Spring 2024 Project Menu

Contents

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

Title	DipLab2331513
Project Name	**Moon Dust and the Impending Global Economic Collapse**
Office	SAIT/Space Affairs
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute/ Oceans, Environment and International Science Affairs
Project Description	How will differing interpretations of the international legal requirements and developing best practices inform the utilization of space resources on the Moon and other celestial bodies?
Final Product Format	20-40 Page Research Paper
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Geology, Engineering, Law
Additional Information	The United States and People's Republic of China are likely the next two states to send people to the Moon and seek to use lunar resources in-situ. Both states have ratified the same relevant international law but may have differing and conflicting interpretations of the legality and technical propriety of using water, regolith, unique locations, and other resources in their activities. Additional Guiding Questions: • What precedents have been, and are likely to be established, by the actions of these two states by 2040? • How will potentially breakthrough technologies and resources shape outcomes? Such as peaks of eternal light, natural cave systems, helium-3, etc. • How will the terrestrial activities of the United States and PRC affect their lunar activities and vice versa? • How will non-binding instruments, like the Artemis Accords, evolve to shape action and legal interpretations?

Title	DipLab2340701
Project Name	**Presenting the U.S. Economy to an Overseas Audience**
Office	Office of the Chief Economist
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	The U.S. economy is the largest in the world, with a GDP of $23.32 trillion in 2021 and extensive trade and investment linkages that span the globe. U.S. embassies and missions regularly receive questions about both the state of the U.S. economy and how changes in its trajectory may impact the global economy and individual countries around the world. The Office of the Chief Economist proposes partnering with a Diplomacy Lab institution to create an interactive data visualization dashboard to better equip U.S. diplomats with tools and information to quickly, clearly, and effectively describe and discuss the U.S. economy in engagements with their foreign counterparts. This project involves collecting data on the U.S. economy and thinking through the best way to display this information to Department of State employees in an easy-to-navigate, dynamic, and engaging format. The dashboard would make it easy for users to monitor basic indicators on key aspects of the U.S. economy, including interest rates, inflation, the housing market, banking, GDP (per capita), debt, unemployment, labor force participation, and trade. Along with presenting these indicators, the dashboard should provide broader context for understanding the importance of each indicator, which may include time trends, cross-country comparisons, and brief analyses and key points on "hot topics" related to the U.S. economy. Taking inflation as an example, the dashboard could display the U.S. inflation rate over both the recent- and longer-run time horizon (e.g., for the past 12 months and the past 15 years), along with an explanatory presentation of both what drives changes in inflation and what changing U.S. inflation may mean for the economy in the United States and worldwide (e.g., pointing to potential future monetary policy changes by the U.S. Federal Reserve and how those policy changes would likely impact the value of the dollar, thus the cost of imported commodities and servicing dollar-denominated debt). The dashboard should also incorporate (and/or generate) graphs, key talking points, and links to further resources for Department employees to learn about and talk to others about the state of the U.S. economy. Main tasks include evaluating which key economic indicators to include in the dashboard, gathering necessary data and nesting it within informative context, explaining the data using clear and concise language, and developing a proof of concept for the dashboard that presents the information in a user-friendly way, along with a schedule and mechanism to update/refresh data (e.g., via an API).
Final Product Format	An ideal deliverable would include: A proof of concept for a U.S. economy dashboard (web development preferred) that displays all the requested economic information in a clear format and can be easily updated with new data and resources. A written description of methodology used and key takeaways from the project.

Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	Office Description; About Us - Office of the Chief Economist - United States Department of State Preliminary Research/Reading Materials; BEA Data | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators Countries | Data (worldbank.org) United States and the IMF National Economic Education Delegation We anticipate this project will take one semester.

Title	DipLab2392601
Project Name	**Southeast Asia's Vulnerability to PRC Economic Coercion**
Office	Embassy Kuala Lumpur Economic Section
Embassy	Malaysia
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	The PRC's multipronged economic coercion strategy relies on the PRC's relative economic strength and its willingness and ability to turn off trade with a target country. Fearing such coercion episodes and eager for PRC trade and investment, countries in Southeast Asia seek to minimize public discussions of disputes with the PRC. But some disputes, such as maritime boundaries in the South China Seas, are important enough that they could spark tensions and lead to a backlash from the PRC. How vulnerable are Southeast Asian economies to PRC economic coercion? This project would create the first known assessment or index of vulnerability to PRC economic coercion. In the event of a PRC coercion attempt, which sectors or products are most likely to be targeted, which countries are most vulnerable, and what, if anything, could these countries do to reduce the impact of coercion? The research team will start by developing a conceptual framework for understanding vulnerability to economic coercion. Then researchers will examine Southeast Asian economies using data on production, trade, and investment, to understand which sectors, products, or services are most dependent on the PRC. Where does the PRC have a disproportionate advantage in trade, in particular vis-Ã -vis non-essential goods (i.e. PRC coercion attempts that targeted Australian wine and Norwegian salmon, but not energy or heavy industries)? What can these countries do to reduce the risk or the impact of coercion? This project will focus on Malaysia as an initial case and can expand to include Southeast Asia or the broader Indo-Pacific region.
Final Product Format	Dataset, report, slide deck, or other.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	Contact for more information.

Title	DipLab2392602
Project Name	**Gender and Climate in the MENA Region**
Office	Assistant Coordination
Bureau	Near Eastern Affairs
Project Description	Women are disproportionately impacted by climate change but underrepresented in climate decision-making in all sectors and at all levels, limiting the inclusion of their perspectives and therefore limiting outcomes for all of society. The Near Eastern Affairs (NEA) region is already witnessing impacts of rising average temperatures on drought, flooding, and heat stress. A region with a long and continuing history of political and social conflict, climate change is exacerbating the problems that NEA governments are trying to overcome. In the region, women and girls disproportionately experience the burdens of water and food insecurity, migration and displacement, and health impacts resulting from the climate crisis. NEA is focusing on three themes related to gender and climate change: Agriculture & Water Security, Migration, and Women's Health with case studies in various countries.

In an effort to provide best practices to the learning question, how can the Department's tools best address the climate crisis? and to better identify linkages between NEA's work and United States Strategy to Respond to the Effects of Climate Change on Women 2023 additional data and evaluation needs to take place. The findings and recommendation would be used for the upcoming COP28 in Abu Dhabi.

Evaluation Questions; This evaluation aims to understand the following;
1. What are the gender disparities in the economic and health sectors due to climate change in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region?
2. How does climate change effect women and girls in the MENA region when considering migration due to conflict?
3. Would women centered, and inclusive approaches better benefit the region? If so, what are the positive effects do women have on climate? |
| **Final Product Format** | A research paper that can be extrapolated into one-pager infographic data analysis for the various countries in the MENA region. |
| **Discipline/Expertise** | Climate Change, Gender Studies, Middle East/North African Studies, Statistics |
| **Additional Information** | Our Bureau website; http://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-political-affairs/bureau-of-near-eastern-affairs/
U.S. Strategy to Respond to the Effects of Climate Change on Women; https://www.state.gov/reports/united-states-strategy-to-respond-to-the-effects-of-climate-change-on-women-2023/ |

Title	DipLab2392603
Project Name	**Ascertaining Whether Enslaved Labor Contributed to the Construction of the Old Naval Observatory**
Office	Office of the Historian
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	The Office of the Historian (FSI/OH) occupies a historic campus in Washington, DC which includes the Old Naval Observatory, constructed in 1839-40. FSI/OH would like to engage up to two teams of student researchers to investigate the history of the Old Naval Observatory and determine if enslaved laborers contributed to the construction of the building. FSI/OH has already identified some records relevant to this research at the Library of Congress (the records of the Observatory), and the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland (records of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of the Navy). In addition, the records of the Observatory's first director, Matthew Maury, are available online via the Library of Congress. Additional records, such as historical newspapers or local records for the District of Columbia, may also be relevant.

Diplomacy Lab partner teams will need to conduct background research and consultations with archivists at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and any other relevant repositories to assess different record collections and then perform research. The Office of the Historian will facilitate these consultations. This project will require research to be performed in Washington, DC and College Park, Maryland. Pending internal approval processes, Department of State funding may be available to support a limited number of students to travel to the Washington area. As feasible in light of other Office priorities, FSI/OH staff will provide virtual and in-person mentorship to student researchers. After partner teams conduct their assigned research, they should collaborate on a report summarizing their findings and identifying the historical documentation that provides supporting evidence for their claims. This report should include copies of any documents that identify specific enslaved people who contributed to the construction of the Observatory. If appropriate based on project team findings, the report should also propose ways to educate the public about the construction of the building and the men and women who made that possible. |
| **Final Product Format** | Report of research findings supplemented with documentary collection; oral presentation briefing of research findings optional. |
| **Discipline/Expertise** | History, Human Rights |
| **Additional Information** | You can learn more about the Office of the Historian from our website; https://history.state.gov/

The Office of the Historian has identified these archival collections as potentially relevant to the project;
- U.S. Naval Observatory records at the Library of Congress; https://findingaids.loc.gov/db/search/xq/searchMferDsc04.xq?_id=loc.mss.eadmss.ms011184&_faSection=contentsList&_faSubsection=series&_dmdid=d18484e22&_start=1&_lines=125
- Department of the Treasury Accounting Officer records at the National Archives; |

https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/217

- Department of the Navy records at the National Archives; [need to consult with NARA to determine which of these Record Groups might actually be relevant; https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/80 and https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/181 and https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/428

- Matthew F. Maury papers at the Library of Congress; https://www.loc.gov/collections/matthew-fontaine-maury-papers/about-this-collection/

In addition, we have identified these resources as useful background and context for this project;

- Old Naval Observatory National Register nomination; https://catalog.archives.gov/id/117691851

- U.S. General Services Administration background on the Old Naval Observatory as a historic building; https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/historic-preservation/explore-historic-buildings/find-a-building/all-historic-buildings/potomac-annex-2-old-naval-observatory-washington-dc

- Proposal to DC local government for designation of Old Naval Observatory and surrounding buildings as a historical district; https://dpr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/publication/attachments/Proposed%20Old%20Naval%20Observatory%20Historic%20District.pdf

- Contemporary report to U.S. Senate on construction of observatory; https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/SERIALSET-00456_00_00-018-0114-0000/

- Account of the life of James M. Gilliss, the naval officer in charge of initial construction of the observatory: http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/gilliss-james.pdf

- Karp, Matthew. This Vast Southern Empire; Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy. Harvard University Press, 2016.

- Hardy, P.K., and H.M. Rozwadowski. Maury for Modern Times; Navigating a Racist Legacy in Ocean Science. Oceanography 33(3); 10&15 (2020), https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2020.302

Title	DipLab2392604
Project Name	**Help advise South Korean regional universities on how to more effectively attract U.S. study abroad students**
Office	U.S. Consulate Busan
Embassy	Korea
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	Study abroad is a transformative experience for students who go overseas, as well as for universities and communities where international students come to study. South Korea is a top 5 country for sending its students to the United States, but it does not rank near the top 10 as a study abroad destination for U.S. university students, despite attracting more than 200,000 students annually from Asia, Europe, Africa and other parts of the world, according to new Korean government data from 2022. Within South Korea, the top 10 universities with the highest international student enrollments are located within the city limits or in the province that immediately surrounds the country's capital city of Seoul. However, university presidents and local officials including mayors and governors in southeastern Korea, including Busan, Daegu, and the provinces of Gyeongsang North and Gyeongsang South, regularly ask the U.S. Consulate in Busan for advice and assistance on how to attract more U.S. exchange students to study abroad at leading public and private universities in Korea's major southeastern cities, which are located 150-250 miles away from Seoul. The U.S. Consulate in Busan would like to partner with U.S. professors and students to assess the needs and desires of U.S. students who plan to study abroad and identify the most important potential benefits or motivations for U.S. students to select South Korea rather than the UK, Italy, or some of the other top study abroad destinations that currently attract the vast majority of Americans. In addition, the Consulate hopes to work with the U.S. university partner to develop concrete recommendations or a roadmap for leading universities in southeastern Korea to more effectively attract and enroll higher numbers of U.S. students for both short term and longer-term study abroad programs.
Final Product Format	Consulate Busan is flexible on the format for the project deliverable, although it appears that either a 4-page options memo or an oral presentation with Q&A might represent the best fit. We hope to use the project deliverables to subsequently engage with local university presidents and mayors to propose actionable steps or recommendations on how best to try and attract and enroll higher numbers of American students in South Korean study abroad programs. Also, happy to share any outcomes or feedback with university team(s) after presenting the recommendations to our target audiences in southeastern Korea.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance Issues, Education & Cultural Studies, Geography, History, Marketing, Public-Private Partnerships, Science and Technology, Sociology, Statistics, Youth Issues, Communications
Additional Information	IIE's Open Doors Report is released annually and would likely serve as an excellent source of statistics and baseline information on U.S. study abroad and student exchange trends, both to learn more about international students coming to the United States, as

| | well as American students going overseas. The Government of Korea also compiles useful statistics and information that is widely available online, and media in both countries regular produce stories on this topic that can help provide additional context. U.S. Consulate Busan is prepared to actively work with professors and students on jointly identifying additional sources of information as necessary, including potentially trying to introduce primary sources or stakeholders like South Korean university officials in the target areas of southeastern Korea, if that would be helpful. |

Title	DipLab2392605
Project Name	**Assessing the Impact of Future ASEAN Accession on Timor-Leste's Economy, Future Political Stability, and Regional Influence**
Office	MTS
Embassy	Timor-Leste
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	Timor-Leste emerged as the youngest democracy in Southeast Asia in 2002 following 24-years of brutal Indonesian occupation that stunted the country's human capital development, stifled economic growth, and raised a myriad of other challenges. As Timor-Leste seeks to diversify and grow its economy and improve the livelihoods of its people, the country has prioritized gaining membership to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In 2022, the ASEAN granted Timor-Leste observer status --- 11 years after the country applied for membership --- and agreed to an accession roadmap in May 2023. Though the roadmap outlines a significant number of broad outstanding requirements for accession, Timorese leaders remain committed to pursuing full ASEAN membership and have requested assistance from partner countries in analyzing specific opportunities to focus on. This project will take a critical look at the challenges, obstacles, and opportunities for Timor-Leste as it heads down the path toward ASEAN membership. In addition, it will outline the potential impacts of actual membership on the country's overall economic outlook, especially in the context of Timor-Leste's dwindling sovereign wealth fund and continued lack of economic diversity. Moreover, it will also analyze the domestic and regional political implications of Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership. Finally, it could assess Timor-Leste's ASEAN aspirations in the context of the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy and identify relevant policy recommendations that advance U.S. foreign policy priorities in the region.
Final Product Format	Academic Research Paper, presentation to U.S. State Department and other USG Officials.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Political/Military Affairs, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	None at this time.

Title	DipLab2392606
Project Name	**Agrivoltaic Vineyards: Mitigating Climate Change, Developing Sustainable Energy Security, and Optimizing Land Use**
Office	U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs
Embassy	Jerusalem
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Studies on agrivoltaics indicate potential to increase crop yield, reduce over-exposure and heat stress, reduce water losses to evaporation, and alleviate competing land use demands while contributing to energy security and creating additional revenue streams for farmers and developers. This project would explore if there can be a symbiotic relationship for dual-use applications in grape farming and PV solar farms in climates like that of the West Bank. Additionally, the project would determine the optimal design for PV solar arrays for this climate to provide the most favorable balance between sunlight exposure to grape berries and PV solar panel efficiency and any limitations to increasing scale of the solar array due to variables like topography and altitude.
Final Product Format	This project would explore if there can be a symbiotic relationship for dual-use applications in grape farming and PV solar farms in climates like that of the West Bank. Additionally, the project would determine the optimal design for PV solar arrays for this climate to provide the most favorable balance between sunlight exposure to grape berries and PV solar panel efficiency and any limitations to increasing scale of the solar array due to variables like topography and altitude.
Discipline/Expertise	Energy Security, Food Security, Science and Technology, Climate Change
Additional Information	The West Bank receives approximately 1100 MW of electrical supply which consists of 80MW of electrical power generation in the West Bank from rooftop and microgrid PV solar installations, 80MW imported from Jordan, and 940MW imported from Israel. Electricity demand in the West Bank exceeds supply and is expected to double from current supply capacity by 2040. Suppressed electrical demand in the West Bank impedes economic growth. The West Bank receives about 3000 hours of sunshine with daily averages ranging from 6 hours in January and December to 13 hours in June and July. A lack of accessible, open areas suitable for developing utility-scale renewable energy installations also impedes growth in the renewable energy sector. In the Hebron governate, grape vineyards cover approximately 22,000 acres of land, produce roughly 27,000 tons of grapes annually, and are a source of income to roughly 7500 families. Grapes are sensitive to climate changes and surrounding environmental changes. In addition, high solar irradiation impacts grape quality and yield. Most grapes are sold for eating or made into by-products like jams, juice, raisins, dips, and a traditional local sweet wine. Some Palestinian wineries have emerged, producing dry wines like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc and there is potential for export of these varieties to the Israeli and/or global market. However, high solar irradiation in the region is a concern for the wine industry as it tends to produce grapes high in sugar and low in the acidity necessary for high-quality fermentation and production of dry wines. Farmers in the West Bank also face challenges of water shortages and extremely high summer temperatures which also effect quality and production.

Title	DipLab2392607
Project Name	**Identifying Data Sources Linking American Licit and Illicit Firearms Exports to Crime in Key Western Hemisphere Countries**
Office	Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (PPC)
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	The students should be available and willing to work with a host of US Government entities, including State (and its bureaus; Western Hemisphere Affairs [WHA]; International Narcotics and Law Enforcement [INL]; International Security and Non-proliferation [ISN]; Political-Military Affairs [PM]), the Departments of Commerce, Homeland Security (e.g. HSI and CBP) and Justice (e.g. ATF), and multinational organizations (e.g. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) and non-governmental organizations (e.g. Insight Crime) to identify data sources directly associated with licit and illicit firearms exported to crime in key Western Hemisphere countries (i.e. Mexico; Northern Central America; the Caribbean; and Brazil).
Final Product Format	Identify international/multinational sources of crime data and associating it to the export of licit and illicit American firearms into Latin America.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Narcotics & Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Additional Information	WHA/PPC will provide some key contacts to other US Government agencies and the Department of State for the students to work with.

Title	DipLab2392608
Project Name	**Baseline Study on Measuring and Tracking the Effectiveness of "Diplomatic Engagements" in Promoting and Advancing Equity for Underserved/Underrepresented/Marginalized Populations**
Office	Office of Planning and Performance
Bureau	Budget and Planning
Project Description	Under the "diplomatic engagement" rubric, this proposal seeks to engage an academic institution to implement a baseline study in support of the following Department of State Learning Agenda question; "How can bureaus and posts improve their ability to measure and track the effectiveness of diplomatic engagements in promoting equity for underserved and underrepresented communities?" The objective of the baseline study is to document how Department of State domestic bureaus, offices, and overseas posts are tracking "diplomatic engagements" in promoting equity serving foreign publics overseas, i.e., marginalized and underserved communities. Per Executive Order 13985, "equity" is defined as; the consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. For the purposes of this baseline study, "diplomatic engagements" also referred to as diplomatic functions--are generally characterized as a state's attempt, through peaceful means, to shape the international environment in the national interest. "Diplomatic engagement" activities involve representation, negotiations, outreach and advocacy, relationship building and coordination and partnership. Thus, "diplomacy" is a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional process and involves a wide gamut of initiatives, strategies, and activities, ranging from the mundane (a single phone call) to the exceedingly complex (a multilateral negotiation).
Final Product Format	A report (up to 20 pages) with findings and conclusions and analysis of raw data. Also request that the researcher share the raw data with the State Department in the form of an Excel spreadsheet or other appropriate data collection tool.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Gender Studies, Human Rights, Trafficking in Persons, International Development, Climate Change
Additional Information	Diplomatic Programs and Activities Suitable for Baselining State Department bureaus, offices, and overseas posts undertake many types of "diplomatic engagement" activities to advance U.S. foreign policy goals. One of these is advancing equity for marginalized populations. From a programming perspective, examples include: 1. Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; The Department's Bureau of Public Affairs (PA) and Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) routinely design and implement programs and programming, often with equity in mind. An example is Tech Camp programs that serve socio-economically disadvantaged communities. 2. Conflict Prevention and Stabilization of war-torn and politically fragile societies; The

	Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) oversees conflict stabilization operations in countries. Other bureaus promote economic and business relations, human rights and gender equality. Still others are engaged in combating hunger, HIVAIDS and environmental degradation. Some of the efforts involve both diplomacy persuasion and pressure along with economic and financial assistance. Such programs can be evaluated and are being evaluated in many cases. Many of these efforts are intersectional in nature in that traditionally marginalized populations tend to be most impacted by manmade and natural disasters.
	3. Consular Services; The Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) provides a wide range of services to protect the lives and interests of US citizens abroad and strengthen border security while facilitating legitimate travel. It also collects data to track access by U.S. citizens to information on passports and satisfaction with passport services.
	4. Multi-lateral Engagements; In FY 2022, the United States negotiated more than 50 U.N. outcome and/or consensus documents that expanded inclusive language of historically marginalized and underserved groups. This included United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the rights of Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and eliminating gender-based violence. The United States, represented by the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and the Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, led a coalition of countries, along with the United Nations LGBTI Core Group, which called upon the U.N. Security Council to better integrate LGBTQI+ human rights under its international peace and security mandate.
	Scope In 2021 the Department carried out an initial baseline survey targeting 275 U.S. embassies and consulates overseas to broadly assess how the Department integrates racial equity and support for underserved communities into its foreign policy development and execution. Results showed that while posts take racial equity into account in their strategic planning and programming, they often lack the tools to measure success in this area.
	This study expands upon by the 2021 assessment by looking beyond measurement of racial equity to expanding the focus to how we are tracking and measuring services to marginalized populations overseas in accordance with EO 14091. Specifically, the study will;
	- Survey State Department bureaus, offices, and posts and review relevant unclassified materials to document the range and types of "diplomatic engagement" activities with a particular focus on promoting equity for underserved communities, and
	- Document how bureaus, offices, and posts are tracking and measuring the effectiveness of these activities.
	Period of Performance - It is anticipated the study would take 3-6 months, including analysis of data and summary of a report to the State Department.

Title	DipLab2392609
Project Name	**Social Media in Saudi Arabia: Data for Strategic Outreach**
Office	Public Affairs Office
Embassy	Saudi Arabia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Saudi Arabia records the highest number of social media users in the Middle East and North Africa region and is among the highest world-wide. Data shows that out of the 36M Saudi population, over 29M are active social media users. Given local social and cultural constraints, social media is a significant platform that Saudis, particularly youth, use for connecting with others and for staying updated on local and international news. The high rate of social media usage in Saudi Arabia makes digital engagement a significant and effective part of U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia's outreach strategy. The Embassy heavily relies on social media for delivering policy-focused content and soft content that develops cultural ties between Americans and Saudis. The aim of the suggested research is to provide data on the social media landscape in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. Embassy will provide detailed research themes and areas that research groups will focus on. The outcomes of this research will provide valuable data on popular social media platforms, successful social media outreach engagements with Saudi audiences, what digital outreach strategies work best with Saudi audiences, and how Saudi government institutions are using social media.
Final Product Format	The Public Affairs office recommends that research outcomes be presented through detailed data analysis (using data analysis programs), and a final report on research findings that would include recommendations on social media and digital outreach in Saudi Arabia.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Communications, Marketing, Statistics
Additional Information	The Public Affairs Office works on several online campaigns and heavily relies on online outreach. We recommend that students visit the U.S. Embassy's social media accounts to get more insight on the type of content that we share with local audiences. We do not anticipate that this research project would take more than one semester. Below are the Embassy's official social media accounts; Twitter; https://twitter.com/usainksa?lang=en Facebook; https://www.facebook.com/USAinKSA/ YouTube; https://www.youtube.com/USEmbassyRiyadh Instagram; @USAinKSA

Title	DipLab2392610
Project Name	**Understanding and Reaching Russian Diaspora Populations in Serbia**
Office	Public Diplomacy Section
Embassy	Serbia
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	More than 300,000 Russians have arrived in Serbia since February 2022 and tens of thousands are now living permanently here and integrating into society. Both Russian diaspora members and Serbian people face an onslaught of propaganda suggesting that life in Russia is good and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is necessary and just. Embassy Belgrade seeks to better understand this diaspora population so that we might effectively invite them (particularly young people between the ages of 18 and 35) to engage with us. Our goals in so doing are to counter Russian state-sponsored narratives and reinforce to diaspora Russians that they have made the correct choice in leaving Russia and refusing to support Russia's aggression abroad and the Kremlin's repressive tactics at home. At the same time, we will continue to work to convince Serbians that Russia offers no beneficial alternative to further integration with Europe and the West. With the "Understanding and Reaching Russian Diaspora Populations in Serbia" project, we seek a team with expertise in both Russian language and social listening to provide the Public Diplomacy Section with insights about the Russian diaspora in Serbia regarding the following topics; integration process, obstacles encountered in Serbia, employment and lodging experiences in Serbia, attitude toward staying in Serbia for the long-term, and perspectives on Russia and the Russian government. Additionally, we would like the team's recommendations for designing communications and programming to best reach this diaspora population (particularly young people between the ages of 18 and 35) where they are, based on what the team has learned about the population.
Final Product Format	Presentation on what was learned about the diaspora and engagement recommendations, followed by a short report that summarizes the research.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Communications, Social Media, Public Diplomacy, Public Relations, Russian Language, Social Listening
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392611
Project Name	**Choosing Study Abroad in India**
Office	U.S. Embassy New Delhi, Public Diplomacy
Embassy	India
Bureau	South and Central Asian Affairs
Project Description	What factors, conditions, or incentives would encourage more students to study abroad in India? While roughly 200,000 Indian students pursue higher education in the United States each year, a very small number of U.S. students study in India. (This information is published in the IIE Open Doors Report each November. The most recent example is attached). Why? The U.S. Mission to India would like to better understand what drives student choices to articulate to both U.S. and Indian higher education institutions steps they might take to make student travel and exchange numbers more balanced.
Final Product Format	Flexible. Narrative policy recommendations for educational institutions or government facilitators to consider with simple survey data behind it. Opportunity to deliver a presentation to an official audience.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Education & Cultural Studies, South/Central Asian Studies
Additional Information	We are happy to provide background information, connections, and an opportunity to present your findings in a virtual program if that is of interest. Relevant sites; State Department study abroad site; https://studyabroad.state.gov/ Government of India site to promote Study in India; https://studyinindia.gov.in/ Open Doors; https://opendoorsdata.org/

Title	DipLab2392612
Project Name	**International Policy for Embodied Carbon**
Office	Office of Design and Engineering
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	This project focuses on researching international policy and regulatory guidance around embodied carbon emissions that considers the full lifecycle of our built environment; examples include zoning and land use, building ordinances, procurement, and financial policies amongst others. Embodied carbon, which accounts for the carbon emitted during the production, transportation, and assembly of building materials, might be often overlooked in the shadow of operational carbon and energy measures, but its environmental impact is undeniable; it will be responsible for half of the carbon footprint of new structures between now and 2050. Tackling the problem isn't just about reducing current carbon footprints, but also safeguarding the future of our cities, industries, and ecosystems. This work will assist the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) in understanding the global policy landscape and creating governing strategies for design and construction project processes, systems, and objectives. The core of this project is not just environmental, but also economic. Forward-thinking policy will spur innovation, create new markets and jobs in low-carbon materials and construction processes. With its global market presence, OBO wants to prioritize embodied carbon and signal our commitment to a greener future.
Final Product Format	Research report and a final presentation with OBO stakeholders. The report should also include representational graphics as appropriate.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Climate Change, International Law, International Development, Architecture
Additional Information	OBO currently organizes its global portfolio into 6 main regions, which should be the framework for organizing the research and policy information provided. There is also a report in progress regarding a roadmap for embodied carbon strategy at OBO which will be provided ahead of this effort.

Title	DipLab2392613
Project Name	**Evaluating the Human Rights Implications of Lustration Policies in Eastern Europe**
Office	Office of Global Criminal Justice
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	After the fall of the Soviet Union, many Eastern European states pursued lustration, or a form of employment vetting, designed to either remove or prevent from assuming public office those persons who collaborated with the previous Communist regime or secret security services. A main goal of such initiatives was to shore-up the democratic reform process by signaling to the population a real change in the personnel of new governments. Such efforts also aimed to safeguard new democratic institutions from those who might seek to undermine them. Yet, the effectiveness and legality of lustration has been questioned by regional and international scholars, dissidents, policy makers, international organizations, and international courts. As part of this project, University Teams will identify; (1) lustration programs implemented in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union; and (2) relevant European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) judgments and decisions regarding these lustration programs. They will also evaluate the human rights implications of these lustration programs, particularly in terms of the standards set by the ECHR. Ultimately, greater insight into past lustration programs can help to better inform current transitional justice efforts in such places as Ukraine.
Final Product Format	The final products will include; - A catalogue that; (1) overviews lustration programs implemented in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union AND (2) evaluates their human rights implications, paying particular attention to relevant ECHR judgments and decisions, as well as scholarship on this topic. - A memo that provides recommendations for United States Government foreign policy makers (especially those from the Office of Global Criminal Justice) about best practices for lustration programs. - A presentation of the University Team's final product to the Office of Global Criminal Justice.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Democracy & Human Rights, European & Eurasian Studies, Human Rights, International Law
Additional Information	The Office of Global Criminal Justice (GCJ) - led by the Ambassador at Large for 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. To this end, GCJ advises U.S. Government and foreign governments on the appropriate use of a wide range of transitional justice mechanisms, including truth and reconciliation commissions, lustrations, and reparations, in addition to judicial processes. GCJ coordinates U.S. Government positions relating to the international and hybrid courts currently prosecuting persons responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes

against humanity - not only for such crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia - but also in the Central African Republic, Guatemala, and elsewhere in the world. The Office works closely with other governments, international institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to establish and assist international and domestic commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions, and tribunals to investigate, document, and prosecute atrocities in every region of the globe. The Office coordinates the deployment of a range of diplomatic, legal, economic, military, and intelligence tools to help expose the truth, judge those responsible, protect and assist victims, enable reconciliation, deter atrocities, and build the rule of law.

GCJ provides advice and expertise on transitional justice, including ways to ensure justice and accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, as well as other grave human rights violations. The Office supports U.S. diplomats operating in conflict and post-conflict scenarios by providing subject matter expertise regarding atrocity crimes. It is also the point of contact for international, hybrid, and mixed tribunals exercising jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed around the world. The Office is also responsible for implementing the War Crimes Rewards Program that provides rewards to people who provide information leading to the capture and conviction of indicted war criminals. Finally, the Office participates in the Atrocity Early Warning Task Force, which coordinates U.S. government efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to atrocities.

For further details, please check-out our web-page; https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/office-of-global-criminal-justice/

Title	DipLab2392614
Project Name	**Preventing Exploitation of Temporary Agricultural Workers**
Office	Consular Section, Consulate General Monterrey
Embassy	Mexico
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	The H-2A Visa program offers foreign workers a legal pathway to work in temporary agricultural jobs in the U.S. and the chance to earn wages far higher than they could in their home countries. Although the vast majority of H-2A workers come from Mexico, the program has been cited as a potential tool to address irregular migration flows from other countries in Latin America, as well. When the program works as intended, it is a win-win, helping to ensure U.S. food security while providing a life-changing source of income to farm workers. Program implementation at U.S. diplomatic facilities focuses on making the process safe, efficient, and predictable.

The focus on safety is critical to the protection of worker rights and to prevent trafficking. Examples of fraud and abuse encountered in this program range from U.S. employers who provide their workers with substandard living conditions and reduced wages, to labor recruiters who charge these workers illegal fees in return for a job opportunity. Recruitment fraud is especially common, due to the difficulty of connecting prospective employees with U.S. employers. Local recruiters are the main pathway to employment for prospective H-2A applicants. Some recruiters charge extortionary illegal fees and/or direct applicants to an exploitative U.S. worksite, while others simply benefit off this system charging fees for jobs that do not exist at all. Furthermore, some H-2A applicants may be especially vulnerable to exploitation because they do not speak Spanish as a first language or are functionally illiterate. Providing better information to prospective H-2A applicants, and allowing them to connect directly with potential U.S. employers or reputable agents, would minimize the threat posed by recruiters and allow workers to find better work options.

This project will support research into ways to improve the information environment for H-2A workers, providing insights for all potential stakeholders with an interest in making the program reach its full potential. There are many ways this project might be implemented; it could entail a study of the media consumption and typical technology use by rural Mexicans who make up the majority of H-2A workers; it could involve the creation of a prototype app that could connect U.S. employers and prospective H-2A employees; or it could go in an entirely different direction. Having a cross disciplinary team that can work across the technology, development, human geography, and regulatory fields will be critical for this project. The U.S. Consulate in Monterrey, Mexico will support the team(s) implementing this project by providing insights into how the H-2A program functions, guidance and feedback on research design and/or product development, and active engagement and mentoring of the project team. |
| **Final Product Format** | The "deliverable" could vary according to the project team's interests and qualifications, but should be a research-based, multidisciplinary project that would provide value for relevant stakeholders. The final product could entail a study of the media consumption and typical technology use by rural Mexicans who make up the majority of H-2A workers; it |

	could involve the creation of a prototype app that could connect U.S. employers and prospective H-2A employees; or it could go in an entirely different direction.
Discipline/Expertise	Food Security, Human Rights, Trafficking in Persons
Additional Information	The U.S. Consulate General in Monterrey is a hub within Mission Mexico for processing H-2 visas, adjudicating approximately 123,000 H-2A and H-2B visas in FY 2023. The H-2 visa team and fraud prevention unit have significant knowledge and expertise related to this topic, and will support the team(s) implementing this project by providing insights into how the H-2A program functions, guidance and feedback on research design and/or product development, and active engagement and mentoring of the project team.

Title	DipLab2392615
Project Name	**Strengthening Diplomacy: A Comprehensive Needs Analysis to Enhance Workforce Resilience in the Foreign Affairs Community**
Office	Transition Center's Center of Excellence in Foreign Affairs Resilience
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	In the ever-changing landscape of global diplomacy, resilience - the capacity to adapt successfully to risk and adversity and the ability to bounce back and move forward from setbacks, high stress, crises, and trauma - is not just a buzzword; it's a critical attribute for mission success. The Center of Foreign Affairs Resilience (CEFAR) has been at the forefront of equipping U.S. government foreign affairs agencies with the tools they need to thrive in the face of adversity. However, to ensure that CEFAR's mission aligns seamlessly with the evolving challenges and needs of the Department of State and the broader foreign affairs workforce, we propose a vital project - a comprehensive needs analysis. This project is of paramount importance as it seeks to better understand the specific stressors and adversities faced by foreign affairs professionals and their families, thereby ensuring that our resilience programs are finely tuned to meet our community's needs.

The Needs Analysis Project will involve a multi-faceted approach, including surveys, interviews, literature reviews, and data analysis, to better understand the experiences of individuals and teams within foreign affairs agencies. Insights gained will inform the customization of training, the development of targeted consultations, and the crafting of resilience programs that are better tailored to address identified needs. Ultimately, this project serves a vital purpose; to empower foreign affairs professionals with the skills and support they need to adapt successfully to risk and adversity, ultimately contributing to their well-being, performance, and the achievement of mission success in an increasingly volatile and uncertain world. |
| **Final Product Format** | Data analysis of both primary and secondary research, a bibliography of the latter, and a presentation of the findings and recommendations. |
| **Discipline/Expertise** | Psychology, Sociology |
| **Additional Information** | There has been some preliminary internal research already conducted, the findings of which could be shared.

Here are a few relevant resources that could serve as a starting point;
--Resilience; The Science of Mastering Life's Greatest Challenges 3rd Edition
--Assessment Report; Stress and Resilience Issues Affecting USAID Personnel in High Operational Stress Environments
--Burnout and Resilience in Foreign Service Spouses during the Pandemic, and the Role of Organizational Support
--Trauma in the U.S. Intelligence Community
--Enhancing Psychological Sustainment & Promoting Resilience in Healthcare Workers During COVID-19 & Beyond
--Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale |

Title	DipLab2392616
Project Name	**Identifying Strategies, Motivation, and Impact of Propaganda and Disinformation Campaigns in the Sahel**
Office	U.S. Embassy Niamey Public Diplomacy Section
Embassy	Niger
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	In recent decades, the Sahel region has been the subject of geopolitical attention and increasingly targeted by digital disinformation campaigns. Though much of the region has been marked by inadequate infrastructure and insufficient financial support, the digital infrastructure throughout has grown exponentially in that time. With increased international attention following a trend of military coups, digital users both domestically and in the diaspora of Sahelian countries are taking center stage in online conversations and debate. With an underdeveloped ecosystem and vast networks of citizens, it is difficult to decipher the organic nature of trending digital content and its true impact on public opinion in the Sahel, an audience vulnerable to disinformation.

With the advent of the digital age, malicious actors have taken to social media platforms and messaging applications like WhatsApp to influence public opinion. The digital sphere in Sahelian countries is bustling with content and manipulation of that content may impact those countries' journey towards sustainable democracy. Malicious foreign actors like Russia and the PRC have sought to capitalize on confusion and use digital content to reinforce their own influence. Recognizing the profound implications non-organic digital content could have on regional stability and public opinion, this project seeks to comprehensively analyze how Russia and other non-Western state actors may be utilizing social media platforms to influence local narratives. To what extent have those actors intentionally weaponized the concept of Pan-Africanism as an anti-Western counter-narrative? This project seeks to better understand the strategies and impact of information manipulation on the Sahel's socio-political environment. This research holds significant importance, as it will not only deepen understanding of digital disinformation's role but also offer insights into countering disinformation and the amplification of democratic values. |
Final Product Format	We would like a comprehensive data analysis report detailing Russia's (and other non-Western international actors) strategy and tactics related to digital information in the Sahel. In particular, we hope this project will identify key narratives that are being amplified, the motivation behind that artificial amplification, and suggestions for local communities on how to counter such disinformation campaigns effectively.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Communications
Additional Information	n/a

Title	DipLab2392617
Project Name	**Influencer Diplomacy at State: Identifying Partnerships for the Secretary's Priorities**
Office	Office of Audience & Distribution Strategy, Partnerships Division
Bureau	Global Public Affairs
Project Description	The modern media landscape is constantly changing -- and audiences around the world have never had more options at their fingertips when it comes to sources of information, both factual and otherwise. This presents modern public diplomacy practitioners with enormous challenges -- but also enormous opportunity -- to break through. With influencer/creator partnerships, the State Department can reach millions of audiences it would never normally reach, and in voices they trust and with content that resonates with them. For this project, students could identify 5-10 influencers (per priority topic) (mega, midtier, and micro since all have value depending on the partnership) that would be ideal partners/creators/influencers for messaging around the Secretary's priorities: Russia/Ukraine, PRC, food security, migration, and climate change, to name a few. The State Department's partnerships team would consider partnering with these influencers to create compelling content around foreign policy messages in a way that first, reaches broad and vast audiences, and second, shapes public opinion in a way that benefits America's national security.
Final Product Format	Open to recommendations but thinking a 10-page report justifying the influencer selections and process plus a spreadsheet with information on the influencers (contact info, links to their properties, area(s) of expertise, red flags, pitches/content ideas/collaboration ideas, etc.) and a final presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392618
Project Name	**C5+Universities: Practical Policies for U.S.-Central Asian Engagement**
Office	Office of Central Asian Affairs
Bureau	South and Central Asian Affairs
Project Description	The C5+1 is the regional diplomatic platform for the United States plus the five Central Asian countries; Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The five Central Asian countries and the United States are committed to delivering regional solutions to global challenges through the C5+1 diplomatic platform. Since its inception in 2015, C5+1 cooperation has strengthened Central Asia's economic ties and business environment, enhanced energy development, mitigated environmental challenges, addressed security threats, expanded people-to-people connections, and advocated for women's economic empowerment. The C5+1 Presidential Summit on September 19, 2023, affirmed the increasing importance of the C5+1 platform in addressing regional solutions and facilitating U.S.-Central Asian relations. Toward this end, the Central Asia Office of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs is seeking insights from the next generation of researchers on how to best address some of the most pressing regional issues through the C5+1 platform, including water management, youth engagement, empowering people with disabilities, and applying best practices from other regional organizations. The contributions provided by student groups on each of these four topics will directly inform U.S. efforts to deliver regional solutions to global challenges in its partnerships with Central Asian states.
Final Product Format	The final product for each group and topic will be a five-page report with policy recommendations, as well as a 15-minute presentation to State Department officials followed by a Q&A.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	**Project Overview** The C5+1 is the regional diplomatic platform for the United States plus the five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The five Central Asian countries and the United States are committed to delivering regional solutions to global challenges through the C5+1 diplomatic platform. Since its inception in 2015, C5+1 cooperation has strengthened Central Asia's economic ties and business environment, enhanced energy development, mitigated environmental challenges, addressed security threats, expanded people-to-people connections, and advocated for women's economic empowerment. The C5+1 Presidential Summit on September 19, 2023, affirmed the increasing importance of the C5+1 platform in addressing regional solutions and facilitating U.S.-Central Asian relations. Toward this end, the Central Asia Office of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs is seeking insights from the next generation of researchers on how to best address some of the most pressing regional issues through the C5+1 platform. For each topic, student groups will produce a five-page policy report with actionable recommendations and present their findings in a 15-minute briefing to State Department officials. The contributions provided by student groups on each of these four topics will directly

inform U.S. efforts to deliver regional solutions to global challenges in its partnerships with Central Asian states.

Topic 1: Water Management

Overview: The Central Asia Office of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs is seeking to understand the pending water crisis in Central Asia and ways to creatively show U.S. climate leadership in Central Asia on water through the C5+1 platform. Due to increasing glacier melts and depleting ground water resources in conjunction with poor water infrastructure and management, Central Asia is particularly at risk for retreating water availability. Central Asian countries are already seeing the effects of inefficient resource management and climate change. During the summer of 2023, the Central Asian capitals suffered from water and electricity shortages, while hydroelectric dam reservoirs reached dangerously low levels. Deadly border clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which have broken out with increasing frequency since 2021, were sparked by local disputes over water resources. Meanwhile, countries like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan continue to grow highly water-intensive crops like cotton as some of their main export products.

Given the quickly worsening water crisis in Central Asia, C5+1 country leaders are highly interested in improving water management practices and regional cooperation over water-sharing resources. However, water remains a contentious and sensitive issue between Central Asian states, making cooperation and meaningful actions to improve water management challenging. In this space, there is great opportunity for the United States to leverage the C5+1 platform to promote cooperation between states and share its own resources and expertise.

Deliverables: For this topic, students would map water usage in the Central Asian countries, evaluate water management in different sectors, identify water-related policies and projects, and document best practices in water management from other relevant case studies, particularly those in water-stressed regions who have had success in improving water management and cooperating with countries up- or down-stream. This may also include lessons learned from transitions away from resource intensive agriculture in other regions of the world. Students will analyze the applicability, or lack thereof, of best practices and lessons learned toward the Central Asian context. Students should also consider what initiatives or approaches would best help Central Asian countries to improve their water management and cooperate effectively with each other, given the transnational nature of these water issues.

Students will use their findings to produce a five-page policy report recommending the most effective points of entry for the U.S. to leverage its resources and expertise through the C5+1 platform to improve water management and cooperation in Central Asia. The group will present their findings in a 15-minute briefing to State Department officials, followed by a brief Q&A. The project outcomes will help guide U.S. government programming and funding toward the adoption of best water management practices, promotion of new policies, and development of water management projects.

Topic 2: Youth Engagement

Overview: The Central Asia Office of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs is seeking to understand how to engage youth more effectively across its C5+1 programming. With a median age of just 26.5 years in Central Asia, engaging youth in

C5+1 is critical to advancing the sustainable development, prosperity, and security of the region. However, high youth unemployment and a lack of youth involvement in policy decision-making contributes to reduced innovation, brain-drain from the region, and heightened risk for unrest and recruitment by violent extremist groups.

There is currently a C5+1 youth council based at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, and C5+1 ministers have expressed an interest in expanding youth engagement through C5+1. Through the C5+1 platform, there may be opportunities to improve youth engagement on relevant policy issues, connect youth across the region to address common challenges, and create jobs for youth in certain sectors.

Deliverables: For this topic, students would map existing youth initiatives, at both the country and regional levels, and points of entry for the U.S. to promote effective youth opportunities and engagement through C5+1. Students should particularly look at spaces of existing space and support for youth engagement among Central Asian government, what youth-centered initiatives governments have announced, and whether they have followed on those initiatives with actual funding and action. Students should conduct a comparative analysis of other countries in the broader region, such as Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, to see what youth initiatives have been successful there. Students should also research economic sectors and career fields that would most benefit youth in Central Asian countries, with a focus on in-country job creation rather than facilitating out-migration to Russia or the West. Students should also consider what sectors higher education institutions in these countries currently focus on and how they could be better aligned to meet the needs of the youth that they train.

Students will use their findings to produce a five-page policy report recommending the most effective points of entry for the U.S. to engage youth in Central Asia through the C5+1 platform. The group will present their findings in a 15-minute briefing to State Department officials, followed by a brief Q&A. The project outcomes will help guide U.S. government programming and funding through C5+1 toward initiatives that promote greater career opportunities and policy involvement for Central Asian youth.

Topic 3: Empowering People with Disabilities

Overview: The Central Asia Office of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs is seeking to understand how to best support the empowerment of people with disabilities in Central Asia through the C5+1 platform. While all the Central Asian countries have either signed or ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, significant challenges remain in implementation, and people with disabilities frequently lack proper access to facilities, transportation, and involvement in policy decisions relevant to their lives.

Central Asian governments have expressed a strong desire to include disability rights among the topics addressed through the C5+1 platform. Empowerment of people with disabilities supports a strong civil society, an essential building block for development and social cohesion, and contributes to economic prosperity through inclusive employment.

Deliverables: For this topic, students will map existing initiatives promoting empowerment of people with disabilities, at both the country and regional levels, and points of entry for the U.S. to promote the empowerment of people with disabilities

through the C5+1 platform. Students should conduct a comparative analysis of countries with successful implementation of their disability rights commitments to identify best practices and lessons learned as applicable to Central Asian countries. This can include economic empowerment, as well as social infrastructure and inclusion initiatives. Students should consider countries with similar income levels, as well as perhaps historical or cultural commonalities with Central Asia, in their comparative analysis. Students should also consider the Central Asian context in their research to assess applicability, or lack thereof, of best practices and lessons learned from other country contexts.

Students will use their findings to produce a five-page policy report recommending the most effective points of entry for the U.S. to empower people with disabilities in Central Asia through the C5+1 platform. The group will present their findings in a 15-minute briefing to State Department officials, followed by a brief Q&A. The project outcomes will help guide U.S. government programming and funding through C5+1 toward initiatives that promote greater accessibility, economic opportunity, and social inclusion for people with disabilities.

Topic 4: Comparative Analysis of Regional Organizations

Overview: The Central Asia Office of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs is seeking to understand best practices and lessons learned from other regional organizations to inform its C5+1 programming and structure. Other regionally focused blocs such as ASEAN, ECOWAS, the Arab League, the EU, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as well as instances of U.S. engagement through (i.e., NATO) or with (i.e., U.S.-GCC ministerials) regional organizations promote regional security, trade and connectivity, economic investment, and even political reform among countries in their respective organizations and regions.

While deeply informed by their own contexts, the decades of experience shared by these organizations could hold valuable insights for how the United States approaches its cooperation with Central Asian states through C5+1 as well as its promotion of Central Asia's own intra-regional integration. Some organizations, such as ASEAN, have had remarkable success in reducing barriers to trade and promoting regional cooperation. Others, such as ECOWAS, have faced significant challenges in ensuring security and political stability in their region. It is crucial for C5+1 to learn from these experiences, understanding how these regional organizations overcame barriers to cooperation and avoiding some of the pitfalls experienced by others.

Deliverables: For this topic, students will map existing geographically focused blocs and organizations, either those comprising countries of a given region or comprising these countries plus the United States. Students should select a few organizations as case studies, analyzing these organizations' level of success in promoting cooperation among its members on economic integration, reduction of barriers to trade and connectivity, regional security, and/or political and governance reform. Students should then assess why efforts were successful or unsuccessful in different contexts, identifying best practices or lessons learned as applicable to the C5+1 platform or Central Asian regional integration more generally. Students should familiarize themselves with the Central Asian context, providing analysis on challenges or opportunities for applying best practices and lessons learned to the Central Asian context.

	Students will use their findings to produce a five-page policy report outlining best practices and lessons learned from the comparative analysis along with recommendations for implementation through the C5+1 platform. The group will present their findings in a 15-minute briefing to State Department officials, followed by a brief Q&A. The project outcomes will help guide U.S. government programming and strategy in the C5+1 toward initiatives that promote greater cooperation and integration among the Central Asian states and between Central Asia and the United States.

Title	DipLab2392619
Project Name	**Transboundary Haze in ASEAN: Data-driven Policy Recommendations for U.S. Interagency Support**
Office	Economic
Embassy	U.S. Mission to ASEAN
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	This is an exciting opportunity for students to impact real-world economic and environmental policy through a multilateral lens. This project will support U.S. cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address transboundary haze - a major concern in Southeast Asia. Regional cooperation is necessary as the world faces growing transnational challenges due to climate change. The Indo-Pacific is responsible for two-thirds of global economic growth and as a result is accountable for over half of annual greenhouse gas emissions. Located at the center of the Indo-Pacific region, the 10 member states of ASEAN have a combined population of more than 660 million, and together make up the world's fifth largest economy. Yet, ASEAN faces serious challenges with transboundary haze pollution due to the prevalence of slash and burn agriculture, unsustainable management of peatlands, and prolonged dry weather conditions aggravated by the effects of El Nino. ASEAN Member States have long recognized the need to address transboundary haze, with all countries ratifying the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution almost a decade ago. ASEAN recently concluded the Establishment Agreement of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC) hosted by Indonesia. Ahead of its full operationalization, the ACC THPC de facto headquarters is the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. USASEAN seeks interdisciplinary research support to identify ACC THPC's needs in terms of technical capacity, knowledge gaps, monitoring, and implementation, as well as recommendations for how the U.S. can support the ACC THPC. USASEAN seeks policy recommendations for how best to engage with ASEAN on transboundary haze issues through the ACC THPC as well as the Singapore-based ASEAN Specialized Meteorologic Centre. Students should explore how the U.S. government, leveraging its resources across the interagency, including through programs such as USAID's SERVIR-Southeast Asia and EPA's Smoke Sense Study, can demonstrate support for ASEAN in addressing transboundary haze issue. Other relevant agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, CDC, NSF, NOAA, and NASA, may be helpful to address the issue as well. Additionally, USASEAN would like to see emphasis on public health monitoring and risk management. The U.S. Mission to ASEAN (USASEAN) would like to work with multiple university teams that separately explore the same issue, with no restrictions on team sizes. We would like for students to research the issue of transboundary haze, using qualitative and quantitative data, which could involve students from a variety of economic disciplines; statistics, science & technology, sustainable development; land management; geography; public health.
Final Product Format	USASEAN requests a 4-page options memo as the final product from each team. The memo should outline four different recommendations of possible deliverables (concrete projects/initiatives), ranked by its feasibility of implementation within the year 2024. Each option should include an assessment of barriers to implementation and how the USG might

	overcome those barriers. USASEAN aims to implement one or multiple recommendations as economic deliverables in 2024 at ASEAN's annual Foreign Minister Meeting and/or the ASEAN Summits.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Statistics, Global Health, Science and Technology, International Development, South/Central Asian Studies
Additional Information	Joint Media Statement (ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate; https://asean.org/joint-media-statement-of-asean-u-s-ministerial-dialogue-on-environment-and-climate/ ASMC; http://asmc.asean.org/home/ EPA Smoke Sense; https://www.epa.gov/air-research/smoke-sense-study-citizen-science-project-using-mobile-app USAID Servir SEA; https://servir.adpc.net/ ASEAN; https://asean.org/ If interested in this project, please contact NelsonAj3@state.gov for additional relevant information

Title	DipLab2392620
Project Name	**Reducing carbon emissions in agricultural and forestry sectors of Kazakhstan**
Office	Regional Environment, Science, Technology and Health Office, Embassy Astana
Embassy	Kazakhstan
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	The goal of this project is to study the U.S. experience in measuring and inventory of greenhouse gasses in agriculture and forestry to implement such practices in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. This project would help Kazakhstan's EcoMuseum and its partners in Central Asia develop and implement the necessary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for such an inventory, as well as to determine which aspects are most applicable to countries in Central Asia. This could also further the implementation of Kazakhstan's nationally determined contributions on climate change.

Although Kazakhstan has adopted legislation regulating greenhouse gas inventories, the legislation is not transparent. In Central Asia more broadly, almost no data are collected for monitoring, assessment and verification of greenhouse gasses, leaving GHG inventory incomplete.

EcoMuseum and its partners hope the development of an MRV system in the forestry and other land use sectors would also help Kazakhstan or other Central Asian countries better address global sustainable development challenges as well as various international climate commitments. |
| **Final Product Format** | Multiple teams can participate in this project. Expected deliverables are a presentation, report, and if appropriate, a round table discussion with local stakeholders on findings on the analysis of the monitoring system, assessment, and verification of data on greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry and agriculture sectors in the United States to implement such practices in Kazakhstan. |
| **Discipline/Expertise** | Climate Change, Food Security, Water Security |
| **Additional Information** | Questions for the research team;
1. What legislation regulates the monitoring of emissions in the agricultural or forestry sectors?
2. Who is responsible for conducting this at sub-national levels?
3. What institutions or enterprises are required to report on greenhouse gas emissions, depending on the field of activity, volume of production or other factors?
4. Which methods or methodologies are used for calculating emissions from various sectors of forestry and agriculture?
5. How transparent is the inventory of information on emissions in different spheres of forestry and agriculture and in different regions of the country? How accessible is this information to experts or the public? |

Title	DipLab2392621
Project Name	**Serbia: Investigating Consumer Choices to Improve Energy Efficiency**
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	Serbia
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	Serbia is facing serious challenges in its energy sector. Overcoming them presents opportunities for a transition to a more efficient and greener economy. Policy makers and international development agencies are working to advance effective approaches that address the lack of incentives for investments in energy efficiency, inefficient use of existing energy resources, the low level of renewables in the country's energy mix, and the government's lack of capacity to design and implement energy efficiency strategies.

Much of Serbia's energy transition can be framed as a "liberalization" of the energy sector, which includes key changes in the structure of state-owned energy companies and more focus on the role of competition to enhance efficiency. A sustainable energy path in Serbia, however, also requires consumer-level behavior changes - a challenging prospect in a middle-income country accustomed to subsidized energy, with few official incentives to adopt cleaner and more efficient technologies, and where coal mining directly employs 30,000 people.

We propose forming a team that takes an innovative, research-based approach to investigate how changing energy consumer' mindsets in this post-Yugoslavia economy can contribute to the success of Serbia's energy transition. The outcome of the research will include recommended policy interventions that can facilitate positive outcomes in energy efficiency investment, given current social-economic conditions in Serbia. The team that undertakes this task can approach the challenge using a variety of methodologies, including literature reviews, thematic studies, experimental approaches, in-person interviews, and surveys. |
Final Product Format	A presentation to the U.S. Embassy Belgrade and USAID/Serbia, in addition to a 15-page written report (references are not included in the page count). If the university partner has full funding for travel, the partner is welcome to visit the country for a better understanding of the situation on the ground.
Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues, Energy Security, European & Eurasian Studies, Science and Technology, Climate Change, Behavioral Economics, Post-Yugoslavia economy and culture, Survey and/or experiment design and implementation, Thematic analysis
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392622
Project Name	**Sharpening the Digital Diplomacy Edge: Audience Identification When the World is Your Target**
Office	Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna
Embassy	U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna
Bureau	International Organization Affairs
Project Description	The U.S. Mission in Vienna promotes U.S. leadership within 17 UN agencies based in Austria. The scope of our work and the issues we advance are global in nature. Our audiences span all nations in the UN system, and therefore digital outreach is critical to our success. We communicate on highly technical topics like nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear science, peaceful uses of outer space, and synthetic drugs. Some of our social media followers are subject matter experts, who value more sophisticated messaging and in other cases, we want to engage general audiences using laypersons speak and by breaking down complex topics into pithy social media posts.

In this unique, multilateral context, audience identification presents a unique challenge. We don't have a strong sense of who are social media content is reaching and if our messaging is effective (i.e., impacting change or opinion and attitude shifts that are favorable to U.S. positions. We seek a research project aimed at analyzing and streamlining our social media strategy to identify target audiences and develop a more focused, impactful approach to digital communication. The project objectives are audience analysis, competitive analysis, content assessment, strategy suggestions and creation of an implementation plan. |
Final Product Format	We would like a 5-6-page options paper, presenting the analysis of our current social media audience and recommendations for a tailored social media strategy, including optimized content to engage with target audiences effectively.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Communications, Social Media, Multilateral Diplomacy
Additional Information	Here are links to our social media properties: Twitter; @USUNVIE (https://twitter.com/usunvie?lang=en) Instagram: @USUNVIE (https://www.instagram.com/usunvie/?hl=en) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/usunvie/ YouTube channel: @USUNVIE (https://www.youtube.com/@usunvie)

Title	DipLab2392623
Project Name	**Iraq: Bringing Tourists Back to the Fertile Crescent**
Office	Public Diplomacy Section
Embassy	Iraq
Bureau	Near Eastern Affairs
Project Description	Iraq is the birthplace of writing and the site of famous locations stretching back to before the Old Testament. Mesopotamia's ancient history is as fascinating as Iraq's modern history is poignant. But with a huge share of its population born after 2003, Iraq is entering a new and exciting chapter of its long story. Cultural heritage preservation work is costly and patient work conducted by budget-strapped state institutions. But what may make it pay off and sustain it for the future is demonstrable revenue generation within the industry. In other words, how can ancient history match with modern capitalism to support the types of tourism, handicraft manufacturing, and other boutique and cottage industries to rejuvenate the sector? Are there lessons to be learned and applied from neighbors like Jordan and Saudi Arabia? (One with a well-established tourism industry, and the other trying to forge its own new path.) Or, like Saudi Arabia, should Iraq develop its status as major religious pilgrimage destination? We are hoping to find someone who is as much armchair archeologist as business incubator, Middle East enthusiast, and sociologist to examine this issue on a truly interdisciplinary basis and make recommendations. And specifically, who can the U.S. government engage to develop the human capital to actually realize those recommendations? Thanks for considering, shukran!
Final Product Format	It would be terrific to have a 20-page paper for review and an hour-long concluding virtual discussion with the team at U.S. Embassy Baghdad.
Discipline/Expertise	Education & Cultural Studies, Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, History, Marketing, Middle East/North African Studies, Religious Studies
Additional Information	N.A.

Title	DipLab2392624
Project Name	**Re-Building the Ukraine Defense Industrial Base**
Office	PM/RSAT
Bureau	Political-Military Affairs
Project Description	Re-Building the Ukraine Defense Industrial Base

Defense of a nation is in contingent on a government's ability to satisfy its requirements for defense articles. Here, quality in indigenous production (measured by fitness for a particular purpose), quantity, and timely delivery are critical. Product malfunction or failure, or delivery delay, can jeopardize not only life and limb, but mission, campaign, and war objectives.

A nation's defense industrial base (DIB) is the conglomeration of those companies, manufacturing plants, workers, researchers, scientists, policy makers, strategists, and bureaucrats who link together to identify, research, test, build, and deliver defense articles to satisfy requirements. In a market economy such as the United States and parts of Europe, most component elements of the DIB that manufacture defense articles are private, profit-seeking companies and their employees. In contrast, other nations possess a DIB where most component elements are controlled by the government. China exemplifies the latter DIB model - its largest defense-related companies are state-owned enterprises. Even as Ukraine continues to defend itself against Russia's unjust war, it must also look ahead to the time when the current conflict is over. How will Ukraine organize and produce to defend itself against future Russian aggression? Ukraine's current DIB is likely inadequate to satisfy Ukraine's requirements to defend against future Russian aggression over a time horizon of ten to fifteen years. Building Ukraine's DIB now is complicated by the fact that manufacturing facilities in Ukraine could become Russian military targets during the current armed conflict.

The U.S Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs promotes peace and security by providing foreign policy direction in the areas of international security, defense trade, security assistance, defense strategy, and military operations. The Bureau's Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers manages over $40 billion annually in government-to-government transfers of defense articles and services through Foreign Military Sales, Third Party Transfers, and Excess Defense Articles. The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs seeks a Diplomacy Lab team to undertake a "Ukraine DIB" project to answer one or all of the following research questions:

What support from the U.S. government or private industry will be most useful in enabling Ukraine's defense industrial base to reorganize and rebuild from the current conflict, produce the right things and in the right quantities to deter future Russian aggression, and support Ukraine's armed forces in defending Ukraine against future Russian invasions over the next ten to twenty years?

What legal authorities, if any, should the State Department seek from Congress to enable it to support Ukraine in ways most useful to Ukraine and to achieving U.S. national interests?

	Given Ukraine's unique geographic, social, economic, political, and military characteristics, what does an optimal defense industrial base look like?
	For example, Ukraine's unique location on the Black Sea and adjacent to countries protected by NATO's Article V umbrella; its highly educated, technologically advanced work force; its political will and endurance to resist Russian invasion; its experience integrating innovative tactics and cutting-edge technology into a Soviet-style command and control regime; etc. all bear on the shape and characteristics of an optimal DIB.
	The Diplomacy Lab team members should approach the problem in an open-minded way, willing to challenge their prior beliefs about the international order, relationships and cooperation between states, barriers to defense trade, and the military-industrial complex. Heretical ideas welcome.
	The research team may, if members have the appropriate clearances, conduct and submit classified research; however, this is not necessary.
Final Product Format	Research Paper of at least 10 pages. We are willing to receive a greater length product if that is what the right solution calls for.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Economic & Finance Issues, European & Eurasian Studies, Political/Military Affairs, Public-Private Partnerships
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392625
Project Name	**Geostrategic assessment of nuclear deployment in net-zero modeling scenarios**
Office	Nuclear Competitiveness Team
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Nuclear energy is an important part of the clean energy transition and responsible deployment is critical to meet global decarbonization and energy security goals. There is incredibly high demand for capacity building support from ISN (through our Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of SMR Technology - or FIRST - program) for nuclear newcomer countries and those looking to expand their nuclear energy programs to include advanced reactor technologies, especially small modular reactors (SMRs). SMRs can provide clean electricity and high-temperature process heat to decarbonize both power and hard-to-abate industrial sectors, along with other uses like desalination and district heating. Models for pathways to achieve net-zero by 2050 use different scenarios for global nuclear uptake. This project would provide the information needed to assess the decarbonization potential in countries to quantify the climate impacts of increased use of nuclear energy. We are seeking help analyzing decarbonization scenarios, determining which countries are modeled as increasing use of nuclear energy (including SMRs), and compare that with geostrategic analysis of where the U.S. is currently or could engage with countries seeking to deploy new nuclear technologies. A quantitative understanding of the decarbonization potentials in countries around the world based on models to achieve net-zero, complemented by geopolitical assessments, would be valuable analysis to inform our engagements and outreach.
Final Product Format	Data analysis and 5-10 page research paper (also open to being flexible on this)
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Climate Change, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Energy Security, Science and Technology
Additional Information	The Nuclear Competitiveness Team works closely with the Cooperative Threat Reduction office on the FIRST Program (https://www.smr-first-program.net/) originally announced by President Biden at the 2021 G7 Leaders' Summit on Climate. FIRST offers capacity-building support to partner countries which are exploring the potential for small modular reactors to meet their clean energy needs consistent with highest nuclear security, safety, and nonproliferation standards. The FIRST program has supported a number of exciting projects to support international SMR deployment: https://www.state.gov/special-presidential-envoy-for-climate-kerry-announces-project-phoenix-participants-and-the-nuclear-expediting-the-energy-transition-next-program/ https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-multinational-public-private-partners-look-to-provide-up-to-275-million-to-advance-the-romania-small-modular-reactor-project-united-states-issues-letters-of-interest-for-up-to/ https://www.state.gov/special-presidential-envoy-for-climate-kerry-and-ukraine-minister-of-energy-galushchenko-announce-cooperation-on-a-clean-fuels-from-small-modular-reactors-pilot-cop27-climate-conference/

Title	DipLab2392626
Project Name	**Researching Allegations of Violence Linked to Security Forces in Senegal**
Office	Political
Embassy	Senegal
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	U.S. Embassy Dakar invites research into allegations of violence linked to security forces in Senegal. This project would involve in-depth, open-source research into past allegations of abuse of force to ascertain the possible involvement of Senegalese security forces and to identify the specific units which might have been involved. Sources could include local media reporting from the time of the incident, social media, and reporting by NGOs or other civil society observers, with priority given to Senegalese primary sources.
Final Product Format	The final product could include a detailed summary of any incidents allegedly involving Senegalese security forces where there are recent allegations of abuse of force, along with an opinion on the credibility of the reporting. The research team could create data visualization or maps of the geographic areas of operation for individual units, combined with information on unit-level involvement in allegations of abuse of force.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Human Rights, Security Studies
Additional Information	

Title	DipLab2392627
Project Name	**Research Security in Academia: Overview and Best Practices**
Office	Missile, Biological, and Chemical Nonproliferation
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Develop an overview over U.S. universities' and other research institutions' research security programs regarding access control to labs/computers, student supervision, and policies and procedures to protect sensitive information, e.g., guidelines and vetting for collaboration with foreign researchers, reviewing conference presentations, publications, intellectual property protection, researcher training, etc. Analyze data to determine and recommend best practices that preserve academic freedom but promote effective research security. Include consideration of time/cost/labor to possibly differentiate recommendations for small, medium, and large/well-endowed universities.
Final Product Format	Excel spreadsheet or Word table (overview of research security programs) 4-5-page analysis and best practice recommendations
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Science and Technology
Additional Information	This project is suitable for undergrad and grad-level political science, business, and related study fields. MIT in November 2022 released its extensive "University Engagement with China Approach", which is thorough but might not be attainable for smaller universities with lower budgets.

Title	DipLab2392628
Project Name	**What are the benefits of adherence, as opposed to membership, of an MECR?**
Office	Export Control Cooperation
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Multilateral export control regimes (MECRs) are an integral part of strategic trade controls. This project aims to understand how adherence to a regime, as opposed to membership of a regime, may benefit any given country. This would help the EXBS Program understand how to best message any benefits of adherence to the MECRs. The MECRs to be considered in this proposal are: the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Missile Technology Control Regime.
Final Product Format	The final deliverable should be a research paper no longer than 20 pages with an overview of the difference between membership and adherence, any benefits of adherence, and recommendations for the EXBS Program related to encouraging adherence or membership for our partner countries.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Political/Military Affairs, Science and Technology, Arms Control/Non-proliferation
Additional Information	This project should only take one semester to fulfill, and the office POC will be available to meet with student groups at least three times during the period of performance. To learn more about the EXBS Program, please see: https://www.state.gov/export-control-and-related-border-security-program/

Title	DipLab2392629
Project Name	**What are the national security benefits of strategic trade controls?**
Office	Export Control Cooperation
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Available research indicates that in many cases, strategic trade controls (STCs) may not positively or negatively affect a country's economy. This proposal seeks to understand if STCs may benefit a country's national security, and, if so, what the benefits are and how to message them to EXBS partner countries. This would allow the EXBS Program to better message the benefits of STCs and encourage their rigorous and full implementation.
Final Product Format	The final deliverable should be a research paper no longer than 20 pages with an analysis on the national security benefits of STCs broadly and a few case studies of how STCs positively impact national security concerns.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation
Additional Information	This project should only take one semester to fulfill, and the office POC will be available to meet with student groups at least three times during the period of performance. To learn more about the EXBS Program, please see: https://www.state.gov/export-control-and-related-border-security-program/

Title	DipLab2392630
Project Name	**How do you measure effective border security?**
Office	Export Control Cooperation
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Unlike strategic trade management and customs enforcement, border security lacks strong international standards that allow us to compare one country to another. The purpose of this project is to determine a broad set of best practices for border security that a given country should strive towards. This will help the EXBS Program better advise partner countries on how to improve their border security. It will also help the EXBS program create new progress indicators related to border security.
Final Product Format	The final deliverable should be a policy paper of no more than 20 pages of background information and proposals of best practices of border security.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Political/Military Affairs, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Additional Information	This project should only take one semester to fulfill, and the office POC will be available to meet with student groups at least three times during the period of performance. To learn more about the EXBS Program, please see: https://www.state.gov/export-control-and-related-border-security-program/

Title	DipLab2392631
Project Name	**How do we define and control emerging technology?**
Office	Export Control Cooperation
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Emerging technology is a nebulous term that attempts to define what are the new, quickly evolving technologies. There is no agreed upon definition as to what constitutes an emerging technology, and export controls frequently fall behind the fast pace of technological advancement. The purpose of this proposal is to attempt to craft a definition for emerging technology and identify ways export controls may better control them. This will help the EXBS program understand the emerging technological landscape and better prepare partner countries to face the onslaught of emerging technology head on.
Final Product Format	The final deliverable for this proposal should be a policy paper no longer than 20 pages that defines emerging technology and lists potential export control solutions to combat nefarious use of emerging technology.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Science and Technology
Additional Information	This project should only take one semester to fulfill, and the office POC will be available to meet with student groups at least three times during the period of performance. To learn more about the EXBS Program, please see: https://www.state.gov/export-control-and-related-border-security-program/

Title	DipLab2392632
Project Name	**Assessing Catch-All Export Controls**
Office	Export Control Cooperation
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	Catch-all controls serve to "fill the gaps" of traditional export controls by allowing governments to control for unlisted items that may be used in the creation or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. There is uneven use of catch-all controls, and many countries do not have the legal ability to create or enforce catch-all controls. The purpose of this proposal is to suggest criteria for evaluating implementation of catch-all controls in a given country. This will assist the EXBS program in better assessing catch-all control implementation in partner countries and serve as a basis for creating new assessment protocols for partner countries.
Final Product Format	The final deliverable for this proposal should be a research paper no longer than 20-pages explaining the suggested criteria and utilizing case studies.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Counter Terrorism, International Law, Science and Technology
Additional Information	This project should only take one semester to fulfill, and the office POC will be available to meet with student groups at least three times during the period of performance. To learn more about the EXBS Program, please see: https://www.state.gov/export-control-and-related-border-security-program/

Title	DipLab2392633
Project Name	Countering Violent Extremism in the Sahel
Office	The Office of South and Central Asia and the Near East Counterterrorism Policy
Bureau	Counterterrorism
Project Description	The current crisis in the Sahel, specifically in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, is a mix of multiple issues; tensions between various ethnic groups in the Sahel, decreased economic opportunity, increased terrorist recruiting, and an influx of terrorist groups armed from the conflict in Libya but largely pushed out of the Maghreb (Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia). In the past three years multiple Sahelian countries have undergone coups ostensibly as a response to a failure by civilian governments to defeat ongoing terrorist insurgencies, further constraining U.S. policy options. In this project, your research unit would explore what U.S. policy options outside of pure security solutions remain, and what local solutions are likely to result in positive progress, as well as looking at what factors led to the significant reduction in terrorist activity in the Maghreb, and to what extent those factors are replicable in the Sahel. An examination of this problem set requires several aspects to be truly effective. First, an in-depth examination of the drivers of recruitment to terrorist groups such as Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Musliminin (JNIM) and ISIS in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, and what leads individuals to defect from these organizations, with an examination of successful methods from Maghreb countries that have reduced the threat from violent extremism in the last ten years. Next, with information gleaned from this examination, a short options paper on proposals to reduce / discourage recruitment by terrorist groups and encourage increased defections.
Final Product Format	15 - 20 page research paper on drivers of recruitment to terrorist groups in the Sahel, specifically Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, and what leads individuals to defect specifically in that region 10 - 15 page research paper on roots of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism success in the Maghreb 3 Page Options Paper on proposals to reduce / discourage recruitment by terrorist groups and encourage increased defections
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, African Studies, Counter Terrorism, Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction, Middle East/North African Studies
Additional Information	The Bureau of Counterterrorism leads the Department of State in the whole-of-government effort to counter terrorism abroad and to secure the United States against foreign terrorist threats. The predecessor organization to the Bureau of Counterterrorism was the Office for Combating Terrorism, created in 1972 upon the recommendation of a special committee appointed by President Richard Nixon following the terrorist attack at the Munich Olympics. The committee determined that an office was needed within the Department of State to provide day-to-day counterterrorism coordination and to

develop policy initiatives and responses for the U.S. government. The Office for Combating Terrorism became the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism in 1985, and the Bureau of Counterterrorism in 2012.

In 1994, Congress officially mandated the Bureau of Counterterrorism in Public Law 103-236 [H.R. 2333]. In 1998, Congress further defined the role of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism in Public Law 105-277 [H.R. 4328]:

"There is within the office of the Secretary of State a Coordinator for Counterterrorism who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The principal duty of the coordinator shall be the overall supervision (including policy oversight of resources) of international counterterrorism activities. The Coordinator shall be the principal adviser to the Secretary of State on international counterterrorism matters. The coordinator shall be the principal counterterrorism official within the senior management of the Department of State and shall report directly to the Secretary of State - The Coordinator shall have the rank and status of Ambassador at Large."

The Office of South and Central Asia and the Near East (CT/SCAN):

(1) Tracks and assesses counterterrorism trends in regions, countries, and topics of interest to the Secretary and State Department principals, White House, and National Security Council;

(2) Provides current counterterrorism resource support to Department principals and desk officers;

(3) Conducts counterterrorism policy research, analysis, formulation, and coordination, collaborating with other bureaus within the State Department and interagency;

(4) Drafts and coordinates counterterrorism policy papers, decision memoranda, and other documents for the Secretary and other State Department principals;

(5) Collaborates with experts on the National Security Council Staff, other agencies, and outside government experts on counterterrorism topics and countries;

6) Advises on the development, implementation, and monitoring of bilateral and regional counterterrorism training programs and exchanges.) Advises on the development, implementation, and monitoring of bilateral and regional counterterrorism training programs and exchanges.

Title	DipLab2392634
Project Name	**Influencer Diplomacy at State: Identifying Partnerships for the Secretary's Priorities of Indo-Pacific & PCR**
Office	Audience & Distribution Strategy, Partnerships Division
Bureau	Global Public Affairs
Project Description	The modern media landscape is constantly changing -- and audiences around the world have never had more options at their fingertips when it comes to sources of information, both factual and otherwise. This presents modern public diplomacy practitioners with enormous challenges -- but also enormous opportunity -- to break through. With influencer/creator partnerships, the State Department can reach millions of audiences it would never normally reach, and in voices they trust and with content that resonates with them. For this project, students could identify 5-10 influencers (mega, midtier, and micro since all have value depending on the partnership) that would be ideal partners/creators/influencers for messaging in priority countries on two priority areas, likely: 1. commitment to a free and open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific (target countries may include: India, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Australia, etc.); 2. promoting democracy and the international order in Africa (target countries may include: Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Zambia, Cameroon). The State Department's partnerships team would partner with these influencers to create compelling content around foreign policy messages in a way that first, reaches broad and vast audiences, and second, shapes public opinion in a way that benefits America's national security.
Final Product Format	Open to recommendations but thinking a 10-page report justifying the influencer selections and process would be good plus a spreadsheet with information on the influencers (contact info, links to their properties, area of expertise, red flags, etc.) and a final presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392635
Project Name	**Critical and Emerging Technologies - Engaging Emerging Markets To Promote Secure Technology Development**
Office	Cooperative Threat Reduction
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	In 2022, the U.S. released an updated list of critical and emerging technologies (CETs) that can play an important role in our nation's security. The list identifies CETs that have the greatest potential to further efforts to promote U.S. technological leadership, cooperate with allies and partners, and advance democratic values. Through international engagements with partners seeking to develop their CET capabilities, we can work to strengthen our diplomatic relationships while fostering an environment where CETs are developed safely, securely, and responsibly. To support these efforts, we are seeking recommendations for CET related organizations in emerging markets in low- and middle-income countries that we should engage with to promote research security and cybersecurity best practices. Identify and analyze sources such as research funding, VC investments, start-up company growth, etc. to determine which CETs are high priority for countries to invest in to develop their capabilities.
Final Product Format	- Report outlining methodology as well as executive summary and tiered recommendations. - Presentation to DOS providing high level overview of results and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Public-Private Partnerships, Science and Technology
Additional Information	- Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction Information: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-arms-control-and-international-security-affairs/bureau-of-international-security-and-nonproliferation/office-of-cooperative-threat-reduction/ - Technologies for American Innovation and National Security: https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/02/07/technologies-for-american-innovation-and-national-security/ - Project team(s) will work with ISN/CTR to identify priority regions depending on level of bandwidth. This project can scaled up/down as needed to fit team(s) availability.

Title	DipLab2392636
Project Name	**Analysis of Critical and Emerging Technologies Legislation and Frameworks**
Office	Cooperative Threat Reduction
Bureau	International Security and Nonproliferation
Project Description	In 2022, the U.S. released an updated list of critical and emerging technologies (CETs) that can play an important role in our nation's security. The list identifies CETs that have the greatest potential to further efforts to promote U.S. technological leadership, cooperate with allies and partners, and advance democratic values. Through international engagements with partners seeking to develop their CET capabilities, we can work to strengthen our diplomatic relationships while fostering an environment where CETs are developed safely, securely, and responsibly. We are seeking analysis of instated or developing CET legislation and frameworks in low- to middle-income countries to identify opportunities for engagement to support partner country priorities in line with U.S. priorities and values. We are seeking recommendations for high, middle, and low priorities based on level of impact, level of risk if not addressed, and resources available in country to sustainably support efforts.
Final Product Format	- Report outlining methodology as well as executive summary and tiered recommendations. - Presentation to DOS providing high level overview of results and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Science and Technology
Additional Information	- Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction Information: https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-arms-control-and-international-security-affairs/bureau-of-international-security-and-nonproliferation/office-of-cooperative-threat-reduction/ - Technologies for American Innovation and National Security: https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/02/07/technologies-for-american-innovation-and-national-security/ - Project team(s) will work with ISN/CTR to identify priority regions depending on level of bandwidth. This project can scaled up/down as needed to fit team(s) availability.

Title	DipLab2392637
Project Name	**Assessing Outcomes of "From Scratch" Smart and Mega City Initiatives**
Office	Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary
Bureau	Science & Technology Adviser
Project Description	Countries around the world are seeking to take advantage of technology, data, and innovation to develop smart cities that address community or national goals. Many smart city transitions occur within existing communities through a gradual, sustained investment in integrated digital infrastructure, goods, and services that align with community needs. In other cases, national or provincial governments finance new, centrally planned "mega cities" in locations with very little or no existing settlements often focused on economic output and state of the art designs. The Department of State seeks to understand the long-term outcomes of these "from scratch" smart city projects in countries around the world to inform foreign policy and strategy. The initiatives are often characterized by (1) little or no existing settlements, or built in struggling communities; (2) formal or informal government or private sector designations (e.g. special economic zone); (3) dedicated public sector funding; (4) private sector investment; (5) visions of a state of the art or "utopian" society; and (6) goals focused on economic output and national or international prestige. The selected team will conduct a literature review to identify cities or initiatives that meet some or all of the listed characteristics, as well as additional relevant characteristics identified during research. This includes smart city or mega city projects that are no longer active. Once cities are identified, the team will down-select and assess each initiative based on quantitative and qualitative metrics that include economic, social, political, and environmental factors. Where possible, the team will identify factors based on the assessment metrics that impacted the initiative outcomes. The final deliverable will be determined after establishing the assessment methodology in collaboration with the Department of State point of contact.
Final Product Format	The final deliverable is a set of case studies on "mega city" projects as described in the Project Description. The final form factor and content will be determined after establishing the assessment methodology in collaboration with the Department of State point of contact.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Economic & Finance Issues, Sociology, Information & Communication Technology, International Development, Science and Technology
Additional Information	The mission of the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser is to anticipate the foreign policy impacts of scientific research, development, discoveries, and innovations; build science, technology, and innovation (STI) capacity within the diplomatic corps; and engage domestic and international STI enterprises to promote U.S. priorities.

Title	DipLab2392638
Project Name	**Competing Claims in Jerusalem: Haram al-Sharif and the Temple Mount**
Office	Political Section
Embassy	Jordan
Bureau	Near Eastern Affairs
Project Description	The controversy over rights and responsibilities at Jerusalem's Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount (HAS/TM, Islam's third holiest site and Judaism's holiest) is one of the most sensitive and hotly contested issues in the Middle East today, one liable to result in explosions of violence and regional wars. As HAS/TM custodian, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan calls for the preservation of the historic status quo, a set of de facto arrangements governing Muslim and non-Muslim actions at the site. Jordan's interpretation of the status quo is being increasingly challenged by Israeli Jews who claim rights to visit and worship on a par with Muslims. This project would examine, from a historical and legal perspective, the competing claims and interpretations of the status quo at HAS/TM. More specifically, project participants would (1) examine the historical origin and legal standing (if any) of the concept of status quo at HAS/TM; (2) trace the historical origin of the concept of Muslim custodianship at HAS/TM; (3) examine the historical origin of Jordan's claim to custodianship; and (4) examine the historical origin of Jewish claims to rights at HAS/TM.
Final Product Format	The project should result in a four-part paper addressing each of the questions above.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Middle East/North African Studies, History
Additional Information	Jordan traces the concept of Muslim custodianship over holy sites in Jerusalem to the seventh century A.D. Pact of Umar. It is unclear, though, how Muslim rulers exercised their protection over the city and how the concept of custodianship developed and was implemented on the ground. Jordanian (i.e. Hashemite) custodianship is variously traced to 1,917 or 1,924. It is unclear, though, what form Hashemite custodianship took from its inception (when Jerusalem was under British control) until Jordan occupied Jerusalem in 1,948. Jordan claims the concept of a status quo at HAS/TM harks back to Ottoman-era edicts (mid-1850s, perhaps earlier), and the 1878 Treaty of Berlin. The status quo in question today, is the de facto, post-1967 unwritten arrangement between Israel and Jordan after the former captured Jerusalem from the latter.

Title	DipLab2392639
Project Name	**Mapping Multicultural Identity and Strengthening U.S.-Singapore Cultural Ties**
Office	Economic/Political Section
Embassy	Singapore
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Singapore is known for its cultural and religious diversity and its commitment to racial harmony. Since its founding, Singapore's government has made racial harmony a priority. This is seen in everything from race-based housing allocations to immigration policy to electoral processes (including the creation of multi-racial electoral constituencies and a reserved presidency in certain cases). The education system and national service - mandatory for males - are also touted as promoting racial harmony. And Singaporeans are proud of their multiracial, multi-religious identity, while acknowledging challenges in race relations remain. Meanwhile, the United States has had a different set of forces driving its own multicultural, multi-religious identity. But little is said about the cultural or identity connections between the two countries. A Diplomacy Lab project to examine the drivers of multicultural identity in Singapore and the United States - whether housing, immigration, education, or electoral policy, economic forces, military service, leadership, or the involvement of community diaspora groups, including how communities build a shared national identity while maintaining distinct identities - can help inform where/how to deepen U.S.-Singapore ties, including at the subnational level. We envision the research helping to drive discussion on multi-cultural identity as a basis for cultural ties between the two countries, counter to a race-based nationalistic approach present elsewhere. In addition, the project is intended to identify similarities and possible avenues for exchange between Singapore's three main ethnic communities - Chinese, Malay, and Indian/South Asian - and the respective U.S. diaspora groups to further improve these cultural ties and broaden the foundation of the bilateral relationship. If the research teams wish to narrow the scope, including by identifying subnational cities or states for points of comparisons, we are open to that.
Final Product Format	1. Written research paper. 2. Presentation to Embassy staff
Discipline/Expertise	Politics, Civil Society, East Asian/Pacific Studies, International Relations, Urban Studies
Additional Information	

Title	DipLab2392640
Project Name	**Turkiye as an Entrpot Country for Exports to Russia**
Office	Ankara
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	Turkiye has maintained a normal trading relationship with Russia and increased amounts of data indicates that Russia has used Turkiye as an entrepot to procure items it cannot procure elsewhere from Turkiye. These items range from the mundane -- produce and ready to wear clothing -- to potentially dual use items that support Russia's war effort in Ukraine. This project would use publicly available data to describe the scope of this trend and highlight interesting and relevant trends for policymakers. The project would also analyze how Turkiye's imports from Russia have been affected by trade barriers and other second order effects of the ongoing war in Ukraine.
Final Product Format	20-page research paper with one-page executive summary, bibliography, and attached excel models.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Economic Sanctions
Additional Information	20-page research paper with one-page executive summary, bibliography, and attached excel models.

Title	DipLab2392641
Project Name	**Turkiye's Contingent Liabilities from infrastrucure spending**
Office	Ankara
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	Turkiye has a vast portfolio of modern infrastructure, much of it procured under the buy own operate transfer model. Although Turkiye's public finances appear relatively healthy, these projects could create large contingent liabilities that would need to be paid for using public funds. This project would analyze Turkiye's infrastructure portfolio and the scale of contingent liabilities from these projects.
Final Product Format	15- page research report with one-page executive summary and attached excel models.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	15- page research report with one-page executive summary and attached excel models.

Title	DipLab2392642
Project Name	**Medical Clearances Modernization**
Office	Clinical Programs/ Medical Clearances
Bureau	Medical Services
Project Description	Diplomats planning to live and work overseas but first pass a medical clearance. This past year the department settled a 16yr lawsuit (and spent $36,000,000) that alleged the department was discriminating against people with medical conditions. The result has necessitated a huge shift in how we do clearances, namely, we will become much more permissive in who we allow to travel and work overseas as a 5 yr pilot project. However, we have no clear way of analyzing the success or failure of this approach. I am looking for a team that can help bridge the gap between different departments that collect pieces of the puzzle and create a clearer picture of the impact of these changes on curtailments, medevacs, and other markers of success,
Final Product Format	We need a way to track and analyze data on this new project. We request data analysis of the project's success and the formalization of a process by which we can collect that data.
Discipline/Expertise	Statistics, Science and Technology
Additional Information	A good candidate for this program would be self-motivated and engaged in problem solving with many stakeholders at an interdepartmental level.

Title	DipLab2392643
Project Name	**IPR for Scientific Cooperation in Argentina**
Embassy	Argentina
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Argentina is the third-largest economy in Latin America and shares many commercial interests with the United States. Some deficiencies in intellectual property (IP) protection (both legal frameworks and enforcement) constrain some sectors' growth in Argentina, however, limiting bilateral cooperation on science and technology. An updated legal framework protecting intellectual property stands to benefit Argentina through increased domestic innovation, foreign direct investment, and partnerships with U.S. public sector entities. Argentina's unwillingness to incorporate IP protection into its existing bilateral science and technology (S&T) agreement has further hindered broader S&T cooperation between the two countries. The Embassy views recent White House announcements (see additional information) as an opportunity to bolster engagement on biotechnology while also addressing shared priorities related to climate change, agricultural innovation, supply chain resilience, and human health. With a goal of a stronger bilateral partnership in this area, U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires seeks to better understand Argentina's position in the intellectual property rights landscape: how Argentina benefits from IP protection internationally; how Argentina's international commitments, votes, and positions in multilateral fora compare with those of other countries; and an overview of how Argentine companies in the biotechnology and agriculture sectors might be able to benefit from increased domestic IP protection and related U.S. initiatives. This information would help identify ways to deepen bilateral cooperation on innovation, science, and technology, and would be utilized in ongoing bilateral dialogues on these topics.
Final Product Format	We request a research paper covering the scope above, paired with a matrix of past commitments and positions on a defined set of IPR topics.
Discipline/Expertise	Science and Technology, International Law, Western Hemisphere Studies, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	- USTR Special 301 Report: https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/IssueAreas/IP/2022%20Special%20301%20Report.pdf - White House Executive Order on Advancing Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Innovation for a Sustainable, Safe, and Secure American Bioeconomy: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/09/12/executive-order-on-advancing-biotechnology-and-biomanufacturing-innovation-for-a-sustainable-safe-and-secure-american-bioeconomy/ - White House Bold Goals for U.S. Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Bold-Goals-for-U.S.-Biotechnology-and-Biomanufacturing-Harnessing-Research-and-Development-To-Further-Societal-Goals-FINAL.pdf

Title	DipLab2392644
Project Name	**Analysis of Austrian Civil Society Networks**
Office	U.S. Embassy Vienna - Public Diplomacy Section
Embassy	Austria
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Submit proposals for a comprehensive analysis of Austrian civil society networks. This project seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the structure, reach, and influence of Austrian civil society networks at both the federal and provincial levels. The primary objective is to identify and rank the most influential actors within the Austrian civil society sector. Specific insights into the relationships and dynamics among these individuals and institutions would benefit Embassy Vienna's public diplomacy efforts. Identify key actors within Austrian civil society on both federal and provincial levels. Rank these actors based on their influence, outreach, and other relevant metrics. Analyze the interplay and relationships among these actors to understand the broader network dynamics. Consider further segmentation into sub-categories if it proves to be useful. Propose suggestions for public diplomacy outreach activities based on the analysis.
Final Product Format	A PowerPoint presentation detailing the findings, including a ranked list of influential actors as well as a visual representation (e.g., a map) that illustrates the connections, hierarchies, and relationships among civil society actors. Ensure the visualization is user-friendly and can be easily interpreted by stakeholders without a background in network analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Civil Society, European & Eurasian Studies
Additional Information	General understanding of the Austrian political context would be desirable.

Title	DipLab2392701
Project Name	**Leveraging Work Culture to Drive Project Management Success**
Office	Office of Construction Management
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	Project management is a discipline that is essential to every office in every industry. In some form or fashion, we all manage projects. More important than the projects we manage, are the managers themselves. A masterfully skilled project manager can take and underperforming project and turn it into an experience to marvel. On the contrary, an unskilled project manager can take a once productive project, and kill all momentum. With job qualifications and many other factors like training requirements keeping employment as equivocal as possible; the question looms: why do some employees perform better than others. Yes, there is the possibility that some work harder, some are smarter, or that some other factor simply makes one a better performer than the other. But, there is also the possibility that work culture plays a vital role in an employee's ability to perform and to navigate his work life altogether.

This purpose of this research project is to explore a variety of project management roles and employee types; and determine the effects that work cultures have on employee performance. While some employees are genuinely underperformers, some are not. If personnel meet qualifications for hire and show years of experience as a skilled performer, the likelihood of the employee being an underperformer without any other contributors seems odd. Work culture, particularly, toxic work culture, has been known to produce lasting psychological, physical, and financial effects on employees. The purpose of this project is to explore this subject matter as expansively as possible, with the aim of presenting useful data and recommendations for work culture improvements. This will require some quantitative research, as well as some qualitative research. Students will have the liberty to determine how they would like to produce the final product, as long as the main objectives are met and data is able to be used for future studies.

Desired Outcome
1. Improve Communication
2. Improve Goal Alignment
3. Identify + Utilize Cultural Factors |
| **Final Product Format** | 20+ Page Research Paper + Presentation
- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Qualitative Analysis
- Recommendation + Presentation |
| **Discipline/Expertise** | Communications, Civil Society, Democracy & Human Rights, History, Human Rights, International Development, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, International Relations |
| **Additional Information** | I would like to give students as much liberty as possible to explore the topic in the spirit of their own interpretation and creative expressions. Please let me know if anything needs to be clarified. |

Title	DipLab2392702
Project Name	**New Frontiers in Human Rights**
Office	Front Office
Bureau	Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Project Description	The State Department annually produces the Human Rights Report and sends it to Congress. We need student researchers to find and document not only the existing organizations that follow human rights issues but also think about and describe frontier issues in human rights that we will be hearing more about in the future. This type of advance warning system will help the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor become aware of and knowledgeable about human rights issues that are starting to emerge, as well as other issues that are well known. We are seeking a list of organizations and information sources categorized by the nature of human right that is involved, with brief information about their area of focus and a link to their website or other information source. Another question: is there a tool for scanning social media to find stories of human rights abuses that might not come to the attention of mainstream nongovernmental organizations and governments?
Final Product Format	A report categorized by types of human rights with a description and website for each organization or information source.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Democracy & Human Rights, Gender Studies, Human Rights, International Law, Trafficking in Persons, Youth Issues
Additional Information	The annual Human Rights Report is the preeminent global human rights document. It is nearly fifty years old. We need, though, to stay with or ahead of emerging issues so that the Human Rights Report remains relevant to current issues.

Title	DipLab2392703
Project Name	**Transferring Emerging Tech in Military Applications to Allies and Partners**
Office	Regional Security and Arms Transfers
Bureau	Political-Military Affairs
Project Description	Advances in science and technology have always presented society with opportunities, challenges, and risks. Today's focus on emerging technologies and its importance to national security is no different. The deployment of critical and emerging technologies in applications across a variety of civil/military domains is vital to keeping the United States ahead in the race for technological supremacy. To strengthen our competitiveness, the US government released in February 2022 an updated list of critical and emerging technologies to include such areas as AI, Directed Energy, Hypersonics, Biotechnologies, and Quantum Information Technologies. While these focus areas have been taken up by the interagency to help inform future investments and strategy, a much-needed effort remains. That is how can we think about and prepare for the weaponization of emerging tech from a foreign policy perspective. What might security cooperation look like in light of particular advances in technology and capabilities. More so, how might emerging technologies transform the conduct of war and the global strategic environment more broadly speaking?

The Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers (RSAT) in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the State Department advances U.S. foreign policy and national security interests through its management of bilateral/multi-lateral political-military and regional security relations, and the sale/transfer of U.S.-origin defense articles and services to foreign governments. With respect to arms transfers, RSAT is a major custodian of the Conventional Arms Transfer (CAT) Policy. Section 7 of the updated CAT Policy on â€˜Arms Transfers Involving Emerging Technologies' provides the impetus for this project: "The United States will review and develop, as required, additional policy guidance for the review of arms transfers related to or incorporating emerging technologies implicating national security." This project attempts to get ahead of the curve by investigating when, how, and why particular arms that embed emerging technologies should be transferred (or not) to foreign allies/partners. In addition to ethical concerns and regulatory issues involving export controls and technology security, what strategic and analytical concepts should be brought to bear in helping to shape.

The emergence of these new technologies, and their convergence, is a challenge to policymakers. This project is about developing policies governing the transfer of various classes of defense articles and services that embed -- and are significantly enhanced by emerging technologies. This is an exciting space to work in not only because there are no international standards or set of concrete policies for dealing with the weaponization of emerging tech, but there is a need for more rigorous thinking about associated foreign policy implications.

Potential projects could involve the following:
1) Pick an emerging technology that has been weaponized and analyze its relevancy to |

	national security and strategic competitiveness. Identify the key issues that should accompany any decision regarding its transfers and usage by allies/partners and with respect to particular regions of the world.
	2) AUKUS Pillar 2 presents a unique opportunity for partner countries to collaborate across national defense industrial bases and science and technology institutions. Pick one of the eight emerging tech capability areas in Pillar 2 and analyze its potential for realizing asymmetric advantage. What are (should be) the policy concerns for the proliferation of such emerging tech capabilities within AUKUS and beyond?
	3)Conduct research into how a particular emerging tech and its weaponization, if shared with allies/partners, could undermine/enhance peace, alter the calculus of deterrence, and create new categories of risk.
	4) Research key developments in science and technology especially with a focus on a particular technology and how it is used the battlefield. How does this new technology transform conflict and what new frameworks should be in place to govern its operation?
Final Product Format	A 10-page paper and/or a substantive brief with a short memo for recommendations would be useful.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, East Asian/Pacific Studies, European & Eurasian Studies, Political/Military Affairs, Sociology, Science and Technology, Western Hemisphere Studies
Additional Information	Thanks for your time and consideration.

Title	DipLab2392704
Project Name	**Comparing Global Programs for Infrastructure Support**
Your Office	Office of Development Finance
Your Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	The United States has multiple agencies that provide different kinds of support for infrastructure development in emerging markets, including feasibility studies, loans, and technical assistance. Our resources are limited and our programs would benefit from better coordination with programming in other like-minded countries that share our goals. However, our potential partners have differing approaches to infrastructure support, different budget methods, priorities, and comparative advantages in providing support in developing countries.

This project will compare and contrast the approaches toward infrastructure support by key partners and potential partners, including Australia, Japan, Germany, UK, France, Switzerland, and other countries as uncovered during research. Research would focus on which agencies have responsibility for infrastructure and how those responsibilities are delineated; preferred approaches, whether grants, loans, equity investments, technical assistance, public-private partnerships, or other; regional priorities, i.e. Pacific region, Africa, etc.; the nature of capacity building and technical assistance programs; phases of infrastructure life cycle that assistance is typically provided at, i.e. design, construction, etc. |
Final Product Format	The final product could be a presentation with appropriate graphics of how other countries approach infrastructure, comparing each country over several categories.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Economic & Finance Issues, Public-Private Partnerships
Additional Information	The State Department's Infrastructure Unit manages the Blue Dot Network and the Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network and its associated Transaction Advisory Fund. We also work with other bureaus in the State Department, USAID and the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) on coordinating infrastructure support with allies, in particular Australia and Japan, and also with India through the Quad initiative.

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	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. 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. 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. 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.
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	International Relations, 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	DipLab2209908
Project Name	**Mapping the Historical Dynasty of the Longest Serving "Democratically" Elected Leader in the World**
Office	Public Affairs Office
Embassy	Equatorial Guinea
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	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 Macias 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 its neighbors, but the high levels of paranoia and a complete reliance on patronage has hampered the country's development. 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. This is the kind of influence mapping that we are looking to create in order to understand the nuances that exist in the power structures of EG. This "democracy" in name only, functions much more like a monarchy and understanding how the spheres of influence work, will give us greater insight into who has power and what may happen when President Obiang dies or steps down - a dangerous transition period that is predicted to happen in the next couple of year.
Final Product Format	We see this taking two possible directions. 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 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.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, African Studies, Communications, Computer Science, Information & Communication Technology, Political/Military Affairs
Additional Information	We have already complied 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	DipLab2209912
Project Name	**A Qualitative Study of the Foreign Service Medical Specialist Assignment Process**
Office	MED Front Office
Bureau	Medical Services
Project Description	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. 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. 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. 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.
Final Product Format	demographic statistics of sample, brief history of bureau, history of assignment process, results (including qualitative thematic analysis) and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Sociology, Statistics
Additional Information	as above, and a executive presentation would be nice.

Title	DipLab2209918
Project Name	**Promoting Antibiotic Stewardship in the State Department: Assess and Analyze the Risks of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**
Office	Front Office
Bureau	Medical Services
Project Description	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 & 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. 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!
Final Product Format	Summary report of process and findings (data analysis encouraged): 10-15 pages; slide deck and presentation (20-30 minutes).
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, 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's 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	DipLab2209926
Project Name	**Automated Pipeline for Authentic Language Materials**
Office	School of Language Studies
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	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. 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. 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.
Final Product Format	Report on existing tools Tools for web crawling, topic modeling, and/or ILR proficiency leveling Corpora of speech or text labeled for topic or ILR proficiency level in one or more of 60+ languages offered at FSI
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Computer Science
Additional Information	All language training for the Department of State is conducted at or overseen by the School of Language Studies, at the Foreign Service Institute. https://www.state.gov/foreign-language-training/ 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).

Title	DipLab2209931
Project Name	**"So What?" - Building Buy-In for Arms Control as a Necessary Tool of National Security**
Office	Verification, Planning, and Outreach
Bureau	Arms Control, Verification and Compliance
Project Description	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. 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. 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 "young people" 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. 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 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. 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.
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	International Relations, Arms Control/Non-proliferation, Communications, Information & Communication Technology, Science and Technology, Youth Issues
Additional Information	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. 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.

Title	DipLab2209933
Project Name	**Multilateralism for the Middle Class: APEC for America**
Office	Office of Economic Policy
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	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!
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, Communications, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance
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	DipLab2209942
Project Name	**Cows vs. Keyboards: Quantifying the True Contribution of the United States' Services Imports to Uruguay's Economy**
Office	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	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. 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.
Final Product Format	Ideal deliverable would be; 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	International Relations, Economic & 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	DipLab2331001
Project Name	**Measuring the Efficacy of the Accusatorial Federal Justice System in Argentina**
Office	U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires
Embassy	Argentina
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Embassy Buenos Aires is seeking a team of researchers for a data analysis of the benefits and impact of the transition to the accusatorial justice system at the federal level in the Argentine provinces of Salta and Jujuy. The goal of the project is to find evidence that the accusatorial justice system - based on public, oral proceedings - provides a significant benefit to the victims in criminal proceedings. Researchers should seek to identify those benefits, which may include a faster, more efficient process to achieve justice; protection of the rights of individuals; greater control over dispute resolution; less bias in the courtroom setting; etc. The Embassy seeks to help Argentina speed the transition to the accusatorial justice system nationwide at the federal level and would use the evidence and research provided to educate the public on the benefits of an adversarial justice system.
Final Product Format	Data Analysis and Research Report including Testimonies and Conclusions
Discipline/Expertise	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
Additional Information	Argentina is amid a slow transition from an inquisitorial criminal justice system based on closed, written proceedings toward a more democratic adversarial system that is open to the public and based on oral proceedings. Under the adversarial (or accusatorial) system, prosecutors (as opposed to judges) lead investigations related to federal crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering. Various political parties, human rights groups, and bar associations advocated the reform, which justice minister Leon Carlos Arslanian guided through the Argentine Congress in 1992.
	The implementation of the accusatorial system in Argentina is being carried out on two levels; a transition at the provincial level and a transition at the federal level. The transition towards the accusatorial system in provincial jurisdictions has a longer history, beginning in Cordoba and Buenos Aires provinces in the late 1990s, which later spread successfully to other Argentine provinces. Today, almost all the provinces have adopted the accusatorial, or adversarial, system.
	At the federal level, this transition has been slower. A new federal criminal procedure code passed in 2014 (and was amended in 2018), replacing the country's hybrid federal inquisitorial system with an accusatorial system. However, the implementation has been slow or postponed for various reasons. In 2019, the provinces of Salta and Jujuy implemented the accusatorial system at the federal level, while Mendoza and Rosario's federal circuits have been identified as the next provinces to transition to the new system by the Bicameral Commission in charge of implementation.
	https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/juries-lay-judges-and-mixed-courts/rise-of-the-jury-in-argentina/34D3DE2AECF3FF193705D9F623B58B87
	https://civiljuryproject.law.nyu.edu/the-dawn-of-the-civil-jury-in-argentina/

Title	DipLab2331011
Project Name	**Inventory of greenhouse gasses (GHG) in forestry and agriculture sectors of Kazakhstan**
Office	Regional ESTH Office for Central Asia
Embassy	Kazakhstan
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	The goal of this project is to study the U.S. experience in measuring and inventory of greenhouse gasses in agriculture and forestry to implement such practices in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. This project would help Kazakhstan's EcoMuseum and its partners in Central Asia develop and implement the necessary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for such an inventory, as well as to determine which aspects are most applicable to countries in Central Asia. This could also further the implementation of Kazakhstan's nationally determined contributions on climate change. Although Kazakhstan has adopted legislation regulating greenhouse gas inventories, the legislation is not transparent. In Central Asia more broadly, almost no data are collected for monitoring, assessment and verification of greenhouse gasses, leaving GHG inventory incomplete. EcoMuseum and its partners hope the development of an MRV system in the forestry and other land use sectors would also help Kazakhstan or other Central Asian countries better address global sustainable development challenges as well as various international climate commitments.
Final Product Format	Multiple teams can participate in this project. Expected deliverables are a presentation, report, and if appropriate, a round table discussion with local stakeholders on findings on the analysis of the monitoring system, assessment, and verification of data on greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry and agriculture sectors in the United States to implement such practices in Kazakhstan.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Water Security, Food Security
Additional Information	Questions for the research team; 1. What legislation regulates the monitoring of emissions in the agricultural or forestry sectors? 2. Who is responsible for conducting this at sub-national levels? 3. What institutions or enterprises are required to report on greenhouse gas emissions, depending on the field of activity, volume of production or other factors? 4. Which methods or methodologies are used for calculating emissions from various sectors of forestry and agriculture? 5. How transparent is the inventory of information on emissions in different spheres of forestry and agriculture and in different regions of the country? How accessible is this information to experts or the public?

Title	DipLab2331015
Project Name	**Emerging Technologies To Enhance (or Target!) The Department of State**
Office	Cyber Threat Analysis Division
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	Assess which emerging technologies will state and/or non-state cyber actors likely use to enhance their operational tradecraft as well as indicate how they will use these technologies to target the Department of State or its affiliated third-parties. Diplomatic Security's Cyber Threat Analysis Division (CTAD) addresses cyber threats affecting the Department of State's information infrastructure through analysis, threat reporting, and information sharing with partners. Knowledge of real-time cyber threat information is a core component of the Division's objective to enhance proactive defense capabilities. The submitted project will be dual focused on emerging technologies, as well as how they will be used in the operations of prominent cyber threat actors targeting the Department of State and its affiliates on a global scale.

This work will be completed through open-source research, interviews with subject matter experts, and the review of academic materials. Findings from non-U.S. government sources hold the potential to diversify CTAD's data sourcing and gather information on key cyber threat intelligence requirements. Analysis of emerging technologies will also serve as a key mechanism for CTAD to prioritize cybersecurity efforts and develop future strategy critical to protecting the Department of State. If selected, your team will help support this analytical priority by delivering an assessment tailored to the threat landscape faced by the Department of State. |
| Final Product Format | 1) An assessment paper in the form of a USG threat assessment and/or intelligence estimate (No longer than 15 pages). The assessment paper should provide a contextual picture of the cyber threat landscape, information on selected emerging technologies, examples of how these technologies could be leveraged, and a justification for why incorporated technologies are assessed as the greatest threat to the Department of State. The assessment should include an evaluation of which of the noted technologies will likely pose the greatest threats to the Department of State's mission and why. The paper can also provide high-level recommendations on threat mitigation steps.

2) Oral presentation on findings |
| Discipline/Expertise | International Relations, Cyber Security |
| Additional Information | N/A |

Title	DipLab2330801
Project Name	**Diplomacy in the Metaverse: Creating a virtual U.S. Embassy**
Office	Master Planning and Evaluations / Master Planning Division
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	The United States has a relationship with, and an embassy in, almost every country on the planet. The Department of State's mission "to represent America's foreign policy abroad" can be challenging as we attempt to "advance the interests and security of the American people", and lead "America's foreign policy through diplomacy, advocacy, and assistance" across diverse lands, often distanced from the Capital city and the U.S. Embassy located therein. While we maintain 291 diplomatic locations, we cannot reach the dispersed rural communities across our globe efficiently. A virtual diplomatic presence in the metaverse may provide a solution. There are political, legal, design, and technological dimensions to exploring this alternative; - Politically, could an official diplomatic presence in the metaverse serve both the representational (diplomatic) and consular (American Citizen Service & Consular Services) of the Department of State? - Legally, where or how would a metaverse presence fit within the boundaries of international law? - Architecturally, the design of a virtual facility must possess the representational qualities of our brick-and-mortar facilities while demonstrating the best of the American people to the world. - Technologically, how would the Department of State run and maintain a virtual presence at a consistently high-level of customer service?

Final Product Format	1. Digital presentation package (PowerPoint or pdf) including;
	    a. slide deck
	    b. detailed report
	2. Final virtual presentation (if applicable)

Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Architecture, Communications, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Democracy & Human Rights, Education & Cultural Studies, Geography, Human Rights, Information & Communication Technology, Public-Private Partnerships, Science and Technology, Sociology, Youth Issues
Additional Information	Is the Metaverse the appropriate platform? - The metaverse could be a beneficial second reality to diplomats, especially in terms of negotiations, visa applications, visa processing, etc. Through fully immersive environments, diplomats from around the world may gather and negotiate, collaborate, and build a communication face-to (virtual) face. - The metaverse offers an opportunity bring for small countries, with limited physical resources, to prosper in the virtual plane, doubling their size and their economy. This also provides an opportunity to open new posts in this second reality allowing for additional diplomatic representation and interactions What alternatives exist? What about Mixed Reality? Mixed reality is the next wave in computing followed by mainframes, PCs, and smartphones. Mixed reality is going mainstream for consumers and businesses. It

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

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

Title	DipLab2331514
Project Name	**Observatory on Organized Crime**
Office	INL Ecuador
Embassy	Ecuador
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	INL works towards improving the response of the criminal justice system and the design of public politics, including legislative reforms Through the Observatory of Organized Crime INL will produce technical and analytical document and public policies proposal to improve GOE decision making.
	INL will continue to collect information on the needs of the institutions involved in the project. This will include i) analysis of statements based on a large representative sample, ii) analysis of the functioning of the criminal justice system, iii) think tanks and inter-agency technical sessions (i.e., cybercrime among other themes), and iv) identification of mechanisms oriented at legal strengthening against TOC (i.e., directives, resolutions, bills, litigation of strategic cases).
Final Product Format	The Organized Crime Observatory will prepare specialized inputs to aid decision-making to improve current knowledge criminal justice (focused on organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering) and the related dynamics and to develop a better institutional response against this problem. The report will analyze the legal and operational challenges that the criminal justice system and based on the findings, will develop technical tools that may consist of interpretive guides for related criminal offenses, operational action protocols or specialized investigation plans.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement, Sociology, Statistics
Additional Information	https://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/
	INL would like that Ecuador has eventually a sentencing council for data analysis of sentencing.