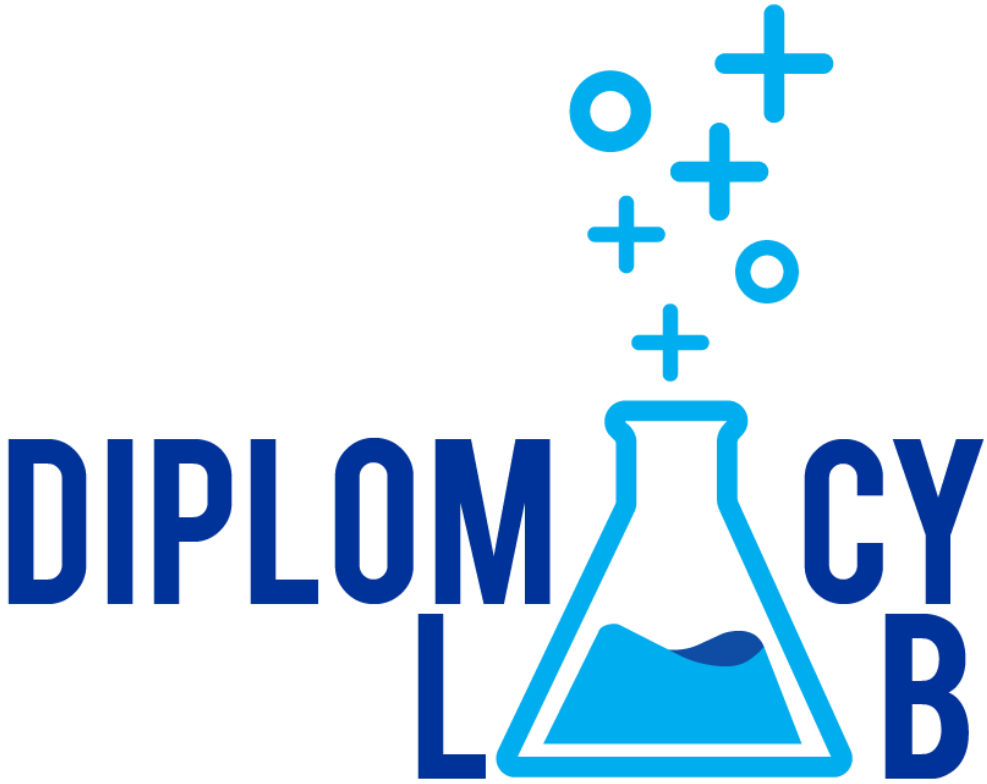

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Round 2

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Title	DipLab2311301
Project Name	**Bilateral Trade Affairs project on the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) 2025 Renewal**
Office	Bilateral Trade Affairs
Bureau	Economic and Business Affairs
Project Description	Since its enactment in 2000, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has been at the core of U.S. economic policy and commercial engagement with Africa. AGOA provides eligible sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free access to the U.S. market for over 1,800 products, in addition to the more than 5,000 products that are eligible for duty-free access under the Generalized System of Preferences program. AGOA will need to be renewed for 2025, and stakeholders are looking for new ideas to enhance it to make the act more effective. This project will allow students to put forward ideas for making the program more effective. Possibilities include methods to enhance small and medium Enteprises (SMEs) utilization of the program, methods to reduce barriers to AGOA membership, and ways to potentially expand the program. BTA would like the students to explore AGOA's low utilization and how the U.S. government can structure the AGOA program to help businesses, particularly SMEs, increase low utilization. Students should focus on macro-level requirements for program eligibility. It would be especially useful to examine solutions outside of providing technical assistance.
Final Product Format	The final product can be either a research paper or a presentation accompanied by a memo. There is no minimum length requirement.
Discipline/Expertise	Economic and Finance Issues
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2311303
Project Name	**The Impact of Innovation: Understanding the dynamics driving Regional Innovation Hubs**
Office	Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary
Bureau	Science & Technology Adviser
Project Description	Science, technology and innovation have tremendous potential to support and uplift communities. Areas with concentrations of innovation are often able to create wealth and opportunity, although the advantages are not always shared equally. As the U.S. works to ensure we retain our technological competitiveness internationally and promote equitable outcomes domestically, we want to better understand what dynamics drive the success of regional innovation hubs. In particular, this research would identify the metrics which would lead us to consider an area as a regional innovation hub, what dynamics led to it's emergence and whether the benefits of that growth are equally accessible. Coming out of this project, we'd hope to have a better understanding of questions like: How do regional innovation hubs emerge? What can be done to promote their growth in a way that is inclusive, ensuring that all members of the community are able to access their advantages? How can the U.S. support this growth both domestically and internationally? This research would likely entail a review of academic literature on the dynamics involved, consideration and evaluation of current innovation hubs, and analysis of what can be done to promote responsible, equitable growth.
Final Product Format	The final product will likely be a short report and presentation.
Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society; Science
Additional Information	There is a wide array of academic literature on the topics of what makes regional innovation hubs or technology clusters. Two examples, not exclusive and not an endorsement, could include: www.nber.org/digest/sep20/world-war-ii-rd-spending-catalyzed-post-war-innovation-hubs www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2023/02/09/how-research-universities-are-evolving-to-strengthen-regional-economies/amp/

Title	DipLab2311304
Project Name	**Social Conflict in Bajo Aguán: An Updated Stakeholder Analysis**
Office	Office of Central American Affairs (CEN)
Bureau	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Project Description	The social conflict in the Bajo Aguán valley of northern Honduras has caused widespread violence and insecurity, destroyed economic opportunity for vulnerable communities, and stifled investment in the region for decades. The increasingly complicated and dangerous situation in Bajo Aguán is fundamentally rooted in a conflict between agricultural cooperatives and large private landowners, but has been complicated by corruption, impunity for violence, and the alleged involvement of drug trafficking groups. Due to the current Honduran government's ideological stance, there may be an opportunity to change the dynamics of the conflict and arrive at a dialogue to address the underlying causes of the conflict. In support of U.S. involvement in a potential dialogue, this proposed project would undertake a stakeholder analysis, identifying stakeholders in the Bajo Aguán conflict, their needs and expectations, and how their interests and positions have evolved. The project would then identify areas where stakeholders' interests could converge.
Final Product Format	Any of the below formats would be acceptable to us and we would be open to consider recommendations from the researchers. The simplest method (a 4-page options memo) would likely meet the mark
Discipline/Expertise	Democracy & Human Rights; environmental law and justice; game theory; political economic studies
Additional Information	Post has a plan to visit the area soon and the Ambassador will lead the delegation. Would be lovely to know what to expect, what to recommend (either to flag or to stay away from in order not to make the conflict even more complex than it already is). The United States Institute for Peace has shared their intention (in the future) to lead a dialogue process and has extended an invitation to brainstorm best next steps to undertake it. We think an updated stakeholder analysis could serve us well to map out our conversations and brainstorming with these conflict experts and to analyze what should be our approach.

Title	DipLab2311302
Project Name	**Effective Science Communication and Science Diasporas in Foreign Policy**
Office	The Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary
Bureau	Science & Technology Adviser
Project Description	This project explores methodologies and tools that diplomacy can utilize to ensure that science, technology, and innovation (STI) are incorporated into foreign policy. In part one, the project will explore how academia and the scientific community can best provide information and knowledge to diplomats, in ways that ensure that scientific consensus and cutting-edge knowledge are infused throughout policy-making and decision-making processes within the government. Bottlenecks will be explored, as well as existing pathways (publications, reports, briefings) and novel approaches which can provide information on faster timelines and in more synthesized and digestible formats for diplomats. In part two, the project will investigate the benefits and effectiveness of science diaspora communities, which have a unique combination of expertise, networks and cultural understanding that can help solve shared global challenges and build the innovation economies of the future. This project can focus on studying existing science diasporas to understand commonalities and key differences between them and how these networks can be used more effectively to support and advance science and technology diplomacy in the 21st century.
Final Product Format	Different types of deliverables are possible. For science communication studies, this may involve trials and testing use cases, with a presentation at the end. If possible, a short report could be provided. For science diasporas a short research paper and/or presentation would be sufficient.
Discipline/Expertise	Civil Society; Science and Technology
Additional Information	None.

Title	DipLab2311305
Project Name	**Americans in the Arctic - Understanding Greenlandic cruise ship travel and what to do when things go wrong....**
Office	U.S. Embassy Copenhagen
Embassy	Denmark
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	If there is any issue that keeps the American Citizens Services team in Mission Denmark up at night, it is the worry of what could happen if something goes wrong on a cruise ship full of Americans visiting Greenland – a sinking boat, a fire, the death of an American, etc. Greenland is one of the most remote places in the world and tourism is increasing every year. This same remoteness creates risks with the closest help often days away. One month ago, the Ocean Explorer ran aground in a remote fjord in a national park in eastern Greenland. This event was resolved with minimal problems, but it highlights the need for our team to develop a deeper knowledge about what is going on with these cruises so that we can prepare better for the next time when things could be much worse. What we are looking for is a team that can help us to better understand and visualize the Greenlandic cruise industry and the potential dangers. The website visitgreenland.com has data on Greenlandic cruise ships travel, but we need a team to dig deeper into the data - Where are the ships and passengers coming from? where are they going? who owns the ships? how many Americans are on board? Once we have that data, then the next step is to dig a bit deeper and ask what are the risks that we are missing? Finally, we need to put all this information into a format that will be useful to the stakeholders that will use this information. We want you to use your creativity and produce whatever deliverables you think can help our team understand this issue!
Final Product Format	Presentation, maps, infographics, etc. Whatever you think is the best way to visualize the issue!
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change; Oceans; International Development
Additional Information	The United States engages with all parts of the Kingdom of Denmark, both in terms of geography and demography. In addition to the Embassy in Copenhagen, the United States is represented by the Consulate in Nuuk, Greenland. Denmark is unique in that it is one of the only countries that are Arctic nations, EU members, and NATO members. This means that our two countries work together very closely on many of the most important and pressing issues of our time. The American Citizen Services Unit is a small team responsible for assisting Americans in need in Denmark, The Faroe Islands, and Greenland.

Title	DipLab2031331
Project Name	**Designing for Diplomacy: Net Zero Energy Building Design**
Office	Overseas Buildings Operations
Bureau	PDCS/DE/AD
Project Description	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. 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 OBO will work with the successful proposer to select an appropriate project program and site.
Final Product Format	Course curriculum and final Student Project Presentation Booklet
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Architecture
Additional Information	N/A

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

Title	DipLab2392603
Project Name	**Ascertaining Whether Enslaved Labor Contributed to the Construction of the Old Naval Observatory**
Office	Office of the Historian
Bureau	Foreign Service Institute
Project Description	The Office of the Historian (FSI/OH) occupies a historic campus in Washington, DC which includes the Old Naval Observatory, constructed in 1839-40. FSI/OH would like to engage up to two teams of student researchers to investigate the history of the Old Naval Observatory and determine if enslaved laborers contributed to the construction of the building. FSI/OH has already identified some records relevant to this research at the Library of Congress (the records of the Observatory), and the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland (records of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of the Navy). In addition, the records of the Observatory's first director, Matthew Maury, are available online via the Library of Congress. Additional records, such as historical newspapers or local records for the District of Columbia, may also be relevant. Diplomacy Lab partner teams will need to conduct background research and consultations with archivists at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and any other relevant repositories to assess different record collections and then perform research. The Office of the Historian will facilitate these consultations. This project will require research to be performed in Washington, DC and College Park, Maryland. Pending internal approval processes, Department of State funding may be available to support a limited number of students to travel to the Washington area. As feasible in light of other Office priorities, FSI/OH staff will provide virtual and in-person mentorship to student researchers. After partner teams conduct their assigned research, they should collaborate on a report summarizing their findings and identifying the historical documentation that provides supporting evidence for their claims. This report should include copies of any documents that identify specific enslaved people who contributed to the construction of the Observatory. If appropriate based on project team findings, the report should also propose ways to educate the public about the construction of the building and the men and women who made that possible.
Final Product Format	Report of research findings supplemented with documentary collection; oral presentation briefing of research findings optional.
Discipline/Expertise	History, Human Rights
Additional Information	You can learn more about the Office of the Historian from our website; https://history.state.gov/ The Office of the Historian has identified these archival collections as potentially relevant to the project; - U.S. Naval Observatory records at the Library of Congress; https://findingaids.loc.gov/db/search/xq/searchMferDsc04.xq?_id=loc.mss.eadmss.ms011184&_faSection=contentsList&_faSubsection=series&_dmdid=d18484e22&_start=1&_lines=125 - Department of the Treasury Accounting Officer records at the National Archives;

	https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/217 - Department of the Navy records at the National Archives; [need to consult with NARA to determine which of these Record Groups might actually be relevant; https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/80 and https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/181 and https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/discovery/428 - Matthew F. Maury papers at the Library of Congress; https://www.loc.gov/collections/matthew-fontaine-maury-papers/about-this-collection/ In addition, we have identified these resources as useful background and context for this project; - Old Naval Observatory National Register nomination; https://catalog.archives.gov/id/117691851 - U.S. General Services Administration background on the Old Naval Observatory as a historic building; https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/historic-preservation/explore-historic-buildings/find-a-building/all-historic-buildings/potomac-annex-2-old-naval-observatory-washington-dc - Proposal to DC local government for designation of Old Naval Observatory and surrounding buildings as a historical district; https://dpr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/op/publication/attachments/Proposed%20Old%20Naval%20Observatory%20Historic%20District.pdf - Contemporary report to U.S. Senate on construction of observatory; https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/SERIALSET-00456_00_00-018-0114-0000/ - Account of the life of James M. Gilliss, the naval officer in charge of initial construction of the observatory: http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/gilliss-james.pdf - Karp, Matthew. This Vast Southern Empire; Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy. Harvard University Press, 2016. - Hardy, P.K., and H.M. Rozwadowski. Maury for Modern Times; Navigating a Racist Legacy in Ocean Science. Oceanography 33(3); 10&15 (2020), https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2020.302

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2392620
Project Name	**Reducing carbon emissions in agricultural and forestry sectors of Kazakhstan**
Office	Regional Environment, Science, Technology and Health Office, Embassy Astana
Embassy	Kazakhstan
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	The goal of this project is to study the U.S. experience in measuring and inventory of greenhouse gasses in agriculture and forestry to implement such practices in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. This project would help Kazakhstan's EcoMuseum and its partners in Central Asia develop and implement the necessary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for such an inventory, as well as to determine which aspects are most applicable to countries in Central Asia. This could also further the implementation of Kazakhstan's nationally determined contributions on climate change. Although Kazakhstan has adopted legislation regulating greenhouse gas inventories, the legislation is not transparent. In Central Asia more broadly, almost no data are collected for monitoring, assessment and verification of greenhouse gasses, leaving GHG inventory incomplete. EcoMuseum and its partners hope the development of an MRV system in the forestry and other land use sectors would also help Kazakhstan or other Central Asian countries better address global sustainable development challenges as well as various international climate commitments.
Final Product Format	Multiple teams can participate in this project. Expected deliverables are a presentation, report, and if appropriate, a round table discussion with local stakeholders on findings on the analysis of the monitoring system, assessment, and verification of data on greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry and agriculture sectors in the United States to implement such practices in Kazakhstan.
Discipline/Expertise	Climate Change, Food Security, Water Security
Additional Information	Questions for the research team; 1. What legislation regulates the monitoring of emissions in the agricultural or forestry sectors? 2. Who is responsible for conducting this at sub-national levels? 3. What institutions or enterprises are required to report on greenhouse gas emissions, depending on the field of activity, volume of production or other factors? 4. Which methods or methodologies are used for calculating emissions from various sectors of forestry and agriculture? 5. How transparent is the inventory of information on emissions in different spheres of forestry and agriculture and in different regions of the country? How accessible is this information to experts or the public?

Title	DipLab2392621
Project Name	**Serbia: Investigating Consumer Choices to Improve Energy Efficiency**
Office	Economic Section
Embassy	Serbia
Bureau	Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment
Project Description	Serbia is facing serious challenges in its energy sector. Overcoming them presents opportunities for a transition to a more efficient and greener economy. Policy makers and international development agencies are working to advance effective approaches that address the lack of incentives for investments in energy efficiency, inefficient use of existing energy resources, the low level of renewables in the country's energy mix, and the government's lack of capacity to design and implement energy efficiency strategies. Much of Serbia's energy transition can be framed as a "liberalization" of the energy sector, which includes key changes in the structure of state-owned energy companies and more focus on the role of competition to enhance efficiency. A sustainable energy path in Serbia, however, also requires consumer-level behavior changes - a challenging prospect in a middle-income country accustomed to subsidized energy, with few official incentives to adopt cleaner and more efficient technologies, and where coal mining directly employs 30,000 people. We propose forming a team that takes an innovative, research-based approach to investigate how changing energy consumer' mindsets in this post-Yugoslavia economy can contribute to the success of Serbia's energy transition. The outcome of the research will include recommended policy interventions that can facilitate positive outcomes in energy efficiency investment, given current social-economic conditions in Serbia. The team that undertakes this task can approach the challenge using a variety of methodologies, including literature reviews, thematic studies, experimental approaches, in-person interviews, and surveys.
Final Product Format	A presentation to the U.S. Embassy Belgrade and USAID/Serbia, in addition to a 15-page written report (references are not included in the page count). If the university partner has full funding for travel, the partner is welcome to visit the country for a better understanding of the situation on the ground.
Discipline/Expertise	Economic & Finance Issues, Energy Security, European & Eurasian Studies, Science and Technology, Climate Change, Behavioral Economics, Post-Yugoslavia economy and culture, Survey and/or experiment design and implementation, Thematic analysis
Additional Information	N/A

Title	DipLab2392622
Project Name	**Sharpening the Digital Diplomacy Edge: Audience Identification When the World is Your Target**
Office	Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna
Embassy	U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna
Bureau	International Organization Affairs
Project Description	The U.S. Mission in Vienna promotes U.S. leadership within 17 UN agencies based in Austria. The scope of our work and the issues we advance are global in nature. Our audiences span all nations in the UN system, and therefore digital outreach is critical to our success. We communicate on highly technical topics like nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear science, peaceful uses of outer space, and synthetic drugs. Some of our social media followers are subject matter experts, who value more sophisticated messaging and in other cases, we want to engage general audiences using laypersons speak and by breaking down complex topics into pithy social media posts. In this unique, multilateral context, audience identification presents a unique challenge. We don't have a strong sense of who are social media content is reaching and if our messaging is effective (i.e., impacting change or opinion and attitude shifts that are favorable to U.S. positions. We seek a research project aimed at analyzing and streamlining our social media strategy to identify target audiences and develop a more focused, impactful approach to digital communication. The project objectives are audience analysis, competitive analysis, content assessment, strategy suggestions and creation of an implementation plan.
Final Product Format	We would like a 5-6-page options paper, presenting the analysis of our current social media audience and recommendations for a tailored social media strategy, including optimized content to engage with target audiences effectively.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Communications, Social Media, Multilateral Diplomacy
Additional Information	Here are links to our social media properties: Twitter; @USUNVIE (https://twitter.com/usunvie?lang=en) Instagram: @USUNVIE (https://www.instagram.com/usunvie/?hl=en) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/usunvie/ YouTube channel: @USUNVIE (https://www.youtube.com/@usunvie)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2209908
Project Name	**Mapping the Historical Dynasty of the Longest Serving "Democratically" Elected Leader in the World**
Office	Public Affairs Office
Embassy	Equatorial Guinea
Bureau	African Affairs
Project Description	Using primary source materials like the Historical Dictionary of Equatorial Guinea as well as other historical and current documents, social and traditional news stories, and oral sources, Embassy Malabo would like a Diplomacy Lab team to use Miro or a similar influence mapping tool to create an interactive influence map of the ruling family of Equatorial Guinea. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has been president of Equatorial Guinea since he orchestrated a successful coup against his uncle, Francisco Macias Nguema in 1979. Since then a culture of nepotism, favoritism, personal enrichment, graft, palace intrigue, and in-fighting has permeated every aspect of life and history of this small central African nation. As the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, Equatorial Guinea is already isolated from its neighbors, but the high levels of paranoia and a complete reliance on patronage has hampered the country's development. Understanding how the elite and powerful are connected through familial and fealty ties will enable the embassy to be more effective in our engagement and programmatic planning. For example, by mapping Obiang's rise to power, we can see that one of his earliest allies and military supporters is not the father-in-law of his son, Gabriel Obiang Lima. However, Obiang Lima is the first son of President Obiang's second wife and is therefore in direct competition with his first son with his first wife, Vice President Obiang Mangue. The marriage between Lima and Maye, however, solidified Obiang Lima into the inner circle and now President Obiang's more loyal supporter has a strong incentive to protect Obiang Lima after the president passes. This is the kind of influence mapping that we are looking to create in order to understand the nuances that exist in the power structures of EG. This “democracy” in name only, functions much more like a monarchy and understanding how the spheres of influence work, will give us greater insight into who has power and what may happen when President Obiang dies or steps down - a dangerous transition period that is predicted to happen in the next couple of year.
Final Product Format	We see this taking two possible directions. 1. A data science driven product that uses influence mapping to visualize the power connections of the ruling family and their spheres of influence 2. A historical living document driven product that dives deeper into the relationships and power dynamics of the ruling family and their spheres of influence Either option will provide significant benefits to the embassy team and will enable us to better understand the ruling family and what we may be able to expect during a transition of power.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, African Studies, Communications, Computer Science, Information & Communication Technology, Political/Military Affairs
Additional Information	We have already complied many of the source materials and can help add more to the list. We can also purchase a subscription to an influence mapping tool that the team can use to create the final product. Many of the source documents will be in Spanish, but we can either help with translations, or work to find other sources in English.

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

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

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

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

Title	DipLab2209933
Project Name	**Multilateralism for the Middle Class: APEC for America**
Office	Office of Economic Policy
Bureau	East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Project Description	World powers will convene in the United States as it hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in 2023. Throughout the year, APEC will bring thousands of delegates from the Asia-Pacific region to multiple cities across United States, culminating in a Leaders' Meeting at the end of the year led by the President. As the premier platform for the United States to advance economic policies in the region to bolster American competitiveness and demonstrate U.S. economic leadership, hosting APEC allows the United States to demonstrate the positive tangible impact economic diplomacy and foreign policy has on the American people. With U.S. support, APEC initiatives over the past two decades have: facilitated trade and investment, reduced barriers to U.S. businesses, supported structural reforms, and advanced digital innovation. Through dozens of sector-specific working groups, the United States has sought to advance U.S. prosperity in collaboration with the private sector and other non-government stakeholders. The United States has prioritized issues including women's economic empowerment and skills development to widen the impact of these measures. This project will examine the impact that APEC and its initiatives have had on U.S. prosperity, with a particular focus on the impact to middle-class American workers. The Administration's "Foreign Policy for the Middle Class" agenda recognizes that a strong U.S. middle class and domestic competitiveness and national security are mutually reinforcing, and that there is an interconnection with issues from trade to climate to supply chains, and U.S. domestic prosperity. This project will seek to assess the impact of U.S. engagement with APEC economies on broad-based U.S. prosperity and help articulate how the United States government can incorporate local stakeholders in its APEC work, particularly during APEC 2023. Help us tell untold stories through case studies or illustrative examples that demonstrate particular impact to U.S. workers or the middle class. The results will help assess the impact of U.S. engagement with APEC economies, highlight specific APEC initiatives and workstreams that have resonated, and examine potential focal points for future work within APEC that would have the greatest benefit to middle-class American workers. Teams interested in seeing multilateral diplomacy in action should apply!
Final Product Format	5-7 minute video on why APEC matters to America, including impact of APEC's work on the American middle class and what local stakeholders may expect or want to see in a 2023 U.S. host year. The video should be accompanied by a reference paper with case studies and interviews, as well as any relevant data analysis.
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Communications, East Asian/Pacific Studies, Economic & Finance
Additional Information	Teams are welcomed to engage with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the U.S. Consortium of APEC Study Centers, including The Asia-Pacific Center for Economics and Business - Brandeis University; APEC Study Center - Columbia Business School; Berkeley APEC Study Center - University of California at Berkeley; The East-West Center - University of Hawai'i; University at Buffalo APEC Study Center - University at Buffalo-SUNY.

Title	DipLab2209942
Project Name	**Cows vs. Keyboards: Quantifying the True Contribution of the United States' Services Imports to Uruguay's Economy**
Office	Western Hemisphere Affairs
Bureau	U.S. Mission
Project Description	Uruguay's economy was historically built on the export of meat and other commodities from its vast ranching and agriculture industry. The destination of these exports has shifted over time, but is now primarily sold to the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, over the last twenty years, Uruguay has also built a strong professional sector, including a globally-recognized IT and services industry. Most of these services, particularly software, are being exported to the United States. Unfortunately, these exports are not captured in Uruguay's reported foreign trade data. Every month when trade statistics are released, it appears the PRC has a larger and larger role in the Uruguayan economy while the U.S. role is receding and less relevant. The lack of reporting on how much money and jobs the export of services brings to Uruguay is not only misinforming the Uruguayan government and people on the policies needed to support it, but also the U.S. government about what role we play here. This lack of information also leads to the Uruguayan government undervaluing the relationship with the United States and potentially taking future political compromises to ensure continued PRC purchases of commodities. U.S. Embassy Montevideo is requesting a research project that provides as accurate an estimate as possible of the true weight of the U.S. market in the Uruguayan economy. Some estimates exist for sectors such as IT, but there is limited information about other service sectors. This project will involve synthesizing data on the export of services, including; accounting, auditing, and bookkeeping; advertising; education; architectural; engineering; legal; market research; public opinion and polling services; logistics/air transportation; management consulting; and research and development services. Based on some estimates, when added together, the United States jumps from Uruguay's distant fourth largest trading partner to second and close behind the PRC.
Final Product Format	Ideal deliverable would be; 1) a presentation with graphs (with accompanying excel sheets of data used) and key take aways; and 2) a written description of methodology used (particularly if this methodology could be provided and repeated by Uruguayan authorities for their own data collection and reporting efforts)
Discipline/Expertise	International Relations, Economic & Finance Issues
Additional Information	As far as we can tell, no one has determined a 100% solution for capturing service exports and we do not expect your team to determine one. Fully capturing the value of services in trade statistics has been an ongoing effort in economics for over two decades. Notable examples include; - OECD's "Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade" (2020) and The Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (2010) - World Trade Organization, "Measuring Trade in Services" (2010)

	- UN/IMF “Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services” (2002) - Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, “Measuring Trade in Services by Mode of Supply” (2017) As a starting point, the U.S. Census Bureau gathers import data on services for the United States, but Uruguay is lumped in “Central/South America” U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Balance of Payments Division (you can request data from InternationalAccounts@bea.gov). Additionally, the Embassy can provide resources in Spanish from Uruguayan chambers of different industries and economists who have started to work on this issue.

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

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

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