

Center for International Studies

GLOBAL IMPACT

October 2023

New Minor in Diplomacy

We are excited to announce that starting Fall 2023, the Center for International Studies will be offering a new minor in Diplomacy.

The Diplomacy minor will provide a broader understanding of global histories, politics, and cultures and prepare students for experiences related to international diplomacy. The minor is 21 hours, including a 3-hour capstone course taught by instructors with hands-on, real-life experience in diplomacy, providing students with an inside view.

The first capstone course will be taught by the Director General of National Security for Belize and former Ambassador to the United States, Oliver del Cid, in Spring 2024.

All majors across the university, including International Studies majors, are able to declare the Diplomacy minor starting Fall 2023.

Note from the Director

Hello and welcome back! The pandemic knocked us a bit sideways for a minute, but we are up and running and excited about the academic year 2023-24, and to catch you up on what has been going on at the Center. A few of the highlights from 2021-23 include a faculty panel discussion on the emerging crisis in Ukraine, that involved lively commentary from the audience in a standing room only event. In addition to promoting academic discussions and inviting prominent scholars to speak, one of the main things we try to do at the Center is create opportunities that help students open doors and make connections. We were happy to be able to host several events

where students were able to meet prominent people in their field of interest. Distinguished Alumnus, James Taylor ('81) kindly came to the Center and shared with students how his undergraduate experience in International Studies helped prepare him for a successful career in international consulting and business. And he offered students insight into how they can translate their educational experience into rewarding careers too. We also hosted Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Scott Reese, who shared his personal experience in the Foreign Service and discussed United States strategies in navigating the current political dynamic between the US, Russia, and China.

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MEET THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY - BELIZE

Oliver Del Cid, Director General of National Security for Belize, will be on campus Wednesday, October 18, to talk about his experiences in politics and diplomacy.

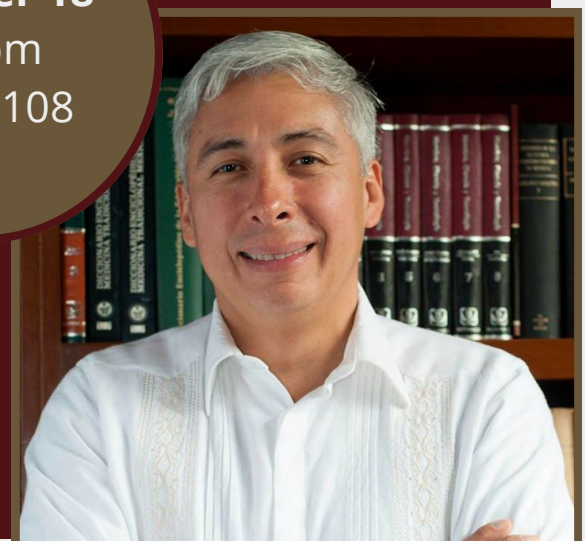
Del Cid is an alum of Texas State University. He has over 25 years in public service, including ten years as the Ambassador for Belize to the United States, along with ambassador and diplomat roles in Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, and Guatemala.

Mr. Del Cid will be teaching a class in Spring 2024 that is the capstone course in the new Diplomacy minor. Come meet a former ambassador and learn about his extensive experience in politics and diplomacy.

October 18

2-4pm

DERR 108



Meet the Director of the Peace Corps, Carol Spahn!

October 17
5:30-8pm
DERR 108

Who can join ?

Any US citizen over 18 years of age can join the Peace Corps. Entry into the program is competitive, so students should make sure they are adequately prepared to make a strong impression in their application. Sectors of work in the Peace Corps include:

- Agriculture
- Environment
- Youth in Development
- Health
- Education
- Community Economic Development

What are the requirements?

The Peace Corps Prep Program has four basic requirements that are satisfied by your coursework and experiences in your undergraduate degree. Depending on what country you want to go to, your requirements may differ, but overall students are required to have:

- Training and Work in a Specific Work Sector
- Foreign Language Skills
- Intercultural Competence
- Professional and Leadership Development



TXST RENEWS PEACE CORPS PREP PROGRAM

Texas State University and the Peace Corps have renewed their partnership to continue offering the Peace Corps Prep (PCP) Program to Texas State students. The program consists of selected courses paired with community service to help students prepare for work in international development.

Any undergraduate student at Texas State can join the PCP Program, regardless of their major. The university's Peace Corps Prep Coordinator, Amy Oakes, provides advising and support to students in the program and can help students determine what classes they need to prioritize to be competitive in the Peace Corps application process.

While the PCP Program does not guarantee acceptance into the Peace Corps, students will gain skills which are an advantage in the competitive application process, and in other international development work.

Students will also be officially certified by the Peace Corps. Being part of the program is a powerful way to demonstrate to any future employer that you can think and act with global understanding and cultural awareness.

Peace Corps volunteers work around the world in non-political capacities to provide humanitarian assistance abroad. Volunteers are funded by the US government, including a monthly stipend, living arrangements, and medical expenses. Returning volunteers are eligible for special government-funded incentives, such as the Coverdell Fellowship which provides graduate scholarships at universities around the country, including Texas State.

Want to join?

Contact the Peace Corps Prep Coordinator:
Amy Oakes, aoakes@txstate.edu



Study in the Amazon and Andes!

For the third year, The Center for International Studies is hosting a summer faculty-led program to Ecuador. Students have a full-immersion experience in Quito, Ecuador's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Students will make weekend trips to Otavalo and Tena, indigenous communities in the Andes and Amazon and they participate in community service projects like assisting on a banana plantation.

Students in the 2024 program will have once-in-a-lifetime opportunities while choosing from History, Political Science, International Studies, and Spanish language courses relevant to their degree requirements. The study abroad fair is on October 19 from 10am to 2pm in the LBJ Grand Ballroom. Come learn more about the Ecuador program!

IS STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) is a fully-funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for US undergraduate and graduate students, funded by the US Government. CLS seeks to build a cadre of Americans who speak critical languages and pursue high-level careers in government, business, arts & culture, science & engineering, health & medicine, education, and research. Of the three Texas State students who won this year, all three are from International Studies.

MEET OUR WINNERS!



Alejandra Sanchez
>>> Tanzania

I have had the opportunity to do both virtual CLS Arusha/Swahili Institute in the summer of 2022 and, recently, the summer of 2023 in-person study abroad program. I appreciated both experiences because I got to connect with teachers and language partners virtually and grew very close to them. Then once I was in person, I felt as if I was meeting long-time friends. I was excited to grow my connections and, this time, have a host family. The impact of the CLS experience on my career and academic trajectory has been drastic. In CLS Arusha, we were able to see the Conference for African Democracy be hosted at our campus. We were able to network and meet important people in governmental programs and positions from all over the world and Africa. I met a famous musician and singer from Tanzania who sings for political change and human rights. It was the best and most life-changing experience.

My advice for other students studying abroad is to go to a place you would never have thought you would go. Pick that country and language and see how your life unfolds for the better. Ten years ago, when I first went to study abroad, my only academic option was to go to Kenya, and I went for it, and it was the best decision I've ever made. I learned so much about myself and others in a way I never would have.



Zayna Abdel-Rahim
>>> Japan

I applied to CLS rather than other study abroad programs as I was interested in the non-competitive eligibility aspect of the program, it provided free travel with a stipend, and it would've been an amazing opportunity to learn a language through immersion, which it was! I attended Okayama University, a university that really emphasizes Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations. I look forward to applying the knowledge I gained as a citizen diplomat through CLS in hopefully working as a diplomat someday!



Gabriel Medina
>>> Taiwan

Gabriel Medina won the Critical Language Scholarship in Chinese and studied in Taiwan this summer.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FULBRIGHT SEMI-FINALISTS



>>> AARON STURK

Minor, International Studies

Germany - English Teaching Assistant Program

What made you want to apply to the Fulbright program?

To be honest, I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do immediately after graduating. I knew I wanted to go back for graduate school, and eventually my doctorate, but needed time away from academia. Dr. Ewa Siwak suggested I apply to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program due to my interest in both German and International Relations and so I did.

What are you wanting to do if you are accepted for the program?

I see this as an opportunity to garner new professional experience, to really push my German skills towards fluency, and to take a step on the road to a career in International Diplomacy. I've been fortunate enough to have had three wonderful German exchange students, each life long friends, during my time in high school, and I learned a lot from them. I'd like to give back to the country that gave me a lot through those experiences - to pay it forward.

What are your hopes for after you complete the Fulbright program?

I plan on applying to the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Program, whether I make it to Fulbright finalist or not. It's a program funded by the U.S. Department of State that offers grants, if accepted, that cover one's graduate school costs with the expectation that after finishing graduate school one serves as a U.S. Foreign Service Agent. Another goal is to perhaps find a job in Germany and start a life along the same path there, if accepted.

Any words of wisdom for others?

Don't be in a rush to get somewhere, you might miss important things. Be open to change, new experiences and new ideas. Go for all the opportunities that scare you - they're the ones that are usually worth it.



>>> ALEJANDRA SANCHEZ

Master of Arts, International Studies
Mexico, Study/Research Award

What was your bachelor's degree in and where did you graduate from?

I attended Kalamazoo College in Michigan from 2010-2014. I majored in Psychology and minored in Anthropology

What made you want to apply for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program?

I wanted to apply for the Fulbright U.S. Student program as a research grant fellow because of my renewed interest in Latin American History and Politics. Various classes in Graduate School piqued my interest more in Mexican history mainly, and I decided to do more research in Mexico City as a continuation of my thesis.

What do you want to do if you are accepted for the program?

My intention for the research grant is to gain more historical research experience in the field. I want to continue my thesis research and publish an article.

What are your hopes after you complete your master's?

I hope to continue my education in historical research and international relations. I see them as intertwined, and I would like to pursue a Ph.D. and travel a bit more to learn languages.

Congratulations to our other IS Semi-Finalists!

Luz Elena Anaya Chong

Bachelor of Arts, international studies (International Business); minors in German and Economics
Germany - English Teaching Assistant program

Christian Gaston

Bachelor of Arts, international studies (European Studies); minor in English
Germany - English Teaching Assistant program

2022-2023 Center for International Studies Awards

Undergraduate Student of the Year	Graduate Student of the Year	Administrator of the Year	Faculty Member of the Year
Levi Oliver	Alyssa Vandervelde	Dr. Sergio M. Martinez, World Languages and Literatures & Isis de la O, Education Abroad	Dr. Ionut Popescu, Political Science

2022-2023 Honorary Professors

Honorary Professors are tenured full professors who teach international or comparative courses and have research interests and publications in international topics.

Taylor Acee Khalid Arar Ari Arzu Suparno Banerjee Yasmine Beale-Rosano-Rivaya	Kyong Chee Joseph Falocco Jennifer Forrest Paige Haber-Curran Nicholas Herrmann	Yoo Jae Kim Noland Martin Gloria Martinez Charise Pimentel Octavio Pimentel	Robert Rutledge Susan Schwinning Taewon Auh Walter Wright Hyun Jung Yun
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IS Students Meet Chinese Diplomat

A select few International Studies students were chosen to attend GlobalAustin's annual Peace Through Diplomacy event on January 26. This event focuses on the different diplomatic routes to peace and this year took a deeper look at U.S.-China Relations and hosted Minister Jing Quan, the third ranking diplomat from the Embassy of the

People's Republic of China. International Studies students, Zayna Abdel-Rahim, Jackie Baez-Lloyd, Layla Fuzy, Ashli Evans, and Hrishikesh Krishnakumar attended the event and gained "insight to some of the decisions in China regarding recent event". According to Evans, Peace Through Diplomacy promoted the

knowledgeable people to be quite exhilarating and a bit overwhelming! It reinforced how important it is to familiarize myself with history and the foundations of what has brought the modern world to be what it is today in regard[s] to diplomacy and international affairs ... As demonstrated by Minister Jing Quan, [diplomats] will do their best to portray themselves as friends over foes, I believe especially in consideration of how important it is to maintain such an image when relations with figures such as the United States are at risk as they seemingly have been since the start of the coronavirus epidemic. I believe exposure to such an atmosphere, as well as the connections I've made with students at other institutions, has provided me with foundations for an exciting pursuit of a career in diplomatic affairs!" Events such as Peace Through Diplomacy are advertised in the Center's digital signage, social media, and through regular email updates to all International Studies students. If you are interested in participating in future events, be sure to keep an eye out!



"opportunity to talk to other people and students within international pathways and was helpful in understanding the processes and reasoning in which a country can make a decision." Abdel-Rahim said that: "As an International Relations major and someone who has always been interested in entering the realm of diplomacy, I found the overall atmosphere consisting of very important and

Note from the Director

Continued from page 1

In the same vein, the Center held a Foreign Service Information session with Diplomat in Residence, Kris Sivertson, where students learned how to prepare for and apply to the U.S. Foreign Service, while also getting to meet and interact with a diplomat. We helped host "Discourse in Democracy" speaker, Antonio Garza, former United States Ambassador to Mexico.

Speaking of opening doors and making connections, recent International Studies students have pursued internships with an array of businesses, organizations, and government agencies ranging from the Jordanian Embassy, to Refugee Services of Texas, USAID, as well as international marketing companies, and international finance firms. That hands-on real-world learning compliments traditional course work and helps prepare IS graduates for life after graduation.

Looking forward to the coming academic year, Center Director, Paul Hart will again be leading a Study Abroad program with Dr. Sergio Martinez of World Languages and Literatures to Ecuador, after a successful and fun program that took students to Quito, the Andes, and the Amazon this past summer. More important than the events and activities though are our students. And International Studies students continue to do amazing things; winning scholarships, engaging in international internships, and representing Texas State abroad while paving the way for rewarding international careers.

Last but not least, are the people here at the Center. Ms. Amy Oakes, is our awesome new Program Coordinator, who, as a former

International Studies MA student and outstanding IS graduate student in 2020-21, knows the Center well.

Ms. Cheryl Howe continues as our Office Administrator. With over 5 years at the Center, she is our main point of contact and if you call us, you will probably speak to Cheryl. We also want to acknowledge and thank previous Program Coordinators Jeremy Pena and Victoria Elizondo. I'm proud to say that the Center promotes learning



Center Director, Dr. Paul Hart

for students *and* staff: Jeremy earned a PhD while working at the Center, and Victoria earned her MA while working here. Both have moved on to pursue the next phase in their careers and we wish them the best.

We're looking forward to the rest of the academic year. Keep in touch.

Paul Hart
Professor of History & Director,
Center for International Studies



Program Coordinator, Amy Oakes



Office Administrator, Cheryl Howe

Keep up with events and opportunities through the Center by following us on social media and keeping an eye on your emails



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@cistxst



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