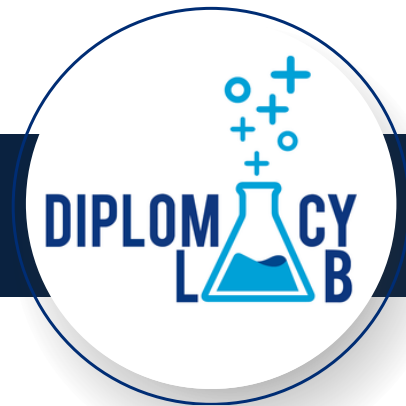




DIPLOMACY LAB



OVERVIEW

Launched by the U.S. Department of State in 2013, Diplomacy Lab is a public-private partnership between the Department of State and more than fifty U.S. academic institutions, including community colleges, public, and private universities. Through the Diplomacy Lab partnership, academic teams conduct research around various Department-identified topics in priority policy areas.

GOALS

Diplomacy Lab engages the American public in the work of the State Department to address complex foreign policy challenges by broadening the State Department’s research base. Diplomacy Lab harnesses the expertise and fresh perspectives of students and faculty members across the nation to conduct research on key foreign policy topics. By guiding student teams through real-world challenges identified by the State Department, the initiative provides policymakers with new perspectives and practical research solutions to inform the decision-making processes.

ACTIVITIES

Academic partners recruit faculty members to assemble and guide student teams to undertake Diplomacy Lab projects that were proposed by State Department employees across the globe. Any faculty member at a participating institution can submit a “bid” to work on a project. If accepted, the faculty member and a State Department liaison will be connected to begin collaborating on the research plan. Over a semester, those faculty members guide students in developing a final work product and briefing materials according to goals developed in collaboration with their State Department liaison. Throughout the semester, students and faculty discuss their research with State Department officials and other policy stakeholders, learn about the everyday work of diplomacy and foreign policy, and engage in experiential learning that can inspire them to pursue careers in international relations. At the end of the process, students will brief the State Department on their findings and recommendations before submitting a final product.

SPOTLIGHT



A recent Diplomacy Lab project, Micro-financing to Counter Violent Extremism in the Sahel, brought together students from Virginia Tech and a Policy Advisor working on counterterrorism efforts to develop recommendations for using micro-financing to reduce the appeal of extremist recruitment, in collaboration with regional stakeholders.

- ◆ 50 + academic partners in 27 states.
- ◆ 100 research projects completed per academic year.



APPLY TO JOIN

Any U.S. based institution of higher learning may apply to join Diplomacy Lab. Simply go to DiplomacyLab.org/apply to view and submit the application form. Interested parties are also encouraged to email DiplomacyLab@state.gov to schedule a consultation.

While an application can originate with any individual faculty member or administrator, admission will be for the entire academic institution, not individuals or single colleges/schools/programs. Diplomacy Lab encourages cross-disciplinary research and may call upon a broad range of expertise, so any faculty member at a university/college should be eligible to participate in a research project.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"Knowing that my work is actually making a change in somebody's life is really impactful."

Student at Indiana University

"More than anything, I'd say this program is really empowering and makes me feel like I can contribute to a good cause that I really care about and really believe in."

Student at Virginia Tech

"It's really amazing for someone like me who is in a major completely unrelated to this [type of work] to have an opportunity to be in the State Department presenting my work."

Student at Arizona State University

"I've gotten opportunities that I never would have gotten before."

Student at Arizona State University

PREVIOUS PROJECTS

- ◆ The Political Section at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires worked with law students from the University of Virginia to analyze the efficacy of the accusatorial justice system in Argentina. "As the Embassy seeks to help Argentina speed the transition to the accusatorial justice system nationwide at the federal level, we will use this important evidence and research to educate the public on the benefits of an adversarial justice system.
- ◆ The Office of Missile, Biological, and Chemical Nonproliferation worked with students on a survey of research security programs at U.S. universities. "We plan to share the results within State and with other USG agencies involved in research security efforts. The product will also inform our outreach to foreign governments and research institutions to advise them on standard operating procedures and best practices in research security.

