



Spring 2022 Project Menu

Access to Credit: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers Facing Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica 5

Impact of Youth Club Participation on Jamaican Youth Attitudes and Behavior 6

Evaluating the Impact of Public Diplomacy Research & Analytics 7

Unlocking the Potential of USMCA..... 8

Sexual Violence in Lithuania: The Power of Research to Change Laws and Lives 9

Developing a Collaborative, Technology-driven Border Management Construct between the United States and Mexico 10

Opportunities in Off-site Manufacturing for Diplomatic Facilities 11

Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties 12

Growing Together: Studying the Impact of H-2A Temporary Farm Workers on Jamaica's Rural Economy..... 13

Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design..... 14

The Growing Impact of Social Media on Philippine Politics 15

Constitutional Reform in The Gambia: How to Cement Democratic Development..... 16

The Changing Face of Finland..... 17

Choices and Trends for Caribbean International Students 18

Mapping Chinese Engagement and Influence in Portugal through Research Activities and Educational Outreach 19

Researching and Drafting of Statement of Facts (SoF) for Cultural Property Agreement..... 20

Access vs. Ownership: Identifying Opportunities to Procure Goods and Services On Demand in Europe..... 21

Prospects for hydrogen energy expansion in Portugal and California - a comparative analysis 22

Green Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 23

The Global Observatory on Financing Water, Sanitation & Water Security: A unique hub to share best practices and encourage scaling up financing for water-related investments 25

Mining Remediation in the Pacific..... 26

Third Country Training Program Impact on Southeast Asia 27

U.S. for Uganda: Measuring the True Impact of U.S. Engagement..... 28

U.S.-South Africa Relations: The Economic and Cultural Impacts of Temporary Agricultural Workers in the United States 29

Dynamic Routing for High Threat Posts 30

Impact of Women Justice Sector Professionals 31

Gender-Based Violence Online..... 32

How Do Local Circumstances Shape Best Rehabilitation and Reintegration Practices?..... 34

Adapting Criminal Justice Technologies for Developing World Operating Conditions..... 35

Understanding Accreditation’s Role and Limitations in International Criminal Justice Development 36

Exploring transnational links between organized crime and political extremists 37

Dynamic Drug Trends in a Changing Climate..... 38

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Horizon Scanning 39

Harnessing the Evolution of Digital Marketing 40

Mitigating Extremism in Law Enforcement Agencies 41

Understanding what makes adult centered training effective 42

The impact of executive training on criminal justice change 43

Where are the Freely Associated States (FAS) students?/ 44

Analysis of U.S. Engagement with Panama 45

What Happens After? Taking Measure of Heritage after an Embassy Moves 46

Great Powers, Small Screens - An Analysis of U.S., China, and Other Social Media Accounts in the Caribbean 47

The history and changes in public perceptions in Botswana with regard to peacekeeping operations. 48

Gauging public perceptions of China post-pandemic..... 49

Developing Options to Curb Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in Ecuador 50

Understanding local stakeholder and Indigenous peoples’ efforts to improve aquatic ecosystem health along our shared U.S.-Canada border 52

Women and Power: Symbolism or Reality? 53

Mapping the Science and Technology Ecosystem in Africa 54

Options for Expanding Economic Cooperation between Egypt and Israel 55

Mapping Biotechnology Policy with Climate Change Commitments, Emissions, and Impacts 57

Greening/Environmental Remediation in Settled, Industrial, and Degraded Areas..... 58

Audience Analysis of Burmese Diaspora in Asian Countries 59

Forced Labor in Xinjiang and its Impact on the Global Solar Supply Chain 60

Connectivity as a Driver of Immigration 62

Sanctions Impact on Belarus Potash Market..... 63

Surveying and Analyzing Domestic Atrocity Crime Legislation in Foreign Countries..... 64

Supporting ArcGIS Mapping Efforts and Evacuation/Crisis Planning at Embassy Beirut 65

Strategic Analysis of Higher Education Participation in Thailand 66

X Marks the What?: Mapping Risks for U.S. Citizens in Kenya..... 67

Analyzing cultural and educational influence of the PRC in Chile..... 68

Energy Issues Papers for Key Energy Countries..... 69

Exploring the connection between the Belt and Road Initiative and Chinese Civilian Security Foreign Assistance..... 70

Bringing African Voices to the U.S. Women, Peace, & Security Agenda 71

Democracy in Africa: Views from the Ground..... 72

African Power to Create African Solutions 73

Political Dynamics of Gender-Inclusive Language in Venezuela..... 74

How will developing countries fulfill energy shortages without China's coal projects?..... 75

Data Magic - Capturing Metrics on U.S. Engagement in Panama for Public Diplomacy 76

Understanding Japanese University Students’ Perceptions about Studying Abroad 77

Advancing the U.S. and Japan’s Shared Climate Goals in Northern Japan, What is the Role of the U.S.? 78

How can Monitoring and Evaluation be used as a tool to promote cross cultural competency and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts? 79

Theories of Change in Public Diplomacy Programming..... 80

Transnational Human Rights Activism in Southeast Asia..... 81

Propaganda or Information: Russian Speakers in Finland as Media Users and Their Views on the United States
..... 82

The United States of America as an Arctic actor in Finland 83

Mapping American and Palestinian Engagement Through Arts, Culture, and Sports 84

Understanding and Unleashing Youth Entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia 85

Drive International Study in Saudi Arabia..... 87

Human Trafficking Country Profiles and Assessments..... 88

Mapping Iceland’s Arctic Economy 90

Artisanal Gold Mining in Mauritania 91

Perception of GMOs in West Africa 92

Reducing Methane Emissions in Turkmenistan..... 93

Join the Fight Against Human Trafficking in India! 95

Strategies for Identifying Mis-/Disinformation..... 97

Examining Online Gender-Based Violence: Typologies and Impacts 98

Tracking U.S. Government Cyber Capacity Building with the Cybil Project and the Global Forum on Cyber
Expertise (GFCE) 100

Drivers of and Solutions to Irregular Ecuadorian Migration to the United States 101

Diversifying the United States Space Economy 102

PRC Investment in Israel - Landscape and Alternatives 103

Recruitment of Native Hawaiians 105

Recruitment of Hispanic/Latinx Americans in California..... 106

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2012356
Project Name	Unlocking the Potential of USMCA
Office	Office of Mexican Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was negotiated to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the agreement was passed into law in January 2020. The new agreement has potential to further spur economic growth and North American integration. Mexico is the United States' number one trading partner, and the USMCA has already brought about an historic labor reform in Mexico. At the Office of Mexican Affairs, economic growth is a top priority to advance the United States' complex relationship with Mexico. The USMCA provides the tools and resources to further address challenges to our partnership with Mexico and to find new avenues to increase collaboration in the United States and Mexico.</p> <p>How can the USMCA be most effectively utilized to promote economic development for each country in the trilateral agreement, especially between the United States and Mexico, in terms of:</p> <p>Developing efficient supply chains between the United States and Mexico and providing alternatives to Asian markets</p> <p>Creating an environment for success in small and medium enterprises in both the United States and Mexico</p> <p>Applying the new chapters of the USMCA not found in the NAFTA, like innovative digital services, into U.S. and Mexican business</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Options:</p> <p>One 12-page research paper and presentation</p> <p>Three 4-page research papers (one for each topic) and one final presentation</p>
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Economic & Finance Issues; International Development; International Relations; International Law; Latin American Studies "]
Additional Information	<p>This project should be completed within one semester.</p> <p>Useful Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full USMCA: https://usmca.com/ 2. USMCA Fact Sheet: https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2018/october/united-states%E2%80%93mexico%E2%80%93canada-trade-fa-1 3. WHA/MEX Information: https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/mexico/

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2027325
Project Name	Designing For Diplomacy: Security Upgrades for Historically Significant Properties
Office	Office of Cultural Heritage
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Department of State's (DOS) Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) oversees approximately 20,000 properties abroad of which approximately 200 have been identified on the OBO List of Significant Properties as culturally, historically, and architecturally significant properties and archaeological resources. The OBO List of Significant Properties is the official list of the Department of State's historic properties worthy of preservation as symbols of the nation's cultural diplomacy abroad. The OBO List of Significant Properties is part of a program administered by the Office of Cultural Heritage to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's cultural heritage property overseas in accordance with Section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Eligibility for inclusion on the list follows guidelines established by the National Register of Historic Places for domestic properties, as well as automatically including UNESCO World Heritage Sites and properties designated by host governments.</p> <p>The Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property was founded in 2000 as a White House Millennium Project. Inclusion on the Secretary's Register is an honorific listing and elevates properties from the OBO List of Significant Properties to a higher level similar to the National Historic Landmark program domestically. There are currently thirty-seven properties on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Property. One property, the Tangier Legation, is the only US National Historic Landmark located outside of the United States.</p> <p>The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) is seeking academic proposals studying ways to improve resistance to the effects of blasts on buildings constructed of traditional methods and materials by studying one or more of the buildings included on the Secretary of State's Register of Culturally Significant Properties. Structures range in age from the late 15th Century to the mid-20th Century and are constructed of wood, unreinforced masonry, and earthen/adobe. Windows are wood and metal, and roofs are clay tile, metal, slate and shingle.</p> <p>This is an unclassified project and proposals should be based on publicly available information regarding general delivery capabilities in pounds of TNT and the amount of atmospheric overpressure at 30 feet and 100 feet for a panel van and box truck. Proposals should look at how to harden a structure and follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties without completely dismantling a building down and reconstructing it. The scope of the study may also include data collection regarding projected effects of explosive blasts and other impacts to historic structures and traditional building materials.</p>
Final Product Format	These studies will be conducted as part of an engineering, architecture, materials science, or historic preservation-related course. Deliverables will be formatted into a single PDF e-book clearly documenting testing methodology, data outcomes, and recommendations for building reinforcement's based on findings.
Discipline/Expertise	["Architecture", "Science and Technology", "Materials Science"]
Additional Information	It is anticipated that once a bid is accepted for this proposal, that Diplomacy Lab and the sponsoring School will enter into a detailed dialogue modifying and tailoring the content of the semesters work to address the goals and objectives of both the School and Diplomacy Lab within the definition of the project.

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

Title	DipLab2031331
Project Name	Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design
Office	PDCS/DE/AD
Embassy	
Bureau	Overseas Buildings Operations
Project Description	<p>Zero-Energy design has emerged as an attainable goal for United States embassies and consulates around the world. Rapid progress in building systems design, energy capture and water conservation technologies, and passive site and building approaches can address the increasing challenges of global water scarcity and energy resource depletion. The Overseas Building Department Architectural Design Division invites graduate and undergraduate proposals from accredited schools of Architecture and Engineering for a net-zero, resilient embassy design studio.</p> <p>Proposals should include: Studio level (I.e. 4th year, advanced graduate). Interdisciplinary initiatives and formal participation by other academic disciplines Studio course curriculum description, including studio structure and pedagogy Proposed design studio schedule Curriculum vitae of lead studio critic/professor</p> <p>OBO will work with the successful proposer to select an appropriate project program and site.</p>
Final Product Format	Course curriculum and final Student Project Presentation Booklet
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Architecture"]
Additional Information	N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2132215
Project Name	Access vs. Ownership: Identifying Opportunities to Procure Goods and Services On Demand in Europe
Office	EUR-IO, EX, Regional Support Center (RSC) Frankfurt
Embassy	Germany
Bureau	European and Eurasian Affairs
Project Description	<p>RSC Frankfurt invites a team to research existing online resources available for completing the mission of the U.S. Government (USG) overseas through accessing goods and services without owning the asset or having a permanent position. RSC is specifically focused on strategic projects in the European geographic region.</p> <p>For example: Rather than owning vehicles, hiring drivers, and paying insurance for the fleet, the USG could use a service like Uber/Lyft/Free Now Taxis to provide rides to employees to their meetings. The need is the ride and not owning the vehicles.</p> <p>The goal of this project proposal is to develop list of support services and service providers that are available according to current industry standards and utilized by large multinational corporations.</p> <p>The USG provides furnished accommodations to U.S.-staff overseas, moves people and personal effects locally and internationally, and gives other service support like residential maintenance. Employees use computers and mobile devices to do their work. They need office supplies, printing services, and office space. This is not an exhaustive list but gives a sense of the needs required by the USG. Students can drill down into the most expensive and/or most environmentally impactful area to demonstrate where the USG can look for these services. Root questions for exploration and analysis: 1) What are the barriers? (E.g. acquisition/legal, fiscal barriers) 2) What are the advantages (E.g. financial, environmental, etc.), and 3) Which service providers currently offer solutions?</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The ultimate goal would be to receive a paper or presentation along with a catalog of services and service providers. If time permits, an online resource that dynamically updates to mine online data to match service requirements with potential vendors in a given geographical area.</p> <p>The research paper should provide analysis on the pros and cons of ownership vs. access.</p> <p>The paper may include analysis of the trends in corporate outsourcing rather than providing full-time in-house (other than shared services like human resources, financial offices, payroll).</p>
Discipline/Expertise	["Economic & Finance Issues", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Information & Communication Technology", "International Law", "Marketing", "Science and Technology", "Statistics"]
Additional Information	<p>Business, Finance, Economics, Statistics students interested in using data to drive logistics decisions would be ideal. RSC would be particularly interested in life-cycle cost or similar calculators that allow users to make data-driven "buy or rent" decisions. We are also open to students who would be interested in researching what US companies do to outsource support services on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>Ownership comes with the hidden costs of maintenance, inventory management, disposal at the end of an assets useful life, staffing costs (salary and benefits), and downtime for an asset not in use. Access may have higher initial costs or other barriers. What are the long-term differences and where is the "sweet-spot" when it comes to organization size and make-up?</p>

Title	DipLab2132216
Project Name	Prospects for hydrogen energy expansion in Portugal and California - a comparative analysis
Office	POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECTION
Embassy	Portugal
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Portugal is driving an ambitious hydrogen expansion agenda as a cornerstone of its climate transition goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. It also sees it as a promising business opportunity in the long run. Portugal will start producing green hydrogen by the end of 2022 and already has private investment worth around \$12 billion lined up for eight projects, according to the government.</p> <p>Meanwhile, like Portugal within the European Union, California is one of the U.S. leaders pushing hydrogen. It is quickly expanding its fuel station network and experimenting with the blending of hydrogen and natural gas in energy grid pilot projects. The state has designed a subsidy scheme spur the purchase of light-duty hydrogen vehicles and estimates the cluster will require a \$10 billion infrastructure investment by 2030.</p> <p>The project will describe, analyze and compare the hydrogen policy, regulation, focus and funding approaches of Portugal and California, identifying specific risks and opportunities. It will also map key public and private sector decision-makers that will shape the fate of hydrogen as a driver of energy transition.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page research paper with presentation
Discipline/Expertise	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Energy Security", "Geography", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Science and Technology", "Statistics", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	The outcome will identify common challenges, potential areas for cooperation between the United States and Portugal, and deepen our understanding of the policy alternatives ahead.

Title	DipLab2132217
Project Name	Green Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Office	Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Hub (Pacific & Central America and the Caribbean)
Embassy	
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Hubs for the Pacific and Central America and the Caribbean in collaboration with U.S. Embassies Suva and Bridgetown are looking for a Diplomacy Lab partner to carry out research and collect data on the current green entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, including actors, networks, laws, policies, and regulations. “Green” (sustainable, environmentally-friendly) business is touted as a key element in combating climate change, but the details of this ecosystem in the very locations most threatened by the impacts of climate change are sparse. The goal of this project is to document and provide a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and barriers faced by “green” entrepreneurs, investors, and stakeholders, including youth, in a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) “Green” Ecosystem Report and PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>This work would be done in cooperation with the two Regional ESTH Hubs covering the Caribbean and Pacific as well as with U.S. Embassies Suva and Bridgetown. The project would build on current efforts in the wider SIDS community to track these issues, including those being carried by Pacific, Caribbean, and American universities and organizations. A special emphasis on youth and education as they pertain to the SIDS’ green entrepreneurial ecosystem would be welcome. Using an acceptable and widely-recognized approach (such as the GIZ Guide for Mapping the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem) as a guideline, the DipLab partner should prepare a list of the players and stakeholders in the SIDS’ green entrepreneurial space. In mapping the “ecosystem”; the DipLab partner should use the following tools/metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quantitative survey to gather data from SIDS’ green entrepreneurs, youth, indigenous peoples and organizations, and other critical stakeholders on the challenges in the current environment. – Qualitative research and interviews with key stakeholders in the SIDS green economy ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, support organizations, investors, and government officials. – Mapping out existing (and forthcoming) policies, regulations, and laws that impact the market for environmental technology and services – Review any relevant secondary research on the market. – Mapping should cover SIDS in the Caribbean (including the Eastern Caribbean) and Pacific, including the greatest number of countries possible. <p>In addition to mapping the ecosystem and identifying trends, the DipLab partner can also provide a few well-researched case studies.</p> <p>Further information and for background on internal and external efforts currently underway in this area, please see the following links (not an exhaustive list but provided as a starting point):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://www.adb.org/publications/green-business-investments-asia-pacific-trends – https://storiesofchange.gggi.org/pacific/index.html – Global Green Growth Institute’s guides to green entrepreneurship for Fiji, Kiribati, and Vanuatu - https://gggi.org/report/guide-to-green-entrepreneurship-in-fiji-version-2/ (for example) – http://www.pidf.int/ge/ – https://pace.usp.ac.fj/ – https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/national-hubs/caribbean – http://www.caribbeancic.org/ – https://canari.org/green-economy/
Final Product Format	Microsoft Word report and PowerPoint presentation that covers ecosystem mapping and a few case studies. Both products should use non-technical English language and incorporate data and statistics when possible.

Discipline/Expertise	["Economic & Finance Issues", "Energy Security", "International Development", "International Relations", "Water Security", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	This project will be supported by a team from the Regional Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Hubs for the Pacific and Central America and the Caribbean in collaboration with U.S. Embassies Suva and Bridgetown

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2132226
Project Name	U.S. for Uganda: Measuring the True Impact of U.S. Engagement
Office	Africa/East
Embassy	Uganda
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The U.S. government (USG) has maintained a longstanding and significant bilateral relationship with Uganda and the Ugandan people, with thirteen USG agencies providing close to \$1 billion in foreign assistance annually. As a result of this investment, millions of Ugandans are living healthy, learning better, earning more, participating more fully in their communities, and enjoying greater security. Yet the full measure of the United States' engagement in Uganda extends far beyond USG programs. There are many U.S. entities working on the ground, including initiatives in the medical, educational, and agricultural sectors. These programs and efforts are spread across disparate groups, funding streams, and categories, making it difficult to fully measure the impact of America's engagement in Uganda.</p> <p>A comprehensive cataloging of non-governmental American engagement in Uganda would permit the Embassy for the first time to document the full extent of the United States' presence in the country and our contribution to achieving Uganda's development goals; provide insights into opportunities for collaboration and coordination between USG and U.S. private sector initiatives; to identify potential opportunities for further U.S. engagement; and to more clearly articulate to the Ugandan people the full measure of America's support for Uganda. We believe this product could serve as a model for Embassies worldwide.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>–Excel spreadsheet detailing: the name of each U.S. entity; brief description of its programming/mission in Uganda; approximate number of Ugandans served annually; notable Ugandan demographic groups targeted; budget for Uganda programming/operations; description of impact as reported by organization (beneficiaries reached, goals achieved, sales, units produced); key funding sources in the United States; geographic scope of operations in Uganda</p> <p>–A four-page memo summarizing the project's findings. What are the key areas of U.S.-origin or affiliated assistance or investment in Uganda? How much money and effort is being invested in Uganda? What is the extent of the impact being achieved? In what regions of the country are U.S. entities most heavily engaged? Are there regions where the U.S. presence is concentrated or, alternatively, absent? What are the principle goals of the most active organizations? In what sectors do private U.S. initiatives overlap with priority areas of engagement for the USG (based on focus areas for U.S. foreign assistance)? In what sectors do private U.S. initiatives complement U.S. government foreign assistance programs? What are some creative ways in which these entities have promoted Ugandan awareness of these ongoing private efforts?</p> <p>–Optional: a visual that maps where in Uganda efforts are focused.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	["African Studies", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Education & Cultural Studies", "Global Health", "Human Rights", "International Development", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Youth Issues", "Civil Society", "Communications", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction"]
Additional Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some entities may operate multiple programs in Uganda. If that is the case, each distinct program or initiative should have its own line on the excel sheet to separate out the efforts of each program. 2. The U.S. Embassy's annual Report to the Ugandan People provides an overview of U.S. foreign assistance programs in Uganda. 3. Project can have up to three teams that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –One team evaluating engagement by NGOs and other nonprofit institutions –One team evaluating engagement by educational and research institutions –One team evaluating engagement by U.S. private sector entities, to include corporate social responsibility projects

Title	DipLab2132231
Project Name	U.S.-South Africa Relations: The Economic and Cultural Impacts of Temporary Agricultural Workers in the United States
Office	Office of Southern African Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	<p>U.S.-South Africa economic and agricultural ties compose an important part of the overall bilateral relationship. Every year many U.S. farms and supporting industries benefit from the support of thousands of experienced farmworkers from South Africa, which ranks in the top four countries in the world that send citizens to the United States as Temporary Agricultural Workers on H2A visas. In FY2020, South Africa was second only to Mexico in the number of H2A workers who traveled to the United States to support the U.S. food supply chain, sending over 5,500 workers. While the State Department knows the number of individuals arriving and roughly where they go within the United States, it seeks assistance to conduct an in-depth analysis of this program to better understand the economic, cultural, and political impacts of these exchanges and how they benefit the United States and South Africa. This analysis could also contribute to efforts to increase exports of U.S. agricultural equipment, products, and technology to South Africa. Notably, this project will serve the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of advancing a foreign policy for middle class Americans by investigating what the impacts of a policy initiative are on individuals, towns, and economies in select parts of the United States that employ these South African agricultural workers. This research will also be used to find ways to encourage a diverse pool of South African applicants.</p> <p>To effectively evaluate the H2A program and its impact, this project will combine research, direct interviews, and data collection and analysis. Some of the questions the State Department hopes this project will answer include: What size and type of U.S. farms and businesses benefit from these workers? What type of agricultural work do these temporary workers do back in South Africa? What skillsets do H2A workers bring to, and back from, U.S. farms? What is the economic and cultural impact of these exchanges? How do South Africa and the United States benefit from these H2A workers? What types of U.S. exports could be marketed to South African participants in this program? What implications might the exchanges have on U.S.-South Africa relations? How will existing or projected developments in U.S. farming impact demand for H2A workers from South Africa? Testimonials on the benefits that U.S. farmers and South African farmworkers derive from the program would be valuable.</p>
Final Product Format	The primary deliverable will be a five-to-eight-page research paper and associated presentation, accompanied by the data analysis of the information gathered throughout the semester. An initial template to assist in structuring the data analysis will be provided, with flexibility to expand or adjust as needed. The paper will present initial findings, highlight trends, and recommend potential opportunities for the State Department and U.S. Mission South Africa interagency.
Discipline/Expertise	["Economic & Finance Issues", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships"]
Additional Information	To complete this project, students will work primarily with the State Department Office of Southern African Affairs. An interest in agriculture or expertise in Excel would be beneficial but is not necessary.

Title	DipLab2132232
Project Name	Dynamic Routing for High Threat Posts
Office	High Threat Programs/Special Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	Diplomatic Security
Project Description	<p>The Directorate of High Threat Programs (HTP) provides strategic planning and preparation for crises before they emerge for the most critical threat locations around the world. Many opportunities for diplomacy occur off-post or “outside the wire” for these high threat locations. Consequently, identifying off-post travel routes that account for efficiency, hazards, and safety features is a critical need for both pre-travel planning and responsive navigation intervention during travel. The goal of this project is to provide ground transportation routes for overseas posts and surrounding locations of interest that (1) avoid hazards, (2) seek safe points, and (3) provide reasonably efficient travel times on established roads.</p> <p>The project will achieve this goal by satisfying two objectives that integrate waze software with ArcGIS. Hazards, based on SigActs data, will act to repel routes in space and time. Safe points, such as friendly police stations or safe houses, will act as attractors in space and time. Both objectives will result in dashboards that display geospatial imagery layers and include overlay capabilities for routes, SigActs data, and safe points. The dashboards will also include illustrations of temporal behavior for SigActs data and safe points. Once collected, the data are available as a historical archive to complete trend and forecast analysis models. Objective 1: Pre-travel routes. This objective will provide multiple options of routes for the Deliberate Planning Process (DPP). Dashboards may be printed to serve as route illustration and justification as part of a DPP document. Objective 2: Dynamic Routing. This objective will provide post Regional Security Officers with the ability to dynamically re-route active travel in the event of changing hazards.</p>
Final Product Format	A project report, the code in ascii format, and a presentation of the project.
Discipline/Expertise	["Cyber Security", "Geography", "Information & Communication Technology", "Computer Science"]
Additional Information	<p>HTP is developing SigActs, a GIS-based common operating picture that consolidates and analyzes significant activity reports and security data tracked by U.S. Embassies and posts around the world. SigActs enables security officers to make data-informed decisions, enforce security policies, answer requests for information. The next stage for the evolution of SigActs will be more dynamic capabilities, such as route planning and the tracking of protective security details. The algorithmic modeling of a Diplomacy Lab project team will support security operations overseas and take the SigActs program to the next level.</p> <p>The project will be conducted for an overseas post that will serve as a case study. DoS advisors will identify the post and provide SigActs data to the project team once the project begins.</p> <p>About the Bureau of Diplomatic Security: www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/bureau-of-diplomatic-security/</p>

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

Title	DipLab2132236
Project Name	Gender-Based Violence Online
Office	Gender-Based Violence; Programs
Embassy	
Bureau	Global Women's Issues
Project Description	<p>Gender-based violence includes various forms of online harassment and abuse—a trend that is increasingly on the rise and is related to offline experiences of abuse and violence*. The international community has taken steps to draw attention to this trend, including through multilateral efforts in the G7, G20, and United Nations dedicated to developing consensus around preventing and respond to GBV, including GBV online issues.</p> <p>Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated existing gendered divides in technology access and use, and accelerated trends toward virtual participation in the economy and public life for everyone. The Department’s diplomacy and programming activities have also shifted toward virtual engagements, necessitating a understanding of the full scope of abuses women may face online build policy and programming activities that mitigate risks of such abuse. GBV that occurs online, or is facilitated by technology, has negative effects on women and girls, such as retreating from participation in political, economic, and social life online and offline, but granular information about typologies of digital abuse women and girls face around the world is uneven.</p> <p>The Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues seeks further research into GBV that occurs online, particularly as it relates to the digitized reality for many during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be especially timely and helpful as we prepare to update the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.</p> <p>Research projects will primarily examine the typologies of digital GBV that women and girls around the world face, particularly in accounting for variation across geography or culture and the relationship between online and offline GBV. It will also outline the ramifications of these forms of abuse and what human rights frameworks are applicable to prevent and respond to such abuse. The secondary part of the project will provide an opportunity for researchers to delve into a more specific issue area of their choosing that builds on the survey of forms of violence, such as:</p> <p>The role of this form of GBV on the digital divide, taking into account any existing assumptions about the definitions of the digital divide;</p> <p>Effects of GBV in online contexts on women’ participation in public life, for example in public engagement as civil society advocates, journalists, voters, or candidates for office;</p> <p>The intersection of GBV in online contexts and violent extremism, including violent extremist-perpetrated online abuse, radicalization processes, and efforts to prevent or respond to violent extremism through digital tools;</p> <p>Opportunities and promising practices for private sector engagement (e.g. technology companies) in ensuring women’s safety online and whether and how human rights frameworks are being adopted to identify guiding principles to inform technology company’s business practices and/or corporate social responsibility efforts; and</p> <p>Risk mitigation techniques for online programming with women and marginalized communities.</p> <p>* Various international bodies have discussed the scope of GBV as it occurs online and several academic and research groups have established different definitions, yet there is no common international definition. For example, ICRW has coined the term technology-facilitated GBV and defined it as “action by one or more people that harms others based on their sexual or gender identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms. This action is carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology and includes</p>

	stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech and exploitation" (ICRW, 2018).
Final Product Format	20 page research paper, including a thorough literature review, accompanied by a one-page memo succinctly sharing the findings and addressing policy implications.
Discipline/Expertise	["Cyber Security", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "International Relations", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Civil Society"]
Additional Information	<p>To learn more about the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, visit www.state.gov/s/gwi. Please familiarize yourself and tie research to relevant U.S. Government strategies, and guidance, including Interim National Security Strategic Guidance (https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/03/interim-national-security-strategic-guidance/); the Biden administration's executive actions on gender equality and equity, including but not limited to https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/; the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf; and the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally (2016 update) https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/258703.pdf.</p> <p>Additional resources on tech-facilitated GBV may include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Hubbard, C., & DeSoi, C. (2016). Votes Without Violence: A Citizen Observer's Guide to Addressing Violence Against Women in Elections (Toolkit). Washington, DC.</p> <p>Hinson L, Mueller J, O'Brien-Milne L, Wandera N. (2018) Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it? Washington, D.C., International Center for Research on Women.</p> <p>Duggan M. Online Harassment. Pew Research Center. 2014. http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/22/online-harassment/ as cited in Hinson, et al.</p> <p>Bauman S, Toomey RB, Walker JL. Associations among bullying, cyberbullying, and suicide in high school students. <i>Journal of Adolescence</i>. 2013; 36(2): 341-50. As cited in Hinson, et al.</p> <p>Krook, M.L. & Sanin, J. (2014). Mapping violence against women in politics: Aggression, harassment and discrimination against female politicians. Manuscript under review. As cited in Hubbard, et. al.</p> <p>Krook, Mona Lena. "Violence Against Women in Politics." <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 28 no, 1 (2017): 74-88. As cited in National Democratic Institute. (2018). No Party to Violence: Analyzing Violence Against Women in Political Parties (Rep.).</p> <p>Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians (Rep.). (2016). Retrieved March 2, 2019, from Inter-Parliamentary Union website: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2016-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-parliamentarians</p> <p>Women in Parliaments Global Forum, Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, & Facebook. (2016, October). Social Media: Advancing Women in Politics? (Rep.). Retrieved April 6, 2019, from Women in Parliaments Global Forum website: https://www.womeninparliaments.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/WIP-Harvard-Facebook-Study_Oct2016.pdf</p> <p>National Democratic Institute. (2016). "Not The Cost" Stopping Violence Against Women in Politics (A Call to Action). Washington, DC.</p>

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2132245
Project Name	Dynamic Drug Trends in a Changing Climate
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' (INL) counternarcotic programs are implemented within dynamic country contexts, including environmental and geopolitical factors. Global climate change will accelerate the rates of change of both contexts on the local, regional, and global level. Climate change has the potential to destabilize governments prompting civil unrest; cause mass migration displacing communities and intensifying socio-economic discrepancies; and negatively affect agricultural production causing increased food insecurity. The stress and uncertainty in these situations can lead to increased drug use (as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic) as well as increased under and unemployment which may lead desperate individuals to turn to drug trafficking or other crimes. Changes in climate may also affect arable land, which could affect the profitability of various crops, including plant-based narcotics. A general decrease in crop yields may incentivize a shift in drug production towards synthetic drugs.</p> <p>Climate change is a national security threat multiplier as recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense. INL seeks to establish a forward-looking approach to global climate change and the first step is consolidating the known research at the intersection of climate change and counternarcotics. With that knowledge in hand, INL, and possibly outside experts, can work to make informed inferences about the impacts of climate change on drug trafficking and drug use. Ultimately, this will enable INL to strategically position itself to minimize deleterious effects on operations and to maximize program impacts.</p> <p>In addition to a review of current research on the intersection of climate change and counternarcotics, INL is interested in qualitative and quantitative information that summarizes the multi-faceted impacts of climate change on narcotic and stimulant producing plants. This information would be used in a data visualization to support strategic planning and decision making. This research report could develop a visual analysis synthesizing information from several data sources that could include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Identification of countries who are expected to see the most dramatic effects of climate change, particularly on agricultural and political systems dimensions.</p> <p>Additional sources of information or identified indicators that could indicate risk of potential future drug production or instability under climate change (e.g. state fragility).</p> <p>Existing production information by country of plant-based and synthetic illicit drugs.</p> <p>Any information on predictions for drug crop yields.</p> <p>Expected impact of climate change on crop production (i.e. expected climate change impact on crop yields per sq. acre, geographic shifts in production [i.e. will climate change shift zones of production based on climatological shifts in current production zones]).</p>
Final Product Format	Research report and visualization
Discipline/Expertise	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	INL will support the research team to identify regions, substances, and guidelines for research. INL is open to novel, innovative, and "ok to fail" approaches to addressing how to understand this issues.
Title	DipLab2132246

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

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

Title	DipLab2132250
Project Name	Mitigating Extremism in Law Enforcement Agencies
Office	Office of Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>Law enforcement entities are facing an issue of combatting extremist views within their ranks. Many departments have exhaustive lists of what constitutes conduct unbecoming an officer, and agencies tend to deal with criminal acts by officers swiftly. However, this does not address the issue of law enforcement officers who are members of domestic organizations that have extremist views but do not commit overt criminal acts. Their participation in these groups may tailor their views and judgment in making enforcement decisions every day. There appears to be limited research into the evidence-based best practices for addressing this issue; this project would seek to fill that void.</p> <p>The February article below highlights the current discussion on the problem of right-wing extremism in police agencies, which was initially reported by FBI to Congress on back in 2006. https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-02-17/lapd-other-police-agencies-struggle-with-where-to-draw-the-line-with-political-extremism-in-their-ranks.</p> <p>This research report would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the current research on bias and discrimination in law enforcement officer decision making and identify what factors influence biased decision making; Develop a potential set of hypotheses or analyze how participation in extremist groups may affect law enforcement decision making behavior; and Identify mitigation measures law enforcement agencies can take to reduce extremism in their organizations as well as biased or discriminatory decision making by law enforcement officers that also espouse extreme viewpoints.
Final Product Format	Research report.
Discipline/Expertise	["Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement"]
Additional Information	INL will be able to provide to additional guidance and support to the research team.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2132264
Project Name	Developing Options to Curb Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in Ecuador
Office	Consulate General Guayaquil
Embassy	Ecuador
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Do you know how the seafood you eat is caught? It's estimated that one in five fish in an industry with a sales value of over \$400 billion are brought to market through unlawful methods; some 80 percent of fish eaten in the U.S. are imported. Without effective traceability and monitoring, illegally caught fish around the world can enter the U.S. market. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities damage our economy, undermine global norms, hurt fishers who play by the rules, and rob future generations of precious ocean resources. IUU fishing is a threat to U.S. strategic interests around the globe. In fact, the U.S. Coast Guard announced in 2020 that IUU fishing is the leading global maritime threat and released their vision to combat IUU fishing worldwide.</p> <p>With a maritime territory four times its land mass, Ecuador is a leading fishing state (and consistently ranks in the top three for the amount of canned tuna exports). However, IUU fishing is an issue the Ecuadorian government and industry continues to encounter. In 2019, the United States identified Ecuador in its biennial congressional report for IUU fishing activities (occurring in 2016-2018). Since then, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of State have engaged Ecuador in consultations to tackle this problem. In 2020, Ecuador passed a new fishing law to help combat IUU fishing and increase the number of their fishing inspectors.</p> <p>Partners for U.S. government programs include local and international environmental NGOs, Ecuador government agencies, local fishing industry associations, and leaders of coastal communities. The United States has an interest not only to remedy Ecuador's internal IUU fishing problem but also continuing to increase our bilateral partnership to address the global threat. Through this project, your team will help align Mission Ecuador's ongoing initiatives and will produce a report that suggests bilateral cooperation mechanisms for the U.S. to support Ecuador in its efforts to combat IUU fishing. We know any sustainable solution to the problem requires a regional approach, so the project could include a focus on a variety of different options, including a possible focus on the importance of traceability in the artisanal (small scale) fishing sector. Further project details will be discussed as part of a more detailed work plan upon project selection.</p>
Final Product Format	Teams will draft a report with their findings and recommendations for U.S. Mission Ecuador to consider.
Discipline/Expertise	["Democracy & Human Rights", "Food Security", "Geography", "International Development", "International Relations", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Oceans", "Political/Military Affairs", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Western Hemisphere Studies", "Civil Society"]
Additional Information	<p>What is illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing? IUU fishing activities violate both national and international fishing regulations. IUU fishing is a global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. It also threatens U.S. economic security and the natural resources that are critical to global food security, and it puts law-abiding fishers and U.S. seafood producers at a disadvantage. If left unchecked, IUU fishing undermines national security, threatens the American seafood industry's economic stability, and causes environmental harm. IUU fishing also often happens in concert with illicit activities, including the atrocities of human trafficking and forced labor as well as narco-trafficking. The U.S. government is committed to working with our allies and like-minded partners to strengthen the international fisheries enforcement regime and counter this pervasive threat.</p> <p>To learn more about IUU Fishing and U.S. policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economist Article: https://www.economist.com/international/2020/10/24/illegal-fishing-fleets-plunder-the-oceans - State Department: https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-of-marine-conservation/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing/ - NOAA: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international-affairs/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-

	fishing -USCG: https://www.uscg.mil/iuufishing/
--	---

Title	DipLab2132265
Project Name	Understanding local stakeholder and Indigenous peoples' efforts to improve aquatic ecosystem health along our shared U.S.-Canada border
Office	Office of Canadian Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>Canada and the United States share the world's longest border, 40 percent of which is transboundary waters. Governance of these waters includes federal, bi-national, tribal, state, provincial, and community management and oversight. The oversight in the area of aquatic ecosystems is particularly complex and intersects with activities to improve fish populations listed under the Endangered Species Act, including salmon species. Identifying stakeholders and Indigenous peoples who may interact in watersheds on a less formal or lesser known basis but who nonetheless play an important role in efforts to improve aquatic health has been challenging. This project would focus on identifying tribes, Indigenous peoples, community organizations, and others that could play a role in improving aquatic ecosystem health along our western borders.</p> <p>The objectives of this DiplomacyLab are (1) to identify local stakeholders and Indigenous peoples along the western U.S. border who play a role in improving aquatic ecosystem health or could do so in the future, and (2) to understand historical local engagement on ecosystem issues and to understand local perspectives and implications of policy options on aquatic ecosystem health at a local scale. The geographic scope of this effort should encompass shared watersheds between British Columbia and Montana, Idaho, Washington, or Alaska.</p> <p>Applicants should outline their intended approach for local engagement activities to better understand efforts to improve aquatic ecosystem health and should include letters of recommendation from stakeholders, U.S. federally recognized tribes, and/or others outlining the nature and history of their work or affiliation with the applicant (if applicable).</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Products could include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop activities to understand the nature of local engagement among stakeholders and Indigenous peoples, how such stakeholders and Indigenous peoples seek to fill gaps, how they interact with each other, and how they communicate their knowledge and challenges to the wider group of stakeholders and Indigenous peoples. To include: U.S. federally recognized tribes and others to improve aquatic ecosystem health. 2. A report that highlights case studies of stakeholders, U.S. federally recognized tribes' and others' efforts to improve aquatic ecosystem health. The report should identify the stakeholders and Indigenous peoples active in this area, analyze local perspectives and implications of policy options. . 3. Final virtual presentation at the end of the semester to the U.S. Department of State.
Discipline/Expertise	["Democracy & Human Rights","Anthropology","International Relations","Science and Technology","Western Hemisphere Studies","Civil Society","Climate Change"]
Additional Information	none

Title	DipLab2132266
Project Name	Women and Power: Symbolism or Reality?
Office	School of Professional and Area Studies/Area Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	<p>There are many powerful women in the world, such as the politicians Angela Merkel, Margaret Thatcher and Christine Lagarde, the activists Malala Yousafzai, Dolores Huerta, Greta Thunberg, and Alicia Garza, and the perhaps less-well known grassroots mobilizers Olutosin Oladosu in Nigeria, Tiffany Brar in India, and Sally Mboumiem in Cameroon.[1] Through their political positions, financial acumen, and ability to inspire and lead these women have created real and sustained change in their communities and in many cases have had global impact.</p> <p>Through a series of case studies across global regions the Women and Power: Symbolism or Reality? project investigates when and where women have real power to create change in their lives, communities, and beyond. It looks at how power is measured and assesses the impact of women and power.[2] Examples of measurable impacts can include the passing of successful lasting initiatives; gaining access to credit and land; reducing gender income inequality, workforce participation disparities, and violence against women rates; among other things.[3] It looks beyond simple gender equality[4] to where women make different choices than men[5] creating important differences in outcomes.</p> <p>This project answers two critical questions in support of the U.S. State Department's Global Women's Issues[6] initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When is power held by women merely symbolic or representational, leading to an optic of power but little or no actual change? 2) Where do women hold real power to create lasting change, as evidenced by political, economic, and social gains? <p>Deliverables: Each team will identify and conduct case studies on an agreed theme across the six State Department geographical regions.[7] Themes focused on political, economic, and social changes will be defined in consultation with each team. Each team will produce six case studies (one per region) and a brief analysis across those case studies. The case studies should demonstrate either where women had real power and made a measurable impact or where women held only symbolic power and the obstacles to achieving impact as a result.</p> <p>Use of deliverables: Case studies will be incorporated into our Area Studies courses taught at the Foreign Service Institute and findings will provide the foundation for a 2022 Speaker Series on Women and Power.</p> <p>Notes</p> <p>[1] https://medium.com/world-pulse/her-power-7-grassroots-women-leaders-to-watch-38b78744aaf1</p> <p>[2] https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/01/14/women-and-leadership/</p> <p>[3] http://womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Women-Leadership-Infographic-Sept-2018-1.pdf</p> <p>[4] http://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?q=Gender+Inequality+Index&id=415</p> <p>[5] https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2021/03/03/feminist-foreign-policy/events/the-takeaway/</p> <p>[6] https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/secretary-of-state/office-of-global-womens-issues</p> <p>[7] https://www.state.gov/integrated-country-strategies/</p>
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A final written report: executive summary, introduction, explanation of theme, six case studies, analysis across the six case studies, and a conclusion identifying remaining questions and gaps in data. This should include footnotes and a bibliography. – A Spark or Wixsite webpage for the case studies that summarizes each study in an easy to read and visually appealing interactive webpage.
Discipline/Expertise	["African Studies", "Democracy & Human Rights", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "International Relations", "Middle East/North African Studies", "Political/Military Affairs", "South/Central Asian Studies", "Western Hemisphere Studies"]
Additional Information	.

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

Title	DipLab2132270
Project Name	Options for Expanding Economic Cooperation between Egypt and Israel
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	Egypt
Bureau	Near Eastern Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Embassy in Cairo wants to identify opportunities to increase cross-border trade and investment between Egypt and Israel without harming U.S. business interests. The project should also focus on opportunities to diversify U.S. supply chains and decrease Egypt's reliance on U.S. adversaries. Connecting Egypt's large and growing market and workforce with Israeli technology and expertise would support U.S. national security goals. Our vision is that increased regional economic integration will accelerate economic growth in Egypt while rewarding forward-thinking investors. Your university's team would work with staff from across the Embassy, particularly the Economic Section and the Foreign Commercial Service.</p> <p>We are seeking a creative and thorough analysis of areas for joint Egypt-Israel economic cooperation and investment outside of the textile and petroleum sectors, where most current projects are concentrated. Embassy Cairo has identified the food industry, logistics, pharmaceuticals, intermediate products and industrial components, and light manufacturing as the most promising areas for cooperation. We would like you to analyze what joint Egypt-Israel cooperation in these sectors could be viable without disadvantaging or displacing U.S. businesses, as well as analyze opportunities for diversifying U.S. supply chains and decreasing Egyptian reliance on U.S. economic competitors. Programs that meet that threshold should also be reviewed in terms of the existing Egypt-Israel cultural and political environment. The Embassy will use your sectoral analyses to inform policy deliberations in Washington and in the region. We may also ask you to brief experts directly.</p> <p>Due to the complex subject matter and unique political challenges, we believe this project is appropriate for graduate students or upper-level undergraduates with strong support from their institutions.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>We would like the class to develop a combined solution that analyzes and summarizes your recommendations. The output should include documents that we can confidently share with U.S. government stakeholders and policy makers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A two-page executive summary listing investment and trade opportunities by sector, and chances of success, along with their contribution to U.S. national interests; - A presentation summarizing the potential investment and trade opportunities by sector and the expected benefits in the form of employment, investment, return on investment, the impact on Egypt's balance of payments, the impact on the share of value-added and capital formation in these sectors, degree of further integration into global value chains, and other metrics; - A detailed economic analysis showing the expected economic outputs and multiplier effects; and - A 1,000- to 2,500-word political analysis of the non-economic benefits and challenges of each business opportunity, including the likelihood and type of opposition to each opportunity.
Discipline/Expertise	["Economic & Finance Issues","International Relations"]
Additional Information	<p>Since the 1978 Camp David Accords the United States has invested tens of billions of dollars in the security and development of Israel and Egypt. Although they signed a peace treaty in 1979, business links between the two countries remain limited and joint investment is rare. The recent opening of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain presents a new opportunity for Egypt to play a key role strengthening regional economic ties.</p> <p>Egypt is the largest economy in Africa, and 19th largest in the world, when measured in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP). Egypt's economy was the only one in the MENA region that grew in 2020. However, the state-led economy lags when compared to high-tech Israel, whose per-capita GDP at PPP is four times higher.</p> <p>Egyptian reluctance to cooperate with Israel remains an obstacle, though Egyptians</p>

	<p>acknowledge Israeli leadership in irrigation technology, an area of increasing need for Egypt in face of increasing population and tensions around the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.</p> <p>Investments that would decrease Egypt's reliance on U.S. adversaries, diversify U.S. supply chains, support other regional integration efforts, and that are aligned with the Government of Egypt's Vision 2030 Sustainable Development Program should be prioritized for analysis.</p> <p>Existing joint projects are primarily linked to energy, where both governments are eager to cooperate and Egypt aims to become a regional hub for gas and electricity exports. Joint investment also occurs in the textile and apparel sector via the U.S.-sponsored Qualifying Industrial Zones, a trade promotion program that allows Egyptian goods with Israeli content to be imported into the United States duty-free.</p> <p>Egypt is a key transit point for data cables passing between Europe and Asia, making it an ideal location for international data centers. It continues to invest in grid-scale solar and wind power and is on track to produce more than 40 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2035. Egypt's pharmaceutical industry is also poised for growth, particularly in exports to sub-Saharan Africa, and the Egyptian government is launching an industrial modernization program to integrate its manufacturing base more fully into global supply and production chains.</p>
--	---

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

Title	DipLab2193001
Project Name	Greening/Environmental Remediation in Settled, Industrial, and Degraded Areas
Office	Regional Environmental Hub of Central Asia
Embassy	Kazakhstan
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>In Kazakhstan, green spaces are absent or poorly developed, and there are many sites that are ecologically degraded which require remediation. At present, there are attempts are being made to carry out large scale greening and remediation; perhaps the most well-known of these efforts is President Tokayev's order to plant 2 billion trees by 2025 and efforts at mitigation and remediation of the Aral Sea. Other attempts are being made to "green" cities such as the nation's largest city, Almaty.</p> <p>The proposed project would 1) investigate which U.S. urban greening and environmental remediation experiences (see questions below) and 2) determine which are most applicable in arid and semi-arid climates similar to those in Central Kazakhstan.</p> <p>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.</p>
Final Product Format	Expected deliverables are a presentation, report, and if appropriate, a round table discussion with local stakeholders on findings.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Climate Change"]
Additional Information	<p>Questions for the research team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What service (government) carries out these activities? Are there any specially designated agencies for urban populated versus industrial areas? what funding is allocated for the activities of such a department? 2. greening: How is the plant/species survival rate monitored (frequency and duration, control methods - field surveys, remote methods?) How much money is allocated for greening and remediation activities annually per capita? What is the policy and related targets? 3. What is the fines for violations of greening and remediation strategies/policies? 4. Under what circumstances are protected green areas or remediated areas allowed to be developed/or subject to subsequent pollution, and what compensation mechanisms exist should this occur? 5. Do enterprises provide greening/remediation activities as part measures to reduce their impact on the environment? What is the legislation that enables this? Is there legislation requiring polluting enterprises to establish sanitary protection zones" (SPZ) or other buffer zones separating enterprises from residential areas? 6. How is the implementation of landscaping or remediation activities controlled? 7. What legislation regulates and establishes greening and remediation standards?

Title	DipLab2193002
Project Name	Audience Analysis of Burmese Diaspora in Asian Countries
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Burma
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	The U.S. Embassy in Burma is looking for a motivated group of students to analyze the Burmese diaspora in Southeast Asia, China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Participants will build target audience profiles for the Burmese diaspora in each country, researching demographics, values and beliefs, behavior, psycographics such as aspirations, desires for the future, fears or concerns, and finally sources of information and preferred media channels. This project will enable the U.S. Embassy to better tailor its messaging and outreach efforts to the Burmese diaspora in the region.
Final Product Format	Target audience profiles for the Burmese diaspora in Southeast Asia, China, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2193003
Project Name	Forced Labor in Xinjiang and its Impact on the Global Solar Supply Chain
Office	Office of Energy Diplomacy - Middle East and Asia Team
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	<p>The People's Republic of China (PRC) dominates global solar supply chains, and mounting evidence indicates that solar products and inputs at nearly every step of the production process may be linked forced labor programs originating in Xinjiang, China. In 2020, PRC companies controlled 70-99 percent of the global production for silicon, polysilicon, wafers, solar cells, and solar panels, which are all critical components of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules. Bloomberg estimates that at least 95 percent of silicon-based solar modules may contain Xinjiang-origin silicon and/or polysilicon. Forced labor programs are also not confined to Xinjiang. Several of the implicated companies have operations across China and overseas, particularly in Southeast Asia. Direct use of forced or coerced labor in the solar industry appears concentrated in the raw materials and polysilicon production processes and in the coal upon which the industry relies. This increases the risk that downstream manufacturers of components and modules all over the world are using tainted supplies. Independent audits are difficult, if not impossible, to conduct in Xinjiang, and experts estimate that building up alternative, non-PRC based solar component manufacturing facilities will take 3-5 years.</p> <p>This project proposal asks students to assess the degree to which forced labor programs in China affect global solar supply chains and how efforts to combat forced labor may impact countries' abilities to reach their energy and climate targets under the Paris Climate Agreement. Students will develop a suite of policy recommendations that simultaneously address the following U.S. objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compel the PRC to cease its use of forced labor and "reeducation" programs that target ethnic Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and other minority groups. - Accelerate the deployment of low-cost, efficient solar technologies around the world, particularly in countries that are most vulnerable to climate shocks, in alignment with Paris Climate Agreement clean energy targets. - Incentivize countries and companies to invest in more solar component manufacturing capacity around the world to increase and diversify our supply of solar panels. - Eliminate the presence of forced labor in the global, solar supply chain through methods such as enhanced traceability standards, cooperation with partners and allies, direct diplomacy with the PRC, and development of innovative solar technologies.
Final Product Format	<p>The final product will include three components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A 15-20 minute briefing presentation, to be delivered by the students, that summarizes the students' research methods, the data used and conclusions drawn in the analysis, policy recommendations, and risks and opportunities for each recommendation. 2) A 5-10 page policy options memo that details policy recommendations, main U.S. and foreign stakeholders, and a timeline for policy implementation. 3) A set of talking points that U.S. officials can use with foreign partners, industry stakeholders, and public events that promotes the recommended strategy, garners international support, and brings greater public attention to the issue.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Climate Change", "Energy Security", "Democracy & Human Rights", "East Asian/Pacific Studies"]
Additional Information	<p>The State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) engages with staff at U.S. embassies around the world advance bilateral, regional, and global energy diplomacy and energy security initiatives in support of U.S. foreign energy policy. ENR's Office of the Middle East and Asia (MEA) provides analysis and policy and recommendations on top priority global issues: supporting partner countries efforts to secure clean energy alternatives to fossil fuels, especially through reducing coal financing from the People's Republic of China (PRC); diversifying solar supply chains to end dependence on the PRC; improving energy access for growing economies and supporting decarbonization efforts through sustained diplomatic engagement. ENR is working closely within the U.S. government and with partners and allies to address challenges with forced labor in global solar supply chains.</p> <p>Open source reporting from Horizon Advisory and the UK's Sheffield Hallam University explicitly link Xinjiang-based solar companies to China Communist Party-led (CCP) forced labor</p>

programs. On June 24, the United States took several, unilateral actions to hold entities accountable for their engagement in forced labor programs. U.S. solar industry has noted that these actions are starting to delay U.S. solar panel installations, which is causing a loss of revenue and construction jobs, and may impede the U.S. ability to meet its clean energy and climate targets over the next 3-5 years until alternative suppliers of solar materials and components can be identified and/or built.

China's share of global silicon production is around 66 percent, of which 40 percent is produced in Xinjiang. Hoshine Silicon Industry is a significant supplier of silicon to the solar industry, although its exact market share is difficult to quantify. Hoshine has been implicated for its direct use of forced labor in the production of silicon that goes towards several industries, including solar, automobiles, and electronics, and any product that contains material from Hoshine is currently restricted from entering the United States. Solar-grade polysilicon refiners in Xinjiang exclusively source silicon from Xinjiang, however, inputs are co-mingled from different regions and melted together during the ingot stage, making traceability difficult. Solar companies have asserted that they are able to trace supplies up to the polysilicon stage but not further upstream to the raw materials. The manufacturing processes for solar components are energy and carbon intensive, and Xinjiang's polysilicon production giants rely almost entirely on subsidized, coal-based power generation distributed by provincial paramilitary group, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC). Xinjiang, with some of the cheapest power in China due to local abundance of coal, has become home to four of the five largest polysilicon factories in the world, and credible reporting implicates all four of them as complicit in forced labor programs.

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

Title	DipLab2193005
Project Name	Sanctions Impact on Belarus Potash Market
Office	4657
Embassy	
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S.' and EU's latest sanctions against Belarus - the U.S. under E.O. 14038 - includes sectoral sanctions against the potash sector. EB/Sanctions wants information and an economic assessment regarding the potash sector sanctions' impact(s) on the U.S. and our partner countries. Additionally, the assessment should comment on other providers' abilities to replace Belarussian potash.</p> <p>Belarus provides 30% of the global potash market. Many partner countries receive Belarussian potash for internal use and for global redistribution. Impact assessment is important before the U.S. can think about tighter sanctions. On the other hand, Belarus' potash industry is a significant source of funds for the Lukashenko regime so more sanctions may be necessary.</p>
Final Product Format	We are open to the final product but prefer a research paper with graphs and supporting data.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Economic Sanctions", "Economic & Finance Issues", "Food Security", "International Development"]
Additional Information	We expect this project to take one month - the sooner the better.

Title	DipLab2193006
Project Name	Surveying and Analyzing Domestic Atrocity Crime Legislation in Foreign Countries
Office	Office of Global Criminal Justice
Embassy	
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	<p>Survey domestic legislation in foreign countries on crimes against humanity and war crimes, updating the project commissioned by the Office of Global Criminal Justice and carried out by the American University Washington College of Law War Crimes Research Office in 2012. The prior project provided a detailed description of the domestic legislation in 123 states, comparing the text of national provisions to the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. See link here: https://www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/warcrimes/our-projects/universal-jurisdiction-project/.</p> <p>Analyze the domestic legislation to compare the definitions of such crimes with the definitions contained in the statutes of the ICC as well as other international or hybrid tribunals (such as the ICTY/ICTR, MICT, SCSL/RSCSL, STL, and the ECC).</p> <p>Conduct an assessment to determine whether select countries have brought criminal cases for these crimes under domestic law.</p> <p>This project will be useful to the Office of Global Criminal Justice in our role in formulating policy for the State Department on promoting accountability for atrocities.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>Searchable database of domestic legislation on crimes against humanity and war crimes in foreign countries</p> <p>Analysis paper of whether and how such laws have been used to prosecute</p> <p>Analysis paper comparing the legal definitions across jurisdictions</p>
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Human Rights", "International Law", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction"]
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2193007
Project Name	Supporting ArcGIS Mapping Efforts and Evacuation/Crisis Planning at Embassy Beirut
Office	Beirut
Embassy	Lebanon
Bureau	Consular Affairs
Project Description	<p>In the wake of the U.S. evacuation of Afghanistan, Embassy Beirut engages in routine evacuation and crisis planning for a potential Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) from Lebanon, as occurred in 2006. American Citizen Services (ACS) has designed an ArcGIS Dashboard to refine our understanding of precisely how many U.S. citizens there are in Lebanon, who they are, and what subsets of this population would be least able to reach evacuation points in an emergency. More work remains and could particularly benefit from assistance from creative and experienced GIS practitioners. Post read about ACS Mexico City's excellent work with the Diplomacy Lab (Purdue University and other partners) to create innovative ArcGIS feature layers illustrating evacuation hazards, as well as a systematic approach to estimating U.S. citizen numbers in country based on passport applications. We would like to partner with Diplomacy Lab to add similar features to our ArcGIS Dashboard, tailored to our particularly complex and challenging context.</p> <p>Key tasks could include: helping analyze fully anonymized location data of U.S. citizens in Lebanon (to preserve PII security) and generating a data-driven best estimate of U.S. citizen numbers in country; performing creative GIS analysis on open-source data to identify threats to U.S. citizens in Lebanon and geographical/political/demographic features relevant to evacuation planning. Ideally, finished products would include ArcGIS feature layers that could be added to our current Dashboard, as well as written products/suggestions on how best to communicate with and locate U.S. citizens in a crisis/evacuation scenario.</p>
Final Product Format	ArcGIS feature layers for addition for Embassy Beirut's existing GIS Dashboard; written products recommending crisis data collection and emergency communication techniques with U.S. citizens in Lebanon (given an evacuation scenario)
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations","Geography","Statistics","Communications","Information & Communication Technology"]
Additional Information	This is a very hot topic right now in the Department of State, and our section is intently focused on pushing it forward, given the historical precedents for evacuation in Beirut. We would engage intensively with partners in academia and can promise an intellectually substantive set of research questions to be answered. The project could certainly be completed within a single semester. Thanks in advance for your consideration and time!

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

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

Title	DipLab2193011
Project Name	Analyzing cultural and educational influence of the PRC in Chile
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Chile
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The United States and Chile are longstanding partners and they both share values such as democracy and human rights. In recent years, the preeminence of this partnership has been challenged by other actors, including growing interest and engagement by the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, the breadth and depth of this engagement is not yet clear. This project would analyze PRC influence in Chile on culture, education, and public opinion through the Confucius Institute (CI) platform of which the Latin American Regional Hub is located in Santiago. The goal is to establish a clearer understanding of the level of influence generated by CI activities. This information will inform efforts to maintain U.S. partnership and influence in the country and region.</p> <p>In this context, the aim of this project is: (i) to understand the extent of reach and impact of the PRC through the Cis and Confucius Classrooms (and other relevant initiatives) on culture and education in Chile. Of particularly interest is to understand how these engagements may be shaping Chilean and LATAM opinion of the PRC and/or addressing concrete issues, such as human rights, climate change and state company investment; and (ii) to draw conclusions on the influence these partnerships afford the PRC within Chile and the region.</p>
Final Product Format	10-page report with executive summary and presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	<p>1)Exporting culture. The Confucius Institute and China's smart power https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315718408-15/exporting-culture-tony-tai-ting-liu</p> <p>2) Chinese Public Diplomacy. The rise of the Confucius Institute https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781315750088/chinese-public-diplomacy-falk-hartig</p> <p>3) Sage as Strategy: Nodes, networks, and the quest for geopolitical power in the Confucius Institutes. Communication, culture and Critique https://academic.oup.com/ccc/article-abstract/7/2/192/4054624</p>

Title	DipLab2193012
Project Name	Energy Issues Papers for Key Energy Countries
Office	Office of Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy (PAPD)
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	Energy Issues Papers for Key Energy Countries
Final Product Format	The final product will be up to 20 1-2 pager formatted papers describing important energy facts, issues, and information for key energy countries. The papers will include a map, charts, tables, and bulleted descriptions of key energy issues.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Energy Security"]
Additional Information	The Office of Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy (PAPD) of the Bureau of Energy Resources directs U.S. international energy policy analysis for the Secretary and senior-level decision makers that focuses on promoting clean energy transition, ensuring U.S. and global energy security and prosperity, opening markets and removing barriers to energy trade and development, and strengthening universal access to affordable and reliable energy.

Title	DipLab2193013
Project Name	Exploring the connection between the Belt and Road Initiative and Chinese Civilian Security Foreign Assistance
Office	Knowledge Management
Embassy	
Bureau	International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
Project Description	<p>The People's Republic of China's (PRC) foreign assistance activities are multifaceted and often work across disciplines, sectors, and policy frameworks. This multifaceted approach is explicitly outlined in high-level PRC government policy documents such as the Five-Year Plans and policy white papers on topics including national defense and foreign aid. To achieve the broad domestic and international policy goals outlined in these documents, the PRC relies on a crosscutting network of global, regional, and local initiatives. The most prominent initiative, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), brings together a broad and disparate set of economic partnerships, investments, and initiatives that explicitly and implicitly shapes much of the PRC's global engagement. According to the PRC, the BRI currently has 140 member countries.</p> <p>As BRI engagements increase in size and breadth across all corners of the globe, INL is seeking to better understand the intersection between BRI investments and PRC foreign assistance in the civilian security sector, particularly in criminal justice systems. Because many countries face internal security issues which may adversely affect Chinese BRI investments, there may be a concurrent focus by the PRC on building criminal justice system capability and capacity to address security challenges that may impact BRI investment. These diplomatic interactions or capacity building activities may take place at one or numerous points across the criminal justice system, depending on perceived country-specific concerns. Furthermore, although capacity building activities, technology investments, and civil legal system development are focused on protecting BRI programs, they may have significant long-term implications beyond BRI investments in areas such as peace and security and protecting human rights.</p> <p>INL is seeking an innovative research team(s) to develop an interactive data visualization, such as a map, that displays which countries have BRI partnerships, the scope of those investments, and their overlap with Chinese foreign assistance investments or engagement in the civilian security sector. INL will work with the researchers to provide additional guidance on scope, references, research, and tools they can potentially utilize to further this project.</p> <p>INL welcomes multiple university teams and will work to integrate the teams into one INL led research team.</p>
Final Product Format	The final product will be an interactive data visualization using appropriate tools, such as Google Earth, Power BI, Tableau, or other visualization software. A summary of major findings in either narrative or PowerPoint format will also be produced.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Cyber Security", "East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Economic & Finance Issues", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement"]
Additional Information	INL has conducted limited research in this area and will be able to share limited findings from internal research. INL is also fully open to collaborating with the research team on innovative approaches to address the core research topic of exploring the intersection between BRI and Chinese civilian security sector assistance.

Title	DipLab2193014
Project Name	Bringing African Voices to the U.S. Women, Peace, & Security Agenda
Office	Area Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	The 2017 Women, Peace, and Security Act aims to strengthen efforts to prevent, mitigate, and resolve conflict by increasing women's participation in negotiation and mediation processes. The Act mandated the creation of a government-wide strategy to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping and security operations, resulting in the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security in 2019. The first review of the implementation of the strategy, released in 2021, indicated both achievements and remaining gaps. As the U.S. seeks to further its WPS strategy, the U.S. government will need to understand better African perspectives to best engage partner nations, regional and international organizations, and the private sector to support local efforts on WPS. For this project, teams will examine case studies involving the four main goals of the WPS strategy: Participation; Protection; Internal Capabilities; and Partnerships, in order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the approaches taken as well as opportunities for future engagement based on an assessment of how African voices are being incorporated into efforts. The final product will propose potential strategies for how the U.S. government can effectively incorporate African voices into the implementation of the WPS strategy in Africa.
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A report including: (1) Key case studies examined, and lessons drawn from them; (2) Suggested courses of action for how to integrate African voices into WPS strategies. – A presentation of key findings and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "African Studies", "Civil Society", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Gender Studies", "Public-Private Partnerships", "International Development"]
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, 2000, https://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325 – Women, Peace, and Security Act 2017, https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ68/PLAW-115publ68.pdf – U.S. Strategy on WPS, 2019, https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf – President Biden, 2021, https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/ – U.S. Report on WPS, 2021, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/USG_Women_Peace_Security_WPS_Congressional_Report_FINAL6.30.2021-Updated-July-16.pdf – The Department of State's Plan to Implement the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, https://www.state.gov/the-department-of-states-plan-to-implement-the-u-s-strategy-on-women-peace-and-security/ – State Department, WPS, https://www.state.gov/women-peace-and-security/ – State Department, Office of Global Women's Issues, https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/secretary-of-state/office-of-global-womens-issues

Title	DipLab2193015
Project Name	Democracy in Africa: Views from the Ground
Office	Area Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	The more than decade-long trend across the globe is a decline in democracy. Several African countries have experienced coups and other threats to democracy in recent years. Research by Afrobarometer suggests widespread popular support for democracy, but a slight decline in this support over time, likely resulting from popular frustration with how democracy has functioned in countries. For this project, teams will examine recent case studies of challenges to democracy in Africa, identifying what is driving these challenges, as well as local perspectives of democracy and recent threats to democracy. The final product will assess these trends and propose potential models for how external actors can align resources and actions to support democratic efforts in African countries.
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A report including: (1) key case studies examined, and lessons drawn from them; (2) Recommendations for supporting democracy in Africa. – A presentation of key findings and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "African Studies", "Civil Society", "Democracy & Human Rights", "International Development", "Human Rights"]
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Afrobarometer, Africans want elections. But fewer now believe that they work. Feb 2021 https://afrobarometer.org/blogs/africans-want-elections-fewer-now-believe-they-work – Freedom House Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege, 2021 https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege – U.S. State Department, Summit for Democracy, 2021, https://www.state.gov/summit-for-democracy/ – The Democracy Summit must be paired with a democracy strategy, 2021, https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/02/19/the-democracy-summit-must-be-paired-with-a-democracy-strategy/

Title	DipLab2193016
Project Name	African Power to Create African Solutions
Office	Area Studies
Embassy	
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	The phrase “African solutions to African problems” has been widely used and promoted, especially by the African Union, the continental organization. While there is little dispute that African states should lead in addressing African challenges, there remain questions about how this can be best achieved, and what role, if any, external actors should play. For this project, teams will examine past case studies of United Nations and African Union engagement on security crises on the continent, identifying strengths and weaknesses of the approaches taken. The final product will propose potential models for how external actors can align resources and actions to support African solutions.
Final Product Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A report including: (1) key case studies examined, and lessons drawn from them; (2) Suggested courses of action for supporting effective engagement and response by African states to enable African solutions. – A presentation of key findings and recommendations.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "African Studies", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction", "Counter Terrorism", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Political/Military Affairs"]
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – International Crisis Group, The Problems with “African Solutions”, https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/problems-african-solutions – Human Rights Watch, The UN Security Council needs A3’s Leadership on African Crises, https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/24/un-security-council-needs-a3s-leadership-african-crises%23 – Remofiloe Lobakeng, African solutions to African problems: a viable solution towards a united, prosperous and peaceful Africa? https://media.africaportal.org/documents/Occassional_paper_by_Remofiloe.pdf

Title	DipLab2193017
Project Name	Political Dynamics of Gender-Inclusive Language in Venezuela
Office	Public Diplomacy Affairs (PDA)
Embassy	
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>U.S. public diplomacy efforts in Venezuela seek to represent U.S. values with regard to use of gender-inclusive language. However, there is global debate in the Spanish-speaking population around the use of gender-inclusive language, as the masculine plural traditionally defines a mixed-gender group. For example, in the case of the term for everyone/everything: "todas" represents a group of women, yet "todos" represents a group of men as well as a mixed group of both men and women. To address this inequity, some groups are now adopting alternatives such as "todes" or "tod@s" in an effort to employ more gender-inclusive language. Specific to Venezuela, there is some concern that the illegitimate Maduro regime and its political supporters have co-opted the use of gender-inclusive language in their messaging, and that the Venezuelan population may now associate this use with the regime. WHA/PDA proposes an academic analysis of political messaging by both the regime and the opposition (including their respective supporters) to determine how and when gender-inclusive language is being utilized. Further, the analysis would endeavor to determine the Venezuelans' reactions to the use of gender-inclusive language, and whether the population interprets messaging that employs gender-inclusive language as associated with the regime. The results of this analysis will better inform our public diplomacy work in Venezuela, and ensure that our work clarifies the use of gender-inclusive language as apolitical and in line with U.S. values with regard to fostering diversity, inclusion, and gender equity. It will also help to ensure that our own messaging is not misinterpreted as associated with the illegitimate Maduro regime.</p>
Final Product Format	<p>The final product would be an academic analysis of political messaging campaigns using gender-inclusive language, and the Venezuelan population's reaction to U.S. public diplomacy messaging using gender-inclusive language in country/in the region writ large. Ideally, it would also help inform our public diplomacy strategy, so that we may effectively incorporate gender-inclusive language in our messaging without alienating supporters of the political opposition, and without impeding our efforts to foster democracy and respect for human rights in Venezuela and the region.</p>
Discipline/Expertise	<p>["International Relations","Gender Studies","Anthropology","Communications","Sociology","Youth Issues","Western Hemisphere Studies","Democracy & Human Rights","Human Rights","Marketing"]</p>
Additional Information	<p>The public diplomacy environment in Venezuela is unique and challenging given the regime's strict censorship of traditional media, social media, and Internet use. Therefore, this project would require analysis of non-traditional forms of communication such as WhatsApp groups, YouTube video content, etc. WHA/PDA and the Venezuelan Affairs Unit in Bogota (including an excellent team of locally engaged staff in Caracas) can guide the students in finding the best sources of data for analysis.</p> <p>In addition, this project will require proficiency in Spanish, as the vast majority of content will be in Spanish. Participants would need a high level of Spanish proficiency to be successful. This project will also provide an opportunity for Spanish-speaking students to lead the research and analysis. It would also provide students exposure to one of the most unique and challenging public diplomacy environments in the world.</p> <p>We anticipate this project can be completed in one semester, although we are open to further engagement depending on the results of initial research.</p>

Title	DipLab2193018
Project Name	How will developing countries fulfill energy shortages without China's coal projects?
Office	Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy
Embassy	
Bureau	Energy Resources
Project Description	<p>At the United Nations General Assembly, People's Republic of China (PRC) President Xi Jinping's announced that the country no longer build new coal-fired power plants overseas. President Xi made commitments to boost support for green and low-carbon energy in developing countries.</p> <p>Data shows that PRC commissioned 76 percent of the world's coal in 2020 and the country's announcement could affect 40 to 50 GW of Chinese-backed coal projects that are approved and in the preconstruction stage. How will developing countries fulfill this energy need if the coal projects are no longer build? How can we encourage these same countries to leapfrog into renewables and away from coal?</p>
Final Product Format	A 2-page memo and a presentation. If possible, any data analysis is helpful.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	https://www.eenews.net/articles/what-chinas-coal-phaseout-means-for-the-world/ https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/21/climate/china-power-plants-coal.html

Title	DipLab2193019
Project Name	Data Magic - Capturing Metrics on U.S. Engagement in Panama for Public Diplomacy
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Panama
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	<p>How can you tell a compelling story about the benefits of international engagement? This is one of the central questions in public diplomacy. We tell many stories with words and people, but advances in modern technology and record-keeping have given us the ability to tell stories with data as well. As data increasingly becomes the currency for public discourse, diplomacy should follow suit. This project is one step toward using data to tell stories, compelling stories, stories that can open minds, build alliances, and shape history.</p> <p>The formal U.S. diplomatic footprint in Panama pales in comparison to broader private- and public-sector engagement. The U.S. Embassy deals almost exclusively in U.S. government-managed or -facilitated activities and resources and lacks basic information about the scope and value of broader U.S. engagement in the country. The purpose of this project is to research, organize, and analyze information that fully portrays the benefits to Panama of U.S. private-and public-sector engagement. The U.S. Embassy would use the information as the basis for customizable multimedia products in support of public diplomacy. The ability to tell a complete and compelling data-driven story about the value the U.S. brings to the world—and in this case, specifically to Panama—would promote in key audiences a more positive attitude toward the U.S. as the political, economic, and ideological partner of choice.</p> <p>In concrete terms, this means gathering data from open and proprietary sources to create data sets on a variety of metrics then employing statistical and analytic methods to calculate or estimate the answers to questions like, How many jobs do U.S. companies create in Panama? How much additional income is attributable to a degree from a U.S. university for a career in Panama? What is the value of aid provided to Panama by U.S.-based charities and NGOs? The Embassy can use the answers to questions like these in presentations and media to shape public perception of the U.S. among key audiences and encourage them to support our policies or participate in our programs.</p>
Final Product Format	The desired final product will consist of datasets, preferably in Excel, as well as written reports providing data analysis and explanations of the sources and methods used to calculate the answers to the various questions/metrics requested by the Embassy.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Statistics", "International Development", "Computer Science", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Sociology", "Economic & Finance Issues"]
Additional Information	The Embassy has a long list of potential questions/metrics for evaluation and analysis. This project can examine any selection thereof, depending on the capacity and expertise of the partner, and may be distributed among different teams.

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

Title	DipLab2193021
Project Name	Advancing the U.S. and Japan's Shared Climate Goals in Northern Japan, What is the Role of the U.S.?
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Japan
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	The Japanese government has announced ambitious goals for achieving carbon neutrality, which align with the U.S. government's efforts to combat climate change. However many Japanese local governments are now faced with implementing concrete projects to achieve these national-level strategic goals by transitioning from carbon-based to renewable and other greener sources. On Japan's northernmost island, Zero Carbon Hokkaido is a far-reaching initiative will promote emission reduction, renewable energy generation, carbon capture, utilization, and storage, and hydrogen technologies. The prefecture seeks to revitalize the island's rural economy by becoming a leader in decarbonization technology and a net producer of clean power. What role can and should the U.S. play through traditional, commercial, or public diplomacy to advance our two countries' shared climate goals, including decarbonization initiatives on a local level such as in Northern Japan?
Final Product Format	We would prefer this to be action-oriented, so looking for a four-page options memo.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations","Climate Change"]
Additional Information	Thank you for your consideration!

Title	DipLab2193022
Project Name	How can Monitoring and Evaluation be used as a tool to promote cross cultural competency and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts?
Office	Monitoring Evaluation Learning and Innovation Unit
Embassy	
Bureau	Educational and Cultural Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public - private partnerships. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us.</p> <p>ECA has created a robust monitoring and evaluation system that provides the Bureau and the public a framework for understanding exchange program outcomes. The ECA Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Innovation unit (MELI) conducts data collection with participants, alumni, and other stakeholders from around the world, representing countless cultures, histories and lived experiences. With this responsibility in mind, MELI is interested in understanding the effectiveness and potential for ECA monitoring and evaluation efforts to help promote cross cultural competency and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). For this research project, MELI would like a review of their recent evaluations as well other international (preferably public diplomacy, but can expand to the international development sphere as well) evaluations to understand which strategies and methods were effective in promoting cross cultural competency and DEIA among monitoring and evaluation experts, ECA program staff, program participants and alumni, and other stakeholders. This should include considerations such as stakeholder engagement, participant-led evaluation, use of in-country evaluation firms, and bias mitigation strategies. Attention should also be given to distinguishing which methods work for which stakeholders.</p>
Final Product Format	We would love to have a final report (length TBD by the research team) including a bibliography; a virtual presentation (or in-person if circumstances allow) would also be useful.
Discipline/Expertise	["Anthropology", "Democracy & Human Rights", "International Development", "International Relations", "Sociology"]
Additional Information	Working with the MELI unit, the research team(s) will gain insight into the way in which public diplomacy exchange programs are designed and measured, and provide insights to help us assess how the findings and conclusions from existing ECA evaluations apply more widely to the Bureau. This project will primarily involve a review of recently-completed ECA evaluations and any additional literature the research team deems necessary, with close collaboration with the ECA Evaluation Division expected.

Title	DipLab2193023
Project Name	Theories of Change in Public Diplomacy Programming
Office	Monitoring Evaluation Learning and Innovation Unit
Embassy	
Bureau	Educational and Cultural Affairs
Project Description	<p>The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public - private partnerships. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by helping break down barriers that often divide us.</p> <p>We propose to commission a study of the existing theoretical frameworks and theories of change for cultural and educational exchange programming, with a comparative interest in how these frameworks are conceived at the level of ECA implementing partners (IP) and exchange programs outside of ECA. Many IPs for individual ECA programs have developed their own TOCs and continue to use them to guide their programming. They vary in nature, including the extent to which they focus on the short- vs. long-term outcomes of exchange programming. At the same time, many exchange programs outside of ECA employ TOCs, with similar variability among them.</p> <p>In an attempt to reach a deeper understanding of the potential role of TOCs in exchange programming in ECA—“including whether they are needed at all”—we will enlist a research partner to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review program materials and conduct interviews with IP staff of 10-15 ECA programs that are known or likely to be employing TOCs at the IP level. Describe contours and solicit staff view on their importance. 2. Identify, review program materials, and conduct interviews with 5-10 international exchange programs known to use TOCS in some form outside of ECA. Describe contours and solicit staff view on their importance. 3. Synthesize findings from %231 and %232. Make best-practice recommendations on the use of TOCs for ECA. Summarize findings in a report of no more than 20 pages.
Final Product Format	We would love to have a final report of no more than 20 pages including a bibliography; a virtual presentation (or in-person if circumstances allow) would also be useful.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Anthropology", "Communications", "International Development", "Sociology"]
Additional Information	Working with the MELI unit, the research team(s) will gain insight into the way in which public diplomacy exchange programs are designed and measured, and provide insights to help us assess how the findings and conclusions from existing ECA evaluations apply more widely to the Bureau. This project will primarily involve a review of recently-completed ECA evaluations and any additional literature the research team deems necessary, with close collaboration with the ECA Evaluation Division expected.

Title	DipLab2193024
Project Name	Transnational Human Rights Activism in Southeast Asia
Office	Political Sections of the U.S. Mission to Indonesia and U.S. Mission to ASEAN
Embassy	Indonesia
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	<p>In 2020 the launch of the Milk Tea Alliance, a loose collective of online activists in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Thailand, brought attention to transnational human rights activism in Asia. Since its launch the Milk Tea Alliance has expanded to include organizations and activists in the Southeast Asian nations of Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. With human rights officers designated at each U.S. bilateral mission, the State department has a strong understanding of human rights advocacy at the national level, but at times struggles to understand the full scope of transnational advocacy and the linkages that are being built online between activists.</p> <p>The U.S. Missions to ASEAN and Indonesia, both located in Jakarta, are requesting this project since they have observed some of the multilateral linkages of human rights activists based in Indonesia and in other ASEAN countries, to push for human right issues to be discussed in ASEAN fora. Areas where transnational activism has been observed relate to LGBTQTI+ issues, protests in Thailand, the coup d'etat in Burma, and internet freedom.</p> <p>This project would seek to analyze the growing networks of transnational human rights activism, specifically focused on national organizations and activists that may have traditionally only focused on human rights in their own country but have started to expand their advocacy to other issues around the region. However, the project could also examine the interactions between more established international organizations, e.g., Amnesty International, with this transnational networks of activists.</p> <p>The project could also focus on how these activists use technology to facilitate their transnational activism, as well as the legal and digital infrastructure needed for the development of these networks. Government actions and legislative efforts to disrupt the development of these networks, e.g., blocking of websites, internet shutdowns, data localization laws, etc., could also be a topic of inquiry.</p> <p>Finally, the project could examine ASEAN's still-nascent human rights infrastructure, such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, and its complex relationship with civil society and other ASEAN bodies.</p>
Final Product Format	We would be looking for a research paper identifying key trends in transnational human rights activism in Southeast Asia, including case studies of specific topics and issues. Additionally, if possible, it would be useful if the project team could map connections between different organizations across Southeast Asia to better understand the network of transnational activism in the region, as well as what issues or topics are focal points for transnational activism.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Democracy & Human Rights", "East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Youth Issues", "Human Rights", "Information & Communication Technology", "Civil Society"]
Additional Information	This project would be jointly supported by the U.S. Mission to ASEAN and the U.S. Mission to Indonesia. Other missions in Southeast Asia have been alerted to this potential submission and may also be able to provide support. Some articles that provide some overview of the issues that would be covered in this project are https://www.csis.org/blogs/new-perspectives-asia/milkteaalliance-southeast-asia-digital-revolution-and-repression-myanmar and https://carnegieeurope.eu/2020/12/07/southeast-asia-between-autocratization-and-democratic-resurgence-pub-83139

Title	DipLab2193025
Project Name	Propaganda or Information: Russian Speakers in Finland as Media Users and Their Views on the United States
Office	U.S. Mission Finland / Public Diplomacy Section
Embassy	Finland
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The largest immigrant group (regardless of) in Finland are people hailing from Russia or the former Soviet Union. As of 2020, they numbered 90,801, of which almost 35,000 were dual nationals. Russian is the native language of about 70,000 people in Finland, representing 1.3% of the population. The U.S. Embassy in Finland needs to learn know more about the media preferences of the Russian minority so we can plan strategically relevant outreach and to raise their awareness of U.S. foreign policy priorities. Importantly, it would be useful to know which media and social media channels Russian speakers follow, and how those outlets affect their views on the United States. Suggested questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does mainstream Russian media target Russian speakers in Finland, and what type of content do they provide? Is the content informative or pro-Russian propaganda or both? – How does the content of Russian language media produced in Finland differ from the media produced in Russia? – Which social media channels are most popular among the Russian speakers in Finland? – Are there Russian / Russian-Finnish influencers who have many followers on social media, and if, what do they post about? – How does age and location in Finland affect opinions about the United States?
Final Product Format	As the final product of the project Embassy Helsinki would prefer a research paper with data analysis and recommendations, as well as a presentation. If possible, some focus group interviews would be recommended.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Arctic Region Studies", "Civil Society", "Communications", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Education & Cultural Studies", "European & Eurasian Studies", "Human Rights", "Information & Communication Technology", "Youth Issues"]
Additional Information	<p>Report "Russian speakers in Finland as media users - media travel with immigrants" (2016) https://tietokayttoon.fi/-/10616/suomen-venajankieliset-mediankayttajina-media-matkustaa-maahanmuuttajan-mukana?languageld=en_US</p> <p>Report "Russian-speakers in Finland: The ambiguities of a growing minority" (2018) https://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_RECEO1_494_0095--russian-speakers-in-finland.htm</p>

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

Title	DipLab2193027
Project Name	Mapping American and Palestinian Engagement Through Arts, Culture, and Sports
Office	U.S. Palestinian Affairs Unit
Embassy	Jersusalem
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Arts, culture, and sports are among the most powerful mediums for cross-cultural exchange and increased mutual understanding between different peoples and societies. The United States' private sector, civil society and non-governmental sector have a long-standing history of engaging with others internationally through arts, culture, and sports to advance economic, political, and social development around the world and to promote the free flow of ideas and cultural products. These types of citizen exchanges and artistic collaboration can have the added benefit of increasing mutual understanding between peoples, helping introduce foreign audiences to American ideals and values, and exposing Americans to new perspectives. This project will be seeing knowledge and context on the history and current landscape of American private sector, civil society, and non-governmental engagement with Palestinian people and society in the fields of arts, culture, and sports. This research will be useful as the Palestinian Affairs Unit designs and implements meaningful programs to bring Americans and Palestinians together in the fields of Arts, Culture and Sports.</p> <p>The desired final product is a 10,15-page research paper including a) background on the history and significance of arts and sports in Palestinian society, b) the history of non-U.S. government-sponsored exchange, collaboration, and cross-pollination between Americans and Palestinians in the fields of arts, culture, and sports, and c) a mapping of the current landscape of American and Palestinian cooperation in arts, culture, and sports, including an exploration of existing private-sector and non-governmental funding structures.</p>
Final Product Format	10-15 page research paper potentially including an infographic or map
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Middle East/North African Studies", "Civil Society", "Education & Cultural Studies", "International Development", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Youth Issues"]
Additional Information	We expect this project will only take one semester (~4 months).

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

(SDB) and Riyadh Chamber of Commerce. We would be happy to facilitate introductions to individuals/organization who can provide information.

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

– <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1335021>

– <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/saudi-arabias-vision-2030-aims-to-empower-the-non-profit-sector-here-are-three-areas-to-focus-on/>

–

<https://books.google.com/books?id=c8XaDwAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&ots=tqLZ21Wh2P&dq=vision%202030%20and%20entrepreneurship&lr&pg=PA6%23v=onepage&q=vision%202030%20and%20entrepreneurship&f=false>

– <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-30/saudi-arabia-s-jobless-rate-falls-in-progress-for-crown-prince%23~:text=The%20jobless%20rate%20decreased%20to,the%20General%20Authority%20for%20Statistics.>

Title	DipLab2193030
Project Name	Drive International Study in Saudi Arabia
Office	Public Affairs Section
Embassy	Saudi Arabia
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>As part of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan, the government of Saudi Arabia aims to have at least five universities among the top 200 universities in the world by 2030, with all universities boasting modern curricula and strong standards. The recruitment of international students and researchers is an important indicator of the success of this initiative, as diversity on campuses drives creativity and positively impacts the communication, interpersonal, and strategic thinking skills of students.</p> <p>According to the Institute of International Education's Open Doors report, Saudi Arabia sent approximately 31,000 students to the U.S. in 2019/2020. Conversely, only 4 American students studied abroad in Saudi Arabia in 2018/19, representing a -50.0% change from the prior academic year. The Saudi Ministry of education has noted the availability of as many as 357 full scholarships designated for American students to attend public universities in the Kingdom that largely go unclaimed each year.</p> <p>An increase in U.S. exchange students in Saudi Arabia would support the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals and promote mutual understanding between Saudi Arabia and the United States. This project aims to identify unique educational opportunities in Saudi Arabia to highlight to attract international students, as well as opportunities for collaboration between U.S. and Saudi higher education institutions to promote deepened exchange. We hope to find a Diplomacy Lab partner that will: (1) research key institutional and social barriers international students face when considering studying in Saudi Arabia (e.g. lack of information about schools/scholarships, language/cultural barriers, lack of information about credits transferring, minimal advertising to international students, perceptions of the study experience in Saudi Arabia, etc.); and (2) identify a robust set of educational institutions/exchange opportunities that already exist in Saudi Arabia and are suitable for international students and exchanges, and (3) propose models for study abroad and exchange study that meet the needs of both international students and Saudi objectives in this area. Ideally, we would also be interested in (4) recommendations on policy or programmatic interventions by U.S. and/or Saudi stakeholders that would promote greater participation by American students in Saudi study programs, and recommendations for linkages/exchange partnerships between U.S. and Saudi higher education institutions focused on key subject areas of interest to both countries, STEM, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), tourism/hospitality, culture and arts, etc.</p>
Final Product Format	A report and 30-minute to 1-hour presentation to Mission and Department stakeholders. Depending on the outcomes, there may be an opportunity to present to Saudi stakeholders as well.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Education & Cultural Studies", "Communications", "Marketing", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Youth Issues", "Civil Society", "Middle East/North African Studies", "Sociology"]
Additional Information	<p>This project can take more than one semester if deemed necessary by the research team. The U.S. Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has close relationships with the Ministry of Education and educational institutions. We would be happy to facilitate introductions to individuals/organization who can provide information. For further information, please see the following links. This is not an exhaustive list, but provided as a starting point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://opendoorsdata.org/ – https://studyabroad.state.gov/countries/saudi-arabia – https://www.ksauniversities.com/en/blog/list-of-universities-in-saudi-arabia-for-international-students.html – https://www.moe.gov.sa/en/education/ResidentsAndvisitors/Pages/default.aspx

Title	DipLab2193031
Project Name	Human Trafficking Country Profiles and Assessments
Office	J/TIP
Embassy	
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	<p>Are your students interested in honing their research, writing, and public speaking skills? Passionate about human rights? If so, The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) wants to partner with you!</p> <p>The TIP Office leads the U.S. Department of State's global efforts to combat human trafficking through the prosecution of traffickers, the protection of victims, the prevention of human trafficking, and partnerships (aka the 4P framework). Our office is dedicated to achieving our goals through developing working partnerships with anti-trafficking stakeholders around the world, including U.S. and foreign universities.</p> <p>By partnering with us on this project, you and your students will join us on the frontlines in the fight against human trafficking. We seek your assistance in developing country assessments, or country profiles, to better understand the context in which trafficking issues exist.</p> <p>Together, we will explore: what programs have been conducted or are currently being conducted by state and non-state actors; anti-trafficking actors at a national and local level; national legal and regulatory frameworks; national policies and strategies; partnerships and international coordination; country statistics sourced from third party data (e.g. population, geography, economic variables, etc.); the current state of trafficking issues within the 4P framework (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships), among other issues.</p> <p>The countries in consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nigeria - East Asia and Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Indonesia - Near East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Egypt - Western Hemisphere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o El Salvador o Guatemala o Honduras o Mexico <p>Depending on course requirements and the capacities of the teams, the final product could potentially combine: 1. repository of third-party data used to better understand the current state of TIP issues in each country; 2. a research report based on findings; 3. Systems Mapping; 4. Institutional and Stakeholder Mapping; 5. Process Mapping, and; 6. a final presentation summarizing findings for the U.S. Department of State, as well as civil society and interagency partners working to combat human trafficking. The TIP Office is especially interested in deliverables that can be easily updated and kept relevant for future use.</p> <p>The TIP Office is flexible and open to working with faculty and staff to craft a mutually beneficial final deliverable that can be as simple or as complex as required by course curriculums. With the goal of developing a resource that is helpful to U.S. Department of State stakeholders and informs future strategy and policy making, we welcome an opportunity to shape this experience in a way that fosters creativity, cultivates interest on trafficking issues, and engages students in the work of diplomacy and foreign assistance.</p> <p>We welcome classes that focus on a broad range of topics and interests. Understanding and combatting human trafficking requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary effort. Faculty and students interested in human rights, international relations, international development, political science, public policy or service, social work, psychology, public health, law, development economics, child protection, gender studies, and many other fields will bring valuable perspective to our ongoing efforts in the TIP Office. We envision this project as a partnership and are eager to learn with, and from, you.</p>

Final Product Format	Research Report; Database; and/or Presentation for U.S. Department of State and Interagency Stakeholders.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "International Development", "Conflict, Stabilization, & Reconstruction", "Counter Terrorism", "Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Economic & Finance Issues", "Human Rights", "Statistics", "Trafficking in Persons", "Western Hemisphere Studies", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Middle East/North African Studies", "International Law", "Gender Studies", "Economic Sanctions", "African Studies", "Anthropology", "Civil Society", "East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Psychology", "Global Health"]
Additional Information	<p>The TIP Office is eager to partner with university faculty and staff to collaborate on this enriching educational opportunity for the next generation of diplomats, academic experts on human trafficking and related areas, and leaders in humanitarian organizations. Through this project, students will gain hands-on experience, hone their research skills, and develop a tangible deliverable that will directly shape future U.S. Department of State foreign assistance priorities around the world.</p> <p>We welcome interest from both undergraduate and graduate-level students. If you have questions or ideas on how this project could be integrated into your current syllabus or used as a capstone for certificate or degree students, please don't hesitate to contact Kathrine Borgen (borgenkm@state.gov).</p> <p>Additional Resources: 2021 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report: https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/</p> <p>List of Active Projects Funded by the TIP Office: https://www.state.gov/international-programs-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons/</p> <p>Resources to Understand Human Trafficking: https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons/</p>

Title	DipLab2193032
Project Name	Mapping Iceland's Arctic Economy
Office	Office of Political and Economic Affairs
Embassy	Iceland
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>The Arctic is changing, as the climate crisis creates new challenges and opportunities for the United States and global competitors in the high north. Iceland is a key U.S. ally in the region, and the country has formally identified Arctic affairs as a priority issue in its foreign policy. As interest in the Arctic has expanded, so have business opportunities, such as new shipping routes, increased cargo traffic through the region, scientific research, data centers, energy exploration, Arctic tourism, increased fishing, and aviation. Icelandic companies are already profiting from increased activities in Greenland by providing services such as flights and cargo freight.</p> <p>U.S. Embassy Reykjavik would like to collaborate with a university in the United States to develop a map of Iceland's current and potential Arctic commercial activities. The questions are myriad: What Icelandic products are going to Arctic communities in Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Alaska? What trade routes currently exist between Iceland and other Arctic regions, and how would these routes change as melting polar ice allows for new routes? Is Iceland's Arctic tourism competing with or complementing Arctic tourism elsewhere? How is Iceland benefitting from economic development in Greenland? How is Iceland's Arctic municipality, Akureyri, capitalizing on new interest in the Arctic to attract investment? Research should also include commercial ties to areas historically linked to the Arctic, such as Maine and the Faroe Islands. The Embassy hopes to understand these ties better both to identify commercial opportunities for U.S. business and in support of Arctic policy advocacy more broadly.</p>
Final Product Format	The Embassy foresees the final product format in the form of a research report. The report should identify major trends, provide supporting data, and make recommendations for potential U.S. business or investment.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Arctic Region Studies", "Economic & Finance Issues"]
Additional Information	N/A

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

Title	DipLab2193034
Project Name	Perception of GMOs in West Africa
Office	Political and Economic
Embassy	Mauritania
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Analysis of how the GMO debate is discussed and legislated in West African states, with a focus on Mauritania's agricultural sector.
Final Product Format	15 minute presentation and 10-20 page research paper.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Food Security", "African Studies", "Global Health", "International Law", "International Development"]
Additional Information	N/A

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

	and understand the specific technical requirements of dealing with associated gas. Second, students, using this analysis, would find relevant examples of how other offshore producers have reduced flaring, or propose their own novel solutions which could produce environmental and economic benefits.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	This subject would be ideal not just for international relations majors, but for environmental engineering majors as well. We expect universities with an oil and gas focus would also be interested in this project.

Title	DipLab2193036
Project Name	Join the Fight Against Human Trafficking in India!
Office	Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
Embassy	
Bureau	Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Project Description	<p>Are your students interested in honing their research, writing, and public speaking skills? Curious about U.S. - India relations? Passionate about human rights? If so, The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) wants to partner with you!</p> <p>The TIP Office leads the U.S. Department of State's global efforts to combat human trafficking through the prosecution of traffickers, the protection of victims, the prevention of human trafficking. Our office is dedicated to achieving our goals through developing working partnerships with anti-trafficking stakeholders around the world, including U.S. and foreign universities. In India, the United States serves as a key partner to local, regional, and international anti-trafficking organizations who are working to end modern slavery.</p> <p>By partnering with us on this project, you and your students will join us on the frontlines in the fight against human trafficking. We seek your assistance in developing a series of profiles on Indian States to better understand the context in which trafficking issues exist, including similarities and differences between regions within India.</p> <p>Together, we will explore some of the most pressing issues: What type of programming has been conducted or is currently active; Where can we make the most impact; How can we achieve systematic change; Who are our partners and allies in this fight?</p> <p>Depending on course requirements, the final product would combine 1. data collection and standardization (such as types of cases, current trends in trafficking, and a compilation of local actors and stakeholders); 2. a research report based on this data/research findings; and 3. a final presentation summarizing findings for the U.S. Department of State, as well as civil society and interagency partners working to combat human trafficking in India. The TIP Office is especially interested in ideas to create a reservoir of information that can be updated and kept relevant for future use.</p> <p>Preliminary information of interest includes types of TIP cases (sex trafficking, child trafficking, bonded labor, etc.), roles of various district, state, and central-level government partners in TIP, and examples of previous/current programming and donor profiles in each of India's 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Each student could research trafficking in one of India's 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Alternatively, multiple students within a class could be grouped into teams to cover one or more Indian States and Union Territories.</p> <p>The TIP Office can be flexible and work with faculty or staff to craft the final project. With the goal of developing a resource that is helpful to U.S. Department of State stakeholders and informs future policymaking, we welcome an opportunity to shape this experience in a way that fosters creativity, cultivates interest in India, and engages students in the work of diplomacy and foreign assistance.</p> <p>We welcome classes that focus on a broad range of topics and interests. Understanding and combatting human trafficking requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary effort. Faculty and students interested in South Asia, human rights, international relations, political science, public policy or service, social work, child protection, gender studies, and many other fields will bring valuable perspective to our ongoing efforts in the TIP Office. We envision this project as a partnership and are eager to learn with, and from, you.</p>
Final Product Format	Research Report; Database; and/or Presentation for U.S. Department of State and Interagency Stakeholders
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "International Development", "Narcotics & Law Enforcement", "Psychology", "Sociology", "South/Central Asian Studies", "Trafficking in Persons", "Statistics", "Youth Issues", "Civil Society", "Geography", "International Law", "Public-Private Partnerships"]

Additional Information	<p>The TIP Office is eager to partner with university faculty and staff to collaborate on this enriching educational opportunity for the next generation of diplomats, academic experts on South Asia and/or human trafficking, and leaders in humanitarian organizations. Through this project, students will gain hands-on experience, hone their research skills, and develop a tangible deliverable that will directly shape future U.S. Department of State foreign assistance priorities in India.</p> <p>For students interested in broadening their understanding of India and/or pursuing public service, the TIP Office could try to organize information sessions on U.S. government-sponsored fellowships such as the Fulbright-Nehru Student Research and English Teaching Assistantships, the Critical Language Scholarship (Bangla, Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu), the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, and various opportunities such as U.S. Department of State internships and career fellowships.</p> <p>We welcome interest from both undergraduate and graduate-level students. If you have questions or ideas on how this project could be integrated into your current syllabus or used as a capstone for certificate or degree students, please don't hesitate to contact Chane Corp (corpcp@state.gov).</p> <p>2021 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report on India: https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/india/ List of Active Projects Funded by the TIP Office: https://www.state.gov/international-programs-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons/</p> <p>Resources to Understand Human Trafficking: https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons/</p> <p>Background on U.S. - India relations: https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-india/</p>
-------------------------------	---

Title	DipLab2193037
Project Name	Strategies for Identifying Mis-/Disinformation
Office	Operations Center
Embassy	
Bureau	Secretary of State
Project Description	<p>The Operations Center (Ops) is the Secretary's and the Department's communications and crisis management center. The organization's mission is to get the right information to the right people at the right time. Open 24/7/365, Ops monitors world events, prepares daily briefings for the Secretary and other Department principals, and facilitates communication between the Department and the rest of the world. Ops is also the Department's crisis management hub, collecting and disseminating information about breaking events, briefing principals and facilitating a whole of government response to a crisis, including the management of 24-hour task forces.</p> <p>It is critical that Ops personnel push timely and accurate information to Department principals to enable diplomacy and policy decisions at the nation-state level. Ops monitors open-source reporting, including social media as well as traditional news outlets, for breaking developments affecting U.S. foreign policy interests and objectives. In an age of proliferating campaigns of malicious misinformation and disinformation, often propagated by sophisticated state actors, Ops staff need to know how to differentiate between real breaking news and disinformation quickly and accurately. It is critical that only accurate information be forwarded to the Secretary and senior Department leadership and used as a basis for making crucial foreign policy and national security decisions.</p> <p>Additionally, the Secretary and senior staff would benefit from identification of common disinformation narratives, particularly those disseminated by authoritarian rivals. This would help shape counter-disinformation campaigns and prevent the advancement of strategic competitors' foreign policy objectives through the unintentional spread of their disinformation narratives.</p> <p>Based on research into this subject, please propose strategies for helping Ops to identify misinformation and disinformation in open-source media. Some questions you may consider trying to answer include: What are the differences between misinformation and disinformation, and do these differences help to identify one or the other? What are the hallmarks of misinformation and disinformation? Do you have a proposed process for evaluating information found on open-source media? What current and potential future tools could be used to support this process?</p>
Final Product Format	Short research paper, process guidance recommendations document
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Communications", "Computer Science", "Cyber Security", "Information & Communication Technology", "Science and Technology"]
Additional Information	About Us: https://www.state.gov/about-us-executive-secretariat/ Resources from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency: https://www.cisa.gov/mdm-resource-library

Title	DipLab2193038
Project Name	Examining Online Gender-Based Violence: Typologies and Impacts
Office	Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues
Embassy	
Bureau	Secretary of State
Project Description	<p>Gender-based violence (GBV) includes various forms of online harassment and abuse—a trend that is increasingly on the rise and is related to offline experiences of abuse and violence. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated existing gendered divides in technology access and use, and accelerated trends toward virtual participation in the economy and public life for women.</p> <p>The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues seeks further research into GBV that occurs online, particularly as it relates to the greater use of online platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations may be used to inform forthcoming national and global U.S. Government strategies for addressing gender-based violence. Research projects will primarily examine the typologies of online and technology-facilitated GBV that women and girls around the world face (e.g. tactics used, common perpetrators, etc.), particularly in accounting for variation across geography or culture and the relationship between online and offline GBV. It will also outline the impacts of these forms of abuse. The secondary part of the project will provide an opportunity for researchers to delve into a more specific issue area of their choosing that builds on the survey of forms of violence, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of this form of GBV on the digital divide, taking into account any existing assumptions about the definitions of the digital divide; - The intersection of GBV in online contexts and violent extremism, including violent extremist-perpetrated online abuse, radicalization processes, and efforts to prevent or respond to violent extremism through digital tools; - Opportunities for private-sector and civil society engagement with technology companies, non-government organizations, and similar entities that are active in ensuring women's safety online; and - Evidence-based/informed risk mitigation techniques for online programming with women and marginalized communities.
Final Product Format	20 page research paper, including a thorough literature review, accompanied by a one-page memo succinctly sharing the findings and addressing policy implications.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Civil Society", "Cyber Security", "Democracy & Human Rights", "Gender Studies", "Human Rights", "Information & Communication Technology"]
Additional Information	<p>To learn more about the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, visit www.state.gov/s/gwi. Please familiarize yourself and tie research to relevant U.S. Government strategies, and guidance, including Interim National Security Strategic Guidance (https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/03/interim-national-security-strategic-guidance/); the Biden administration's executive actions on gender equality and equity, including but not limited to https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/; the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf; and the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally (2016 update) https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/258703.pdf.</p> <p>Additional resources on tech-facilitated GBV may include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Hubbard, C., & DeSoi, C. (2016). <i>Votes Without Violence: A Citizen Observer's Guide to Addressing Violence Against Women in Elections</i>(Toolkit). Washington, DC.</p> <p>Hinson L, Mueller J, O'Brien-Milne L, Wandera N. (2018) <i>Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it?</i> Washington, D.C., International Center for Research on Women.</p> <p>Duggan M. <i>Online Harassment</i>. Pew Research Center. 2014. http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/22/online-harassment/ as cited in Hinson, et al.</p> <p>Bauman S, Toomey RB, Walker JL. <i>Associations among bullying, cyberbullying, and suicide in</i></p>

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

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

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

Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians(Rep.). (2016). Retrieved March 2, 2019, from Inter-Parliamentary Union website:
<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2016-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-parliamentarians>

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2193039
Project Name	Tracking U.S. Government Cyber Capacity Building with the Cybil Project and the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)
Office	Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues
Embassy	
Bureau	Executive Secretariat
Project Description	<p>Cybersecurity has become a top priority for the United States on both the domestic and international fronts. As a key element of the State Department's work on cyber policy, the Department supports projects that enhance the capacity of international partners to defend their own networks, formulate and implement sound cyber policies, and engage in international discussions around cybersecurity. The Department must make sound, data-based choices about which cyber capacity building (CCB) projects to support, and it must also work with likeminded international partners to avoid duplication, identify gaps, and share best practices. If selected, your team will learn more about current CCB projects supported by the United States and will issue recommendations for how the United States should prioritize future CCB funding.</p> <p>As part of this project, your team will learn about the work of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), a multi-stakeholder community of more than 140 members and partners from all regions of the world that aims to strengthen cyber capacity and expertise globally. The GFCE coordinates regional and global CCB projects and initiatives; allows professionals to share knowledge and expertise; and acts as a clearing house to match CCB needs to offers of support. One of the GFCE's primary tools for coordinating international efforts is Cybil, a knowledge portal for cyber capacity building that provides a neutral place where governments, funders and implementing agencies can find and share best practices and practical information to support the design and delivery of capacity building projects and activities. Through this project, your team will dig into the Cybil portal and identify U.S. CCB programs that should be added to it. This project will result in more efficient and effective coordination within the U.S. Government and with international partner countries.</p>
Final Product Format	We would like to see a brief analysis (10-12 pages) in which the team will use data from the Cybil Portal to analyze how the US compares to the rest of the world in the types of projects it supports. We would also ask the team to make an argument for future USG funding priorities by pointing out gaps and/or excessive spending in current funding levels. In order to create this final product, the team will need to use the Cybil Portal and other sources to collect data on the various CCB-related programs sponsored by the USG and by other countries. This work, which will be done with members of the Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues (S/CCI), has the potential to directly inform the United States' policy on cybersecurity capacity building, a newly emerging discipline that sits at the intersection of international relations, technology, and international development.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Cyber Security", "Information & Communication Technology", "Science and Technology"]
Additional Information	Interested teams should begin by acquainting team members with the work of the Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues and the USG cyber policy more generally. They should also be familiar with the work of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) and the Cybil Portal.

Title	DipLab2193040
Project Name	Drivers of and Solutions to Irregular Ecuadorian Migration to the United States
Office	Political Section
Embassy	Ecuador
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	<p>Irregular migration of Ecuadorians to the United States has significantly increased in 2021, with total Ecuadorian irregular migrants arriving to the U.S. Southwest Border now surpassing those from El Salvador. In addition to the strain this irregular migration places on the United States and sending communities in Ecuador, the migration routes they take are often dangerous and have resulted in high-profile cases of death and abuse that are significant cause for concern for both the United States and Ecuador. The Ecuadorian government and U.S. statistics show the majority of these migrants come from rural communities in the central provinces of Azuay and Cañar. While these communities are generally economically disadvantaged, they are not the poorest communities in Ecuador. Therefore, Ecuadorian government economic development plans for the region may not solve the migration problem, and local contacts believe other factors such as family reunification and a "social contagion" of peer pressure to migrate must also be addressed.</p> <p>Post would benefit from a more thorough analysis of the causes of Ecuadorian irregular migration, as well as a review of the possible solutions, to include an analysis of whether economic development projects in at-risk regions (financed by Ecuador or the United States) or media campaigns warning of the dangers of migration would lessen irregular migration. While the report and analysis should be focused on the local drivers of irregular migration, a comparison to the drivers of irregular migration in other countries may be useful.</p>
Final Product Format	A research paper that explores the causes of Ecuadorian irregular migration and analyzes whether proposed solutions to prevent irregular migration (economic development of at-risk communities, media campaigns to warn of the dangers of irregular migration, etc.) will have any benefit, and if so, how those programs might be best designed.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2193041
Project Name	Diversifying the United States Space Economy
Office	Office of Space Affairs
Embassy	
Bureau	Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
Project Description	<p>The outer space economy is estimated to be worth over \$420 billion and climbing. As outer space becomes more accessible and costs continue to fall, the rapid expansion of economically viable ventures in space will necessitate the diversification of the United States economy. In order for the United States to fully realize the potential of this opportunity, our workforce, STEM education system, infrastructure, and policies must adapt. Applicants will examine ways the United States can adapt these areas to continue our international leadership in space. Areas of research can include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can our current workforce and training structures meet near- and far-term demands for the space economy? If not, how should they be adapted? - What types of higher education and vocational training are necessary? - How can the United States leverage its international relationships to facilitate international norms and standards favorable to a thriving U.S. space sector?
Final Product Format	Provide a written report detailing how the United States can adapt its workforce, education system, infrastructure, and policies to lead the international community in maintaining a thriving space economy. The selected group should also prepare a presentation on their findings.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Economic & Finance Issues", "Education & Cultural Studies"]
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measuring the Space Economy: Estimating the Value of Economic Activities in and for Space: https://idalink.org/d-10814 - The Space Foundation's Space Report Archive on Workforce: https://www.thespacereport.org/topics/workforce/ - 2019 Senate Hearing on STEM workforce: https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2019/11/building-nasa-s-workforce-of-the-future-stem-engagement-for-a-21st-century-education - DEVELOPING FUTURE SPACE WORKERS: LEADERSHIP NEEDED TODAY: https://aerospace.org/paper/developing-future-space-workers-leadership-needed-today - Issues Affecting the Future of the U.S. Space Science and Engineering Workforce: https://www.nap.edu/catalog/11642/issues-affecting-the-future-of-the-us-space-science-and-engineering-workforce

Title	DipLab2193042
Project Name	PRC Investment in Israel - Landscape and Alternatives
Office	Tel Aviv
Embassy	Israel
Bureau	Near Eastern Affairs
Project Description	<p>There is a growing conversation about how recent normalization agreements among Israel and various Arab states - the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan - have allowed Israel to tap previously inaccessible capital. This, in turn could reduce its reliance on inbound investment from the People's Republic of China, a strategic competitor to the United States, which aims to deepen its ties to Israel, including through investments in infrastructure and technology firms. Are Gulf funds replacing PRC-backed investments? What are the critical factors? More broadly, the United States urges allies and partner states to be wary of PRC debt instruments, infrastructure projects, greenfield FDI, and portfolio investments, particularly when critical infrastructure or sensitive and emerging technologies are involved. But what alternatives exist for budget-strapped countries or economies looking to cash in on supposedly low-cost capital?</p> <p>This project begins with questions about PRC and Gulf investment in Israel and how Israel might navigate the political and financial tradeoffs of different forms of inbound capital flows. We are interested in working with one or more teams to define clear questions of interest, answerable in a reasonable semester-length scope. A micro-level approach could assess relative flows of capital over time into the various Israeli economic sectors, using the normalization agreements as a treatment; what were the economic (and second-order security) effects, if any, of the agreements? A broader approach could tap into the rich and growing literature on the PRC investment landscape, and assess what alternatives exist for third country economies. In short, what are the alternatives to PRC investment? What are the gaps? How might China seek to partner with Gulf countries to advance its own interests following the Abraham Accords? What, if anything, should U.S. government policymakers and foreign policy practitioners do to encourage further investment and economic activity that can provide an alternative to potentially problematic ties to the PRC - among Israel and Arab states, or more generally? We are particularly interested in working with researchers and students focused on the nexus of economics, finance, international relations, and national security.</p>
Final Product Format	We would like to work dynamically with our university partners to develop the most useful and immediately usable product for an interagency policy audience, based on the ultimate research questions and methodology. Options include a research paper, targeted memos, or a slide deck.
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations", "Economic & Finance Issues", "Political/Military Affairs", "Public-Private Partnerships", "Science and Technology", "East Asian/Pacific Studies", "Middle East/North African Studies"]
Additional Information	<p>Examples of the growing literature tracking this investment landscape generally. The first link is a publication that evaluates trends specifically on Chinese investment in Israel, and contains links to more potential sources/information. Link %232 is the home page for data available for download from IMF that may be relevant. Link %233 is the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's data website, APIs and Excel downloads.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Investments in Israel: Developments and a Look to the Future INSS https://www.inss.org.il/publication/chinese-investments/ IMF Data Home Page - Download IMF data - IMF Data https://data.imf.org/?sk=388dfa60-1d26-4ade-b505-a05a558d9a42&slid=1479329334655 About Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's Data Hub - TASE Data Hub https://datahub.tase.co.il/en/about/ <p>In addition, there are a number of data sources starting on page 13 of the attached PDF (Appendix A. Databases and Resources) on how other projects have tracked China's investment activities. Many are focused on China's investment in the US, but contain data on investment type, private vs. state-backed investors, etc. to give you a sense of the mechanisms of Chinese investment and some data that is out there.</p> <p>This literature is rich and growing. We are interested at a micro level in trend analysis here in</p>

	Israel, and at a macro level in the existing alternatives to this landscape - if a country is not going to engage with these funding mechanisms, where can they turn?
--	---

Title	DipLab2193043
Project Name	Recruitment of Native Hawaiians
Office	GTM/TAC/REC
Embassy	
Bureau	Human Resources
Project Description	This proposal calls for the creation of a plan to successfully recruit Native Hawaiian applicants for positions at the U.S. Department of State, particularly in the state of Hawaii. We seek specific recommendations as to the best methods to increase the number of Native Hawaiians who apply for both Civil Service and Foreign Service positions as well as suggestions for how to raise awareness of U.S. Department of State career opportunities in that community. The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet these goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.
Final Product Format	Strategic plan
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2193044
Project Name	Recruitment of Hispanic/Latinx Americans in California
Office	GTM/TAC/REC
Embassy	
Bureau	Human Resources
Project Description	This proposal calls for the creation of a plan to successfully recruit California resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans to apply for Foreign Service Specialist positions. We seek specific recommendations as to the best methods to increase the number of California resident Hispanic/Latinx Americans who apply for Foreign Service Specialist positions as well as suggestions for how to raise awareness of these career opportunities in that community. The final product should be a well-crafted strategy to meet these goals along with a proposal as to how to measure success.
Final Product Format	Strategic plan
Discipline/Expertise	["International Relations"]
Additional Information	N/A