prevention and stabilization environments is the increased use of state-sponsored or otherwise politically motivated disinformation as well as misinformation.</p> <p>The sophisticated and intensified use of disinformation has both pushed public perceptions and behavior toward distrust and violence and altered traditional government decision-making and action. This dynamic has played out to destabilize fragile countries, generate mob violence, increase ethnic tensions, exacerbate existing societal grievances, delegitimize democratic processes, undermine U.S.-supported alliances intended to increase stability, sow distrust in multilateral institutions, and impede progress toward important U.S. goals.</p> <p>CSO welcomes a partner university to help explore the use of disinformation and misinformation in key conflict-affected environments within Asia. The project will entail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An examination of disinformation/misinformation in past or current conflict environments in Asia and its destabilizing impact (examples in Additional Information section). 2. Development of recommendations to address misinformation and/or disinformation.
Final Product Format	Deliverables include: short (5-10 pages) research paper, 1-2 page options/recommendations paper, and presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Democracy & Human Rights, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Information & Communication Technology, South/Central Asian Studies
Additional Information	<p>Examples of past or current conflict environments to examine include (but are not limited to): Taiwanese elections, Bangladesh mob violence, PRC disinformation in Nepal, Sri Lankan government fragility, South China Sea disinformation and deception on faking fishing vessels and maritime militias, or the manipulation of exploited populations in fisheries, mining, and labor camps, etc.</p> <p>Working Definitions: Disinformation is false or partially false information used with the political intent of harming another country's interests by creating confusion and inaction, or by eliciting public violence or distracting activities, or by causing a government policy reaction that is self-defeating.</p> <p>Misinformation may or may not be intentional or consistently political. It can include incorrect information, misattributed photos and videos, deep fakes, incorrect polling dates, or even typos. While it has been at times organic and decentralized, increasingly</p>

misinformation has proven to be a potent tool of malign actors who seek to generate chaos, discord, and conflict with or without state-sponsorship or clear political agendas.

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	DipLab2209930
Project Name	Identifying What Works to Reduce Violence Against Environmental Defenders
Office	Front Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>Despite growing U.S. and international attention, the level of violence against and intimidation of environmental defenders continues to increase. In February 2022, NGO Front Line Defenders reported that 59% of the 338 human rights defenders (HRDs) killed in 2021 were defending land, environmental, or indigenous peoples' rights, often in the context of extractive industries and state-aligned megaprojects. NGO Global Witness in September 2021 reported that on average four people have been killed every week since 2016 for defending their land and the environment from harmful impacts of mining/extractives, agribusiness, dams, logging, and poaching. In 2020, over half of the killings were reported in Colombia (65), Mexico (30), and the Philippines (29), 70% of the killed defenders were working to protect forests, and more than one-third were Indigenous.</p> <p>Although there is broad international agreement that violence against environmental defenders is increasing, there is little information on what works to reduce that violence. The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)-led interagency working group seeks an interdisciplinary team(s) of motivated students with interests in environment, human rights, business, and law enforcement to develop empirical evidence on what specific actions governments, business, communities, and multilateral organizations can take that are effective in reducing violence against environmental defenders and providing justice, with a particular emphasis on defenders in vulnerable situations such as Indigenous people, marginalized communities, and women. The team(s) would hold at least bi-weekly meetings with one or more State Department officials to identify and review countries and cases, research methodology, and materials developed. Part Two of this project would involve refining and presenting materials to the U.S. government and eventually other governments to inform international cooperation. Given the scope of this project, it is hoped participating universities would consider continuing this cooperation for a second year to expand the case set. Students interested in participating in meetings with U.S. government officials should be prepared to sign a non-disclosure agreement.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Part 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- PowerPoints by country with cases showing effective actions governments, business, communities, and multilateral organizations (like the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights or Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) took to effectively reduce violence. Cases chosen should focus particularly on defenders in vulnerable situations such as Indigenous people, marginalized communities, and women. Actions should be organized by showing specific actions governments, business, communities, and multilateral organizations took that were effective in reducing violence against environmental defenders and providing justice. -- PowerPoints pulling together country information thematically showing effective measures regionally or globally

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Possible four-page briefing memos with graphs and infographics summarizing information in PowerPoints <p>Part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Refining country PowerPoints to expand number of cases in a country and/or number of countries -- Refine thematic PowerPoints to reflect expanded case set -- Possibly - refine four-page briefing memos with graphs and infographics summarizing information in PowerPoints
Discipline/Expertise	Democracy & Human Rights, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Western Hemisphere Studies, Narcotics & Law Enforcement, International Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	<p>This project ideally will likely more than one semester to get enough information to validate conclusions sufficiently to share them with other governments to inform international cooperation.</p> <p>Additional information for students to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Global Witness reports -- Front Line Defender reports -- U.S. Department of State Human Rights Reports

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	DipLab2209928
Project Name	Increasing Connectivity in Colombia
Office	ECON
Embassy	Colombia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Colombia, one of the U.S.’s most important partners in the Western Hemisphere, recently inaugurated a new president, Gustavo Petro, who is focused on addressing the country’s pervasive digital divide and on economic and social inclusion in rural and remote areas of Colombia, particularly in indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and ethnic communities. Improving connectivity across Colombia is essential for its continued economic development through digital technology. President Petro has highlighted connectivity as his administration’s primary goal in the information and communications technology (ICT) space <i>because it allows Colombian society to empower itself</i> and provides access to communication and education for all Colombians. While Petro aims to bring high quality internet connectivity to 85% of households by the end of his term in 2026, Colombia currently nears the bottom of OECD countries in rankings of internet access and speed. Additionally, internet connectivity and speed vary widely between high-income households in the main Colombian cities and rural and low-income areas of the country.</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Bogota is working on programs and approaches that could help reduce the digital divide in Colombia. One of the first steps is to further unpack the specific challenges to connectivity in Colombia’s rural areas. This Diplomacy Lab project would provide critical analytical input by conducting robust research on the current state of connectivity in targeted regions of Colombia: Bajo Cauca, Narino/Tumaco, and Catatumbo, and potentially other rural areas, which have been historically underserved by internet connectivity both due to their challenging geographical terrain (e.g. mountains and jungle) and their insecurity. Ideally, the research into these regions should analyze information from past and ongoing activities implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Colombia; investigate Colombian laws, programs, and initiatives to advance internet connectivity, public and private; analyze the private sector’s work in internet connectivity and coverage in Colombia - both for philanthropic and for-profit purposes; and conduct market research on market structure, costs of internet deployment, hardware, and software in the target regions. Ultimately, we are looking for more detailed data on the current status of connectivity and type, download speeds, if the market provision of internet services is meeting demand, and how people are using their internet connections. This research would assist both the Embassy’s Economic Section and USAID Colombia to ensure the deployment of best-use technology and needed digital literacy in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. It would also provide a foundation for positive U.S. engagement on ICT and other topics with the new Colombian government.</p>
Final Product Format	The product will take the format of a longer research paper. A summary presentation and/or one-pager would also be helpful to distill the results for those with less time to read through the detailed document.

Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues, International Development, Information & Communication Technology, Public-Private Partnerships, Western Hemisphere Studies, Science and Technology
Additional Information	<p>Spanish language skills would be very useful, but not required.</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Bogota: https://co.usembassy.gov/</p> <p>USAID Colombia: https://www.usaid.gov/colombia</p> <p>Colombia Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment (DECA): https://www.usaid.gov/digital-development/DECA/Colombia</p> <p>MinTIC Bulletins: this is the current data published through the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications Technology: https://colombiatic.mintic.gov.co/679/w3-multipropertyvalues-36410-412577.html</p>

Title	DipLab2209927
Project Name	Analyzing the Department of State’s capabilities and processes for responding to crises resulting from the malicious use of cyberspace by state and/or non-state actors
Office	Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, Strategic and Planning Communications Unit
Embassy	
Bureau	Secretary of State
Project Description	<p>Your team would begin with a question: <i>What capabilities and processes does the State Department need to be prepared to respond to a crisis resulting from the malicious use of cyberspace by state and/or non-state actors?</i></p> <p>The question is derived from the Department of State’s <i>Learning Agenda</i>, a systematic plan to answer a set of policy-relevant questions critical to achieving strategic objectives. The project would consider the capabilities of the Department as they currently stand, since the inauguration of the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP) in April 2022.</p> <p>The precursor offices to CDP drove USG efforts to enhance the capacity of international partners to defend their own networks, formulate and implement sound cyber policies, and engage in international discussions around deterrence in cyberspace. CDP must continue and strengthen these efforts while also playing a leading role in international cyber incident response, including the establishment of a voluntary coalition of like-minded countries that can organize cooperative responses to crises. The goal of this project is to offer insights into how CDP can learn from past experiences in order to improve the way the Department develops and delivers foreign policy that addresses malicious activity in cyberspace through diplomacy and deterrence tools. If selected, your team would be tasked with identifying current standards of practice and procedure in the Department, assessing those standards for their efficacy or gaps, and offering recommendations for the future. Based on their interests and expertise, teams may choose to scope this question more narrowly, examining, for example, a particular malicious cyber actor or malicious cyber activity affecting countries in one region of the world.</p>
Final Product Format	We would like to see a brief analysis (12-15 pages) in which the team will take a data-driven approach to analyze and evaluate current Department of State capabilities and then offer projections and recommendations about future best practices. In order to create this final product, the team will need to conduct a basic literature review, set up interviews with key individuals or organizations, and reference any other publicly available materials. This work, which will be done in coordination with members of the various programming and policy units of CDP, has the potential to directly inform the United States government’s strategic planning on crisis response to cyber threats. A final presentation of conclusions will be requested for the benefit of Department officials.
Discipline/Expertise	Cyber Security, Science and Technology
Additional Information	Interested teams should begin by acquainting team members with the work of the Department of State’s Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy and the USG cyber policy and cyber attribution work more generally.

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	DipLab2209925
Project Name	Congressional Attitudes toward the International Criminal Court over Time
Office	The Office of Global Criminal Justice
Embassy	
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	<p>This project would track the evolution of congressional attitudes toward the International Criminal Court, starting from the era in which the founding document, the Rome Statute, was being negotiated up through the present. Students would review statements about the Court in the formal congressional record (including non-binding resolutions and legislation) and code them as either positive (+1), neutral or mixed (0), or negative (-1). The prevailing attitudes would then be tracked over time against a timeline of key events in world history involving the Court, such as the genocide in Darfur; the depredations of the Lord's Resistance Army in Northern Uganda; the opening of an investigation into the situation in Afghanistan, which implicated U.S. personnel; developments in the situation involving Palestine and Israel; and the launch of Russia's aggressive war in Ukraine. The goal is to identify the periods of time in which Congress viewed the Court as an essential component of a system of international justice that the United States should support and invoke versus periods of time in which Congress was more wary, or even hostile, toward the Court.</p> <p>By way of background, the United States has long exercised leadership in promoting accountability for international crimes, starting with the establishment of the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals after World War II, which launched the field of international justice through the ad hoc tribunals of the 1990s and 2000s. When the international community turned its attention to creating a permanent international criminal court, the administration of Bill Clinton was an active participant in the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Rome Statute. Indeed, the final treaty - together with related instruments adopted in the aftermath of Rome - reflect substantial U.S. contributions, including the definitions of the core crimes. However, the final jurisdictional framework contained elements that were problematic for the United States, most notably the ability to press charges against the nationals of non-party states. During the administration of President George W. Bush and as the Court came closer to becoming operational (the Rome Statute ultimately entered into force on July 1, 2002), the United States took a number of steps to distance and insulate itself from the Court. This included Congress' enactment of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002 (ASPA) and related statutory restrictions on support for the Court. Eventually, however, a focus on delegitimizing the Court gave way in the second term of the Bush Administration to a more nuanced approach toward the Court. A watershed moment came with rising concerns over the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, which ultimately led the United States to acquiesce to the Security Council referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC Prosecutor. Over time, the United States indicated a growing openness to supporting specific activities of the ICC when it considered them to be consistent with U.S. interests, including the punishment of individuals accused of committing the worst international crimes.</p> <p>In many respects, the Executive Branch has been in the lead in implementing U.S. policy</p>

	<p>toward the Court. However, Congress has not been silent in this regard and has often weighed in, at times to reinforce the approach of executive agencies and at times in opposition to them. In the past, congressional resolutions have called for the provision of U.S. support for the Court, including the referral of matters involving the commission of international crimes to the prosecutor. At the same time, there are pieces of legislation that significantly restrict U.S. involvement with the Court, although many of these provisions have been repealed overtime. The hope with this project is to have a better understanding of what types of events shape congressional attitudes and how those attitudes potentially inform the executive branch.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The final product would be a searchable database of statements in the record; a graph and timeline tracking the evolution of congressional views as against key events involving international justice; and an analytical product identifying any key trends or conclusions. Particular attention could be paid to where Congress' views are in line with those of the executive branch and where they diverged. Ideally, the database would be such that it could be supplemented with additional data in the future.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	<p>Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Democracy & Human Rights, Human Rights, International Law, Statistics</p>
Additional Information	<p>The Office of Global Criminal Justice advises the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights on issues related to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. In particular, the Office helps formulate U.S. policy on the prevention of, responses to, and accountability for mass atrocities. https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/office-of-global-criminal-justice/</p> <p>Congressional relations - especially maintaining bi-partisan support for the work of the Office - is vitally important to the Office's ability to carry out its mission. This project will assist the Office in accomplishing this aspect of its work.</p> <p>This project may take more than 4 months to complete, depending on the resources dedicated to the project.</p>

Title	DipLab2209924
Project Name	Between Academic Freedom and Autocratic Funding: Confucius Institutes at German Universities
Office	Public Diplomacy
Embassy	Germany
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>In light of the historic Zeitenwende announced by German chancellor Olaf Scholz in the Spring of 2022, German leaders are coming to terms with the fact that partnerships with autocratic regimes are carrying with plenty of strings attached. This is not only true for Russian fossil fuels, but also for Germany’s entanglement with China, which encompasses ever deepening economic and cultural ties. Despite these ties, the PRC’s systematic oppression of the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang, its coziness with the Putin regime, and its show of force in the Taiwan strait in the summer 2022, are testament to global ambitions in defiance of Western values.</p> <p>One piece in China’s global soft power projection are Confucius institutes – prima facie neutral, cultural institutions in the mold of Germany’s Goethe Institute or Spain’s Instituto Cervantes. These PRC-funded institutions are embedded in universities worldwide, 19 of which are located in Germany. They have attracted increasing amounts of controversy and scrutiny in recent years as their mission of contributing to a positive external presentation of China continues to be at odds with the norm of academic freedom. Event cancellations and sanctions of prominent China experts have substantiated concerns that these institutes serve as a conduit for exporting censorship beyond the PRC’s borders. The economic dependence on Chinese funding is also exerting substantial pressure on the sinology community, with many of its members opting not to sign a letter in support of sanctioned China experts.</p> <p>The U.S. Embassy Berlin’s Public Diplomacy Section is interested in an assessment of the Institutes’ footing in Germany, which could be organized by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the overall profile and reach of these institutes? - What are their modi operandi? Are there different types that pursue differing strategies? - What is the state of public discourse and political debates and processes on this issue? - What are recommendations for Public Diplomacy outreach relating to these centers and the PRC’s global soft power initiative in general?
Final Product Format	We defer to instructors/students to select an appropriate format. We will accept both in-depth research papers, presentations, typologies of Confucius institute patterns of action, synopses of current debates and controversies surrounding the institutes, and hands-on recommendations for countering Chinese malign influence in academia through public diplomacy initiatives.
Discipline/Expertise	Sociology, Education & Cultural Studies
Additional Information	https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/10/28/germany-china-censorship-universities-confucius-institute/

<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-how-does-it-deal-with-chinese-censorship/a-59653971>

Title	DipLab2209923
Project Name	Foreign Service Domain Specific Corpus for Language Curriculum Development
Office	School of Language Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	<p><u>The Challenge</u></p> <p>The Foreign Service Institute's School of Language Studies is seeking partners who would be interested in working on a word frequency list challenge. We are open to suggestions of new and innovative ways to identify high frequency Foreign Service domain-specific words, lemmatize lists, and locate and profile texts for our learners.</p> <p><u>Overview</u></p> <p>The Foreign Service Institute uses word frequency lists to support the creation of job-relevant instructional materials. Curriculum developers need reliable word frequency lists which have been lemmatized, and, for which word families have been created. To complement lists of the most frequent words in a language, we are seeking lists of well-chosen mid- and low-frequency FS domain specific words to help prepare students well to carry out their jobs. The corpora underlying the word list should be large enough for words to appear a minimum of 50 times and should comprise texts which reflect the Foreign Service domain (types of genres and topic areas met frequently while performing various types of diplomatic work; we will provide guidance). The lists will also enable instructors as they guide learners in choosing texts that are relevant.</p> <p>Currently, the School of Language Studies uses the open-source AntWordProfiler to profile texts, check for spacing of repetition of words, and evaluate the probability that students know enough of the words in the texts to be able to read them.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The FSI/SLS team will work to help define the final format of the project. Products could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Service domain-specific lemmatized frequency lists in English • Semantically-tagged corpora
Discipline/Expertise	Education & Cultural Studies
Additional Information	<p>Discipline/expertise or interest not in drop-down menu: Second Language Acquisition; Computational Linguistics; 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	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	DipLab2209921
Project Name	Assessing the UAE's Efforts to Combat Climate Change
Office	U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi - Economic Section
Embassy	United Arab Emirates
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The United Arab Emirates, one of the world's leading oil producers, is eager to take a leadership role in the global energy transition to fight climate change. Leading up to the UNFCCC COP 28 conference, to be held in the UAE in November 2023, the climate officer at the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi is seeking to work with U.S. university teams to assess the UAE's actions.</p> <p>The project will entail a data analysis and presentation of: 1) The UAE's efforts to decarbonize its energy sector, and to implement renewable energy in other countries. 2) The UAE's overall climate footprint, including carbon and carbon-equivalent emissions. 3) Analysis of potential courses of action and their likely impact.</p> <p>The goal is to have an objective quantitative analysis of the UAE's ambitious climate plans in order to inform U.S. policy engagements. Ideally, a team will have strong skills in research, data analysis, and data visualization, to help us effectively tell the story of UAE climate action to a variety of internal and external audiences.</p>
Final Product Format	Data analysis and presentation including compelling charts and visuals.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Energy Security, Water Security, Middle East/North African Studies
Additional Information	<p>Useful reading: Link to the UAE's second Nationally Determined Contribution: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20Arab%20Emirates%20Second/UAE%20Second%20NDC%20-%20UNFCCC%20Submission%20-%20English%20-%20FINAL.pdf</p>

Title	DipLab2209920
Project Name	The Baltics and China in a 14+1 World
Office	Political/Economic Section
Embassy	Lithuania
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	This project would analyze economic relations between China and the three Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia), considering how increased bilateral tension impacts economic relations. The project would analyze the quantitative impact of PRC economic retaliation on Baltic economies following Lithuania's 2021 departure from the 17+1 (a PRC-led cooperation framework for engagement with central and eastern European countries) mechanism and opening of a Taiwanese trade representative office, including an analysis of the most-affected sectors and overall trade impacts. Using this and other historical examples, such as the PRC banning Estonian dairy products following the Dalai Lama's 2011 visit to Estonia and when Norway awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese human rights activist, Liu Xiaobo, this project will explore how PRC economic retaliation has impacted these countries. Using available data, this project will analyze the risks and potential impacts of PRC retaliation in response to Latvia's and Estonia's August 2022 departure from the 16+1.
Final Product Format	Presentation with economic/trade data analysis
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	https://data.stat.ee/profile/partner/cn/?locale=en https://osp.stat.gov.lt/uzsienio-prekyba1 https://eksports.csb.gov.lv/en/months/countries-selected/export/2022M06/TOTAL/CN

Title	DipLab2209919
Project Name	Supporting Indigenous Rights: The Australian Alliance in Action
Office	U.S. Consulate General Melbourne - Political/Economic
Embassy	Australia
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The United States and Australia share a rich First Nations cultural heritage, but also share a history of subjugation, dispossession, and poor life outcomes for Indigenous peoples. Work is now underway in Australian states and territories to progress truth telling processes for community healing, with a plan to move toward formal treaties to improve inclusion and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Similar healing and reconciliation processes are underway in some U.S. states and localities. State and federal governments in Australia are eager to learn from processes underway in the United States and vice versa.</p> <p>This project would examine work underway to progress treaties, truth-telling processes, and other First Nations empowerment initiatives in the United States, creating a snapshot of government work at the federal, state, and local level to share with interlocutors in Australia of potential lessons learnt. The researcher would identify First Nations and government leaders in U.S. reconciliation processes as potential points of contact.</p> <p>This information will enable U.S. Consulate General Melbourne to build better relationships with First Nations representatives in Australia and assist First Nations people in both the United States and Australia to build ties and learn from each other. This work will support important political, economic, and cultural diplomacy outcomes for Mission Australia.</p>
Final Product Format	A report of no more than 15 pages summarizing activities underway to recognize and progress reconciliation between governments and First Nations people in the United States. Each project/activity should include a short description, points of contact, and be disaggregated between federal, state, and local levels. Where possible, the researcher(s) should provide a short analysis of each project, summarizing its projected outcomes, maturity, and level of community support.
Discipline/Expertise	Education & Cultural Studies, Human Rights, Democracy & Human Rights, East Asian/Pacific Studies
Additional Information	U.S. Consulate General Melbourne covers the Australian states of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory. All these states and territories are at various stages of progressing Treaty negotiations. The Australian government has also recently announced an upcoming referendum for a change to the Australian constitution to enshrine an "Indigenous Voice" to the Australian federal parliament. The Political/Economic section interfaces regularly with First Nations people to support their economic growth and empowerment, and with various political interlocutors to discuss how improved Indigenous representation may interplay with Australian politics - particularly as discussions have included dedicated seats in state parliaments and possible reparations.

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	DipLab2209917
Project Name	AWE(some) Data Deep Dive in Africa on Women's Entrepreneurship
Office	Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, Alumni Affairs Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Educational and Cultural Affairs
Project Description	<p>How do female entrepreneurs use small grants to scale their business and make a social impact?</p> <p>The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is a U.S. government women's empowerment initiative to give women the knowledge, networks, and access to launch or scale a business. Formally launched in 2019, AWE aligns with the U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality and benefitted more than 16,000 alumnae in nearly 100 countries. A 2021 evaluation completed by the Department's Monitoring Evaluation Learning and Innovation unit (MELI) with alumnae from 2019 cohorts showed AWE alumnae success in both bottom-line stats (e.g., new employees hired, increased profits) and personal empowerment (higher confidence levels, increased knowledge base).</p> <p>The AWE team wants to build upon MELI's evaluation to chart business growth, network building, and other milestones in specific countries in sub-Saharan Africa among women who benefitted from a partnership with the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) that gave them grant money to scale their businesses and make a social impact. The research could also discover hurdles or barriers women face and recommend potential additions or follow-on engagement with alumnae based on the results. We hope to work with several DipLab teams, where each DipLab team would work on one country to conduct virtual focus group and one-on-one interviews with alumnae to gather the information. Students will have MELI's evaluation data collection instruments as an example to follow and will work with members of the AWE team and, potentially, others in the Alumni Affairs Office to design the research and results presentation formats. The Alumni Affairs Office will supply contact lists for AWE alumnae.</p> <p>The project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Evaluation Report of at least five and up to 20 pages to include methodology explanation, graphs and charts of survey responses, findings and conclusions (i.e., analysis of results), and recommendations.</p> <p>Graphic evaluation of up to two pages featuring key results, graphs, individual stories, illustrative photos and quotes (if team skills allow)</p> <p><i>One Pager</i> summary of results, including visuals, designed for quick and easy reading by the general public</p> <p>Up to 10 PPT slides distilling the information in an easy-to-read presentation-style format</p>

	One-hour presentation to the Office of Alumni Affairs at the conclusion of this project
Discipline/Expertise	Statistics, Marketing, Gender Studies, African Studies, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	<p>Ideal students for this project are those who love researching and working with quantitative data, qualitative data, and data visualization, such as: monitoring and evaluation, statistics, econometrics, or data science, and who also want to learn more about economic empowerment and if and how entrepreneurship and small grants can transform communities.</p> <p>Graphic design and French language skills on the team desirable but not required. The project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team.</p> <p>https://eca.state.gov/awe/about-awe https://eca.state.gov/awe/evaluation</p>

Title	DipLab2209916
Project Name	Children's Issues and Welfare - Safely Resuming Intercountry Adoption in Countries Emerging from Crisis
Office	Office of Children's Issues
Embassy	
Bureau	Consular Affairs
Project Description	<p>American families welcome more children into their homes through intercountry adoption than any other country in the world. During times of crisis, whether in Haiti, Afghanistan, or Ukraine, it can be exceptionally difficult for intercountry adoptions to continue in a way that meets international norms and safeguards that protect children and families, particularly when civil authority breaks down. The Office of Children's Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs is looking for a dynamic team of students to help us research how countries of origin can overcome conflict or natural disaster to allow the safe and ethical resumption of intercountry adoption.</p> <p>The Department of State affirms the internationally recognized position that intercountry adoption should pause in countries in crisis. This begs the question, when is it safe and ethical to resume intercountry adoption? We don't want intercountry adoption to be permanently closed in these countries, but we also don't want to risk restarting intercountry adoption too soon post-crisis. What standards or threshold should a country meet to safely re-open intercountry adoption? This research could inform the Department's foreign policy related to children's issues and intercountry adoption in countries emerging from crisis.</p>
Final Product Format	Presentation
Discipline/Expertise	Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Civil Society, Human Rights, International Law, Youth Issues"]
Additional Information	<p>Adoption.state.gov</p> <p>Department of State Annual Reports on Intercountry Adoption: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt_ref/AnnualReports.html</p> <p>Ukraine - Statement by Department of State's Special Advisor for Children's Issues https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/Intercountry-Adoption-News/ukraine--statement-by-department-of-state-s-special-advisor-for.html</p> <p>Hague Adoption Convention https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/intercountry-adoption</p> <p>UNICEF https://www.unicef.org/media/intercountry-adoption</p>

Title	DipLab2209915
Project Name	Responsible Humanitarianism: Assessing the Impact of Accountability to Affected Persons Efforts on Humanitarian Program Effectiveness and Efficiency
Office	Office of Policy and Resource Planning
Embassy	
Bureau	Population, Refugees, and Migration
Project Description	<p>The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is the humanitarian bureau of the State Department whose mission is to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world by coordinating humanitarian policy and diplomacy, providing life-sustaining assistance, working with multilateral organizations to build global partnerships, and promoting best practices in humanitarian response.</p> <p>The Bureau aims to integrate humanitarian principles into U.S. foreign and national security policy. The Bureau has made it a priority to demonstrate accountability to affected persons (AAP) in all its funded programs. AAP, or giving constituents of humanitarian assistance influence in decision-making over aid programming in a way that accounts for their diversity and allows the views of the most at-risk to be equally considered, is increasingly considered a best practice. Major government donors, international organizations, and NGOs through the 2016 <i>Grand Bargain</i> on humanitarian reform committed to making humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary by recognizing and better supporting the role of local and national based humanitarian actors (<i>localization</i>). Since 2014, PRM has required evidence of a commitment to AAP and an organizational framework for implementing that commitment before it will fund proposals from NGO partners.</p> <p>However, while there is widespread agreement that empowering individuals and communities affected by crises and giving them agency in their own lives is the right thing to do, the empirical evidence that this leads to more effective and cost-efficient humanitarian programming is limited. Based on targeted samples of publicly available humanitarian program reporting and program evaluations, we seek to answer the question, how can we best measure the effects of AAP programming on humanitarian program effectiveness and efficiency?</p> <p>This could include an examination of whether effectively implemented AAP correlates with specific, tangible, observable outcomes in one or more humanitarian areas of work, e.g., protection, health, shelter, livelihoods.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page research paper and oral presentation of final results to interested PRM staff. Research could include qualitative literature review and/or quantitative case studies.
Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society, International Development
Additional Information	<p>There has been extensive reporting and research on AAP in recent years. Below is a representative sample of humanitarian and research organizations that have explored the topic. However, we encourage interested students to also seek out and use their own data sources.</p> <p>U.S. Department of State AAP page: https://www.state.gov/other-policy-</p>

issues/accountability-to-affected-populations/
UN Interagency Standing Committee: <https://aap-inclusion-psea.alnap.org/>
ODI Humanitarian Policy Group: <https://odi.org/en/about/our-work/humanitarian-policy-group/>
Center for Strategic and International Studies Humanitarian Agenda:
<https://www.csis.org/programs/humanitarian-agenda>
Center for Global Development: <https://www.cgdev.org/section/publications>
CHS Alliance: <https://www.chsalliance.org/>
CDAC Network: <https://www.cdacnetwork.org/case-studies>
The New Humanitarian (news service): <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/>
Ground Truth Solutions: <https://groundtruthsolutions.org>

Title	DipLab2209914
Project Name	Championing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Azerbaijan
Office	Embassy Baku
Embassy	Azerbaijan
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>Championing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Azerbaijan - U.S. Embassy Baku is seeking ways to foster an environment where all employees feel valued, included, supported, and empowered to do their best work and contribute to the success of the mission and advance these same values more widely in Azerbaijan.</p> <p>How can U.S. Embassy Baku create a <i>culture of diversity and inclusion</i>? What can we learn from the best practices of the most progressive American companies? How can we champion diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility both inside the Embassy and in Azerbaijan more widely?</p>
Final Product Format	A PowerPoint presentation to be presented virtually to Embassy leadership.
Discipline/Expertise	Gender Studies, Human Rights
Additional Information	Please email DipLab coordinator for a copy of the Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce - The White House

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	DipLab2209911
Project Name	Catalyzing the Serbian-American Diaspora Community to Improve Serbian-American Relations
Office	Public Diplomacy
Embassy	Serbia
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Embassy Belgrade seeks a Diplomacy Lab team to research and gather data to help us better understand and engage with Serbian diaspora communities in the U.S. The project would include in-depth research to determine the location, demographics, and interests of Serbian diaspora communities with a special emphasis on non-governmental associations, organizations, clubs, and/or professional networks that link members of this community in U.S. With a better understanding of the structure and ecosystem of the Serbian diaspora community, Embassy Belgrade also seeks the team’s analysis and recommendations on what sectors may be most viable for cooperation and which organizations, influencers, networks may be most useful for engagement.</p> <p><u>Key research and analysis questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are the key Serbian diaspora communities in the U.S.? • What are the key Serbian diaspora non-governmental associations, organizations, clubs, and/or professional networks? • What prominent Serbian-Americans are potential influencers for this community? • What is the cultural, education, social, political, and economic impact of the Serbian American community on Serbia? • What opportunities may exist for outreach and collaboration? • How can this community be engaged to expand academic and cultural exchange and cooperation as well as investment or economic ties between Serbia and the U.S.?
Final Product Format	An ideal deliverable would be a written summary of findings on the research questions accompanied by the team's recommendations for engagement. The team would also be invited to brief key members of the embassy's senior staff via video call.
Discipline/Expertise	Anthropology, Civil Society, European & Eurasian Studies, Public-Private Partnerships, Sociology, Youth Issues
Additional Information	There is a large Serbian-American community in the U.S. estimated at approximately 700,000, including sizeable numbers in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, and elsewhere.

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	DipLab2209901
Project Name	The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Low-Income Communities in Urban Brazil: Challenges and Solutions
Office	Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Section
Embassy	Brazil
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>Reflecting persistent racial and income inequality in Brazil, the climate crisis disproportionately affects low-income, marginalized communities, particularly across the largest cities. At the same time, these same “peripheral” communities (known as favelas, quebradas, or comunidades) are sites of innovative solutions. This project focuses on how vulnerable urban communities adapt and mitigate climate risks. What are examples of successful climate innovations within these communities, as developed by federal and sub-national governments (city, state); civil society organizations; private sector; and academic institutions? To magnify its real-world impact and application to the U.S. Department of State goals, this project recommends case studies (and/or comparisons) drawn from the five cities where the U.S. Mission Brazil has a physical presence, namely: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro; Brasilia; Recife; and Porto Alegre.</p> <p>With the support the ESTH (environment, science, technology, and health) section at U.S. Embassy Brasilia, this Diplomacy Lab intends to: 1) identify the unique impact(s) of climate crisis in low-income communities, as well as the intersection of climate crisis with water, food, energy, jobs, and migration; 2) demonstrate how these Brazilian communities offer valuable examples of innovation, creativity, and hope to address climate crisis, which may be adapted to other within and outside the Brazilian context; and 3) underscore the critical role of multi-sectoral, multi-scalar partnerships to simultaneously address the climate crisis and racial inequality.</p>
Final Product Format	Presentation and research paper
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Western Hemisphere Studies, Global Health, Human Rights, Water Security, Economic & Finance Issues, Energy Security, Food Security, Civil Society, Oceans
Additional Information	<p>Countering the climate crisis and promoting racial equity for historically under-represented communities are topline U.S. foreign policy priorities.</p> <p>This project deliberately advances these two objectives and will, accordingly, have heightened visibility.</p>

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	DipLab2209133
Project Name	The Impact of the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act on Global Clean Energy Supply Chains
Office	Front Office
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	<p>President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) (H.R. 5376) on August 16, 2022. The climate and clean energy provisions in the law, together with other actions planned or underway, position the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution (NDC) and long-term strategy under the Paris Agreement. With a \$369 billion investment spanning multiple government agencies, the IRA contains the biggest investment in U.S. history to curb emissions, promote clean energy technologies, advance environmental justice, bolster climate adaptation efforts, and enhance the conservation of forests and farmlands.</p> <p>The IRA also sets new requirements for domestic sourcing and manufacturing tax incentives designed to re-shore clean energy supply chains that may be at odds with international trade law. For some clean energy technologies to receive tax incentives, certain conditions must be met regarding the percentage of the technology manufactured in the United States or in country with whom the United States has a free trade agreement. These clauses present a double-edged sword to foreign partners whose exports to the United States may now be ineligible for tax credits given where they are manufactured. South Korea and Germany, major electric vehicle (EV) exporters to the United States, have publicly criticized the IRA’s domestic content requirements for EVs, calling the Act’s provisions “discriminatory” and in violation of World Trade Organization conditions. China also dominates the critical mineral and metal mining and processing chains that are essential to wind turbines, solar panels, and EVs. Under the IRA, mineral inputs processed in a “country of concern” would not be eligible to receive certain tax credits and diversifying away from such established supply chains will take several years and millions of dollars’ worth of investment.</p> <p>This project proposal asks students to assess the potential trade implications of the IRA and how geographical manufacturing requirements for clean energy technologies under the IRA might adversely impact the United States’ ability to accelerate domestic clean energy deployment within the next 3-5 years. Students will develop a suite of policy recommendations that simultaneously address the following U.S. diplomatic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accelerate the deployment of clean energy technology at home in accordance with the geographical and content sourcing requirements stipulated in the IRA. - Expand global clean energy supply chains that avoid countries that pose economic and/or national security risks to the United States and are sufficient to meet global demand for clean and renewable technology in alignment with Paris Climate Agreement clean energy targets. - Strengthen trade relationships with foreign partners who play key roles in the energy transition, either as major demand centers or major supplier of energy technologies.

Final Product Format	<p>A briefing presentation, to be delivered by the students, that summarizes the students' research methods, the data used and conclusions drawn in the analysis, policy recommendations, and risks and opportunities for each recommendation.</p> <p>1) A briefing presentation, to be delivered by the students, that summarizes the students' research methods, the data used and conclusions drawn in the analysis, policy recommendations, and risks and opportunities for each recommendation.</p> <p>2) A 5-10 page policy options memo that details policy recommendations, main U.S. and foreign stakeholders, and a timeline for policy implementation.</p> <p>3) A set of talking points that U.S. officials can use with foreign partners, industry stakeholders, and public events that promotes the recommended strategy, garners international support, and brings greater public attention to the issue.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	Energy Security, International Law, Science and Technology, Economic & Finance Issues, Climate Change
Additional Information	<p>The State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) engages with staff at U.S. embassies around the world advance bilateral, regional, and global energy diplomacy and energy security initiatives in support of U.S. foreign energy policy. ENR provides analysis and policy recommendations on priority global issues, such as: supporting partner countries' efforts to secure clean energy alternatives to fossil fuels; diversifying, strengthening, and expanding clean energy supply chains to mitigate dependence on China; improving energy access for growing economies; and supporting decarbonization efforts through sustained diplomatic engagement.</p> <p>Given the fundamental shift to clean energy advanced by this law in the world's largest economy, the IRA is intended to accelerate the adoption of clean energy and its enabling technologies into the global economy. The IRA also presents potential opportunities for foreign direct investment into the U.S. clean energy economy to further advance the U.S. clean energy supply chains and help business investors thrive in this growing market.</p> <p>But it has also attracted criticism from some partners claiming the tax incentives for the electric EV market are protectionist because they only apply to vehicles for which final assembly takes place in North America. The tax incentives are also limited by battery mineral and component content requirements for EVs and other domestic content requirements for solar, wind, hydrogen, and other power sector related technologies. Encouraging international companies to invest in U.S.-based manufacturing may continue to be a challenge given China's established dominance over the supply of renewable energy components and final goods. This project will require students to assess the current state of global clean energy supply chains, the challenges with diversifying away from established manufacturing hubs, and opportunities to attract foreign companies to the U.S. market based on new incentives outlined in the IRA.</p>

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	We expect this to be a six-month project for the partnering higher-education institution. Based on preliminary research, this project may need to utilize a literature review

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

Title	DipLab2209131
Project Name	Evaluating the Efficacy of UN Security Council Arms Embargoes
Office	Office of Sanctions and Counterterrorism
Embassy	
Bureau	International Organization Affairs
Project Description	<p>Today, there are 14 ongoing UN Security Council sanctions regimes that focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and counterterrorism. Eleven of these sanctions regimes require Member States to prevent or restrict supply, sale or transfer of arms, related materiel of all types, and technical assistance to territories subject to arms embargo measures. Arms embargoes remain a strategic pillar of the international community's efforts to maintain or restore international peace and security, applied as part of a comprehensive strategy encompassing peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and peacemaking. They do not always work as intended, however. Enforcement of sanctions depends on the willingness and capacity of individual countries to follow through on their commitments under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Member States often openly violate arms embargoes measures, thereby reducing their effectiveness. A successful project would evaluate the efficacy of UN arms embargo measures across several sanctions regimes and provide recommendations to improve implementation and address capacity gaps. Qualitative and quantitative research methodologies could be used to examine implementation (with particular focus on regional Member States) and assess the degree to which arms embargoes have achieved the goal of controlling the flow of weapons into conflict zones. The findings from this study will help policymakers at the Department of State make informed, data-driven decisions on one of the most critical tools to advance peace and security in the world today.</p>
Final Product Format	Preferably this project would result in a longer analytical research paper, with accompanying data placed in an annex.
Discipline/Expertise	International Law, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Economic Sanctions, Political/Military Affairs
Additional Information	<p>State Department Bureau of International Organization Affairs: https://www.state.gov/p/io/ UN Security Council Sanctions Regimes: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information</p> <p>This could be an ongoing project given the large number of sanctions regimes with arms embargo measures. The study could begin by studying 2 or 3 countries, and expand to more in the future.</p>

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2202709
Project Name	How to Attract the Best Lawyers to Pursue a Judicial Career
Office	Political Economic Section
Embassy	Macedonia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Democracy Lab Project Proposal: How to Attract the Best Lawyers to Pursue Judicial Careers? Summary: The university students would focus their project research on polling three state and two private universities' law students about their interest level in pursuing public service careers, especially as judges and prosecutors. They would investigate what factors law students consider most important as they decide to pursue careers in public service, in private practice, or in other fields. The students could also engage faculty and a select group of government and justice sector officials to solicit ideas for how to engage diverse groups of law students and instill ideas that would help generate greater interest in serving the public as judges and/or prosecutors.</p> <p>Background: North Macedonia has seen a decline in top law graduates' interest in pursuing careers as judges and prosecutors. According to contacts—judges, management at the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, private attorneys, and academics—the factors driving graduates away from public service include: political and business sector interference with the judiciary; a demanding and lengthy application process for the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors; a theoretical rather than practical focus in the curricula; uncompetitive salaries; overburdened dockets and generally poor working conditions; politically driven promotions; and insufficient legal protection against quick dismissals. (Note: North Macedonia trains future judges and prosecutors exclusively through the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors.) Without a sustainable strategy to attract top young legal minds to careers in the judiciary, North Macedonia continues to lose opportunities to strengthen its justice sector and improve adherence to the rule of law. Citizens' distrust of the judiciary and other critical institutions, in turn negatively impacts the country's democratic and economic prospects. It is in the United States' strategic interest to help North Macedonia, as NATO's newest Ally and longtime strategic partner, to strengthen the rule of law to fight corruption, protect human rights, ensure equal access to justice, and promote economic prosperity.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page research paper - but we are open to data analysis as well, we are looking for an analysis of the problem and suggested solutions.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations; International Law
Additional Information	None

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2132272
Project Name	Mapping Biotechnology Policy with Climate Change Commitments, Emissions, and Impacts
Office	Office of Agriculture Policy
Embassy	None
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	<p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, agriculture accounts for 12 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions — before taking other environmental factors such as land use, energy, or waste into account. U.S. agriculture accounts for roughly 10 percent of U.S. GHG emissions while the agriculture sectors in China, India, and Brazil contribute approximately 18, 20, and 25 percent of their total GHG emissions, respectively. Bottom line: the agriculture sector has significant untapped potential to contribute to climate change mitigation globally and is a priority for adaptation in many countries. Specifically, agricultural biotechnology can provide tools for sustainable intensification of agriculture. For example, genome editing is being used to produce plants with larger and deeper roots that can capture and store extra carbon in the soil, use nitrogen more efficiently, or tolerate drought conditions better — all while boosting yields and smallholder farmer incomes. Global acceptance of agricultural biotechnology, however, remains lower than it should be due to regulatory hurdles that stem from misinformation and protectionist trade actions. When combined with other improved practices, biotechnology can often supercharge our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Office of Agriculture Policy seeks teams of students to select a region of the world in which to analyze biotechnology policies in the context of climate change commitments, GHG emissions, and/or impacts. The analysis may be composed of background on the region’s agricultural sector and climate change vulnerability, agricultural biotechnology- and climate-related policies or programs, and an assessment of how the countries in the region are developing or could improve synergies between biotechnology adoption and climate change mitigation/adaption in the agricultural sector. Teams should pay special attention to practices and policies that impact women, indigenous peoples, and smallholder farmers, as they are often the most adversely affected by climate change, food insecurity, and policy barriers. A list of countries and policies/indicators to be used should be mutually decided by the professor and the Office of Agricultural Policy.</p>
Final Product Format	The final product will include a 10–15-minute group presentation, a regional map or other visual infographic, and a 5–10-page report. The project sponsor would like to hear the final presentations through video conferencing.
Discipline/Expertise	African Studies; East Asian/Pacific Studies; Economic & Finance Issues; European & Eurasian Studies; Food Security; Gender Studies; International Development; International Law; International Relations; Middle East/North African Studies; Public-Private Partnerships; Science and Technology; South/Central Asian Studies; Climate Change; Communications
Additional Information	We look forward to working with teams throughout the process of developing and implementing projects that are interesting and impactful for the students, as well as useful and relevant for the Office of Agriculture Policy.

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

Title	DipLab2027325
Project Name	Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage
Embassy	None
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Department of State’s (DOS) Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) oversees approximately 20,000 properties abroad of which approximately 200 have been identified on the OBO List of Significant Properties as culturally, historically, and architecturally significant properties and archaeological resources. The OBO List of Significant Properties is the official list of the Department of State’s historic properties worthy of preservation as symbols of the national cultural diplomacy abroad. The OBO List of Significant Properties is part of a program administered by the Office of Cultural Heritage to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect Americas cultural heritage property overseas in accordance with Section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Eligibility for inclusion on the list follows guidelines established by the National Register of Historic Places for domestic properties, as well as automatically including UNESCO World Heritage Sites and properties designated by host governments.</p> <p>The Secretary of State’s Register of Culturally Significant Property was founded in 2000 as a White House Millennium Project. Inclusion on the Secretary’s Register is an honorific listing and elevates properties from the OBO List of Significant Properties to a higher level similar to the National Historic Landmark program domestically. There are currently thirty-seven properties on the Secretary of State’s Register of Culturally Significant Property. One property, the Tangier Legation, is the only US National Historic Landmark located outside of the United States.</p> <p>The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals studying ways to improve resistance to the effects of blasts on buildings constructed of traditional methods and materials by studying one or more of the buildings included on the Secretary of State’s Register of Culturally Significant Properties. Structures range in age from the late 15th Century to the mid-20th Century and are constructed of wood, unreinforced masonry, and earthen/adobe. Windows are wood and metal, and roofs are clay tile, metal, slate and shingle.</p> <p>This is an unclassified project and proposals should be based on publicly available information regarding general delivery capabilities in pounds of TNT and the amount of atmospheric overpressure at 30 feet and 100 feet for a panel van and box truck. Proposals should look at how to harden a structure and follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties without completely dismantling a building down and reconstructing it. The scope of the study may also</p>

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