



2018

CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECTS

GAIN INSIGHTS INTO YOUR SECTOR'S GLOBAL CHALLENGES BY ENGAGING PROMISING STUDENTS AT THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE

THE
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE
GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Capstone projects provide our partners with an opportunity to engage in a research project with the next generation of international and development professionals and prepare our students to work at the cutting-edge of global challenges.

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

The Graduate Institute is a leading institution of research and higher education. We aim to promote international cooperation to address the major challenges of our time and educate change agents for the future.

Capstone Projects

Capstone projects are a unique pedagogical experience where small groups of graduate students work with partners from International Geneva to conduct research projects that respond to today's global challenges. Projects are part of the Masters curricula and carry 9 ECTS.

Our Students

Our students come from over 100 different countries and more than 70% speak three languages or more. The majority have had some form of international work experience. As Capstone researchers they typically employ multiple methods including literature and desk reviews, interviews, surveys, benchmarking, stakeholder analyses and secondary data analyses.

Our Partners

Our partners come from a diverse range of sectors and include governmental, non-governmental, international and non-profit organisations, as well as corporations, associations and foundations. Research topics have included trade, economics and finance, global security, conflict and peace building, migration and refugees, environment and sustainability, global health, gender and human rights, business and development and more.

How to Become a Capstone Partner?

Capstone partners propose a research challenge, some background and a set of initial research questions. Students are invited to apply for projects based on these proposals. Projects kick-off in April and are completed by December. Outputs comprise a final report plus infographic and/or other communication media.

Partners provide guidance and direction to the group. Academic supervision and coordination is provided by the Graduate Institute.

Capstone Timeline 2018

January – February	Capstone partners prepare initial research project brief with faculty
March	Students apply to projects and are selected according to preference and motivation Student research groups formed and kick-off projects with partners
April – June	Students prepare inception plan with literature review, methodology and conceptual framework for review by partner and academic supervisor
June – August	Students commence implementation of inception plan Conduct fieldwork (where required) Begin data collection
September – October	Complete data collection and analysis First draft of report to be reviewed by partner and academic supervisor
November	Final report delivered at end of November
December	Presentation to partners (e.g. infographic, multimedia communication)

Examples of Research Topics and Completed Projects

Corporate Social Responsibility

- **UNICEF** – Living Wages in the Private Sector: Implications for Children's Rights

Conflict, Security and Peacebuilding

- **Thomson Reuters** – The Arab Spring Social Revolution and its Impact on the Media
- **GICHD** – Destructive Effects of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. Characterization and Analysis
- **Kofi Annan Foundation** – Reconciliation in Post-conflict Societies: What Role for the International Community?

Environment and Sustainability

- **Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs** – Being Competitive in the Green Economy Transition: Who Wins, Who Loses?
- **World Bank** – Public Good Aspects of Global Weather and Climate Forecasting
- **Cargill** – The Impact of the Global Evolutions in the Energy Supply Chain on Developing Economies

Trade, Economics and Finance

- **UNCTAD** – Infrastructure in LDCs: More Than Minding the Gap
- **Symbiotics** – Microfinance: Targeting the poor? Examining the Trade Off Between Financial Inclusion and Returns in Microfinance Institutions

Humanitarian Action

- **MSF** – Humanitarian Commitment and its Practical Translation
- **Philanthropy Advisors** – Intervention of the Private Sector in the Public and NGO Emergency and post-Emergency Aid System

Migration and Refugees

- **UNHCR** – Furthering Labour Mobility for Refugees, Obstacles, Challenges and the Way Forward
- **IOM** – Diaspora/transnational Communities and Societies and their Importance for International Migration Policies

Global Health

- **ICRC** – The Role of Civil Society and Human Rights Associations in Protecting Health Care Workers and Their Patients
- **WHO** – Intersectoral Action to Protect Public Health and Food Safety using INFOSAN

Education and Capacity-Building

- **WEF** – Higher Education on the Spot: What Opportunities for Developing Countries?
- **ITC** – Expanding Education in LDCs: The Impact of ITC E-learning on Trade Support Institutions in Africa

Global Governance

- **GCSP** – The Challenges of Establishing an Innovative Funding Mechanism: The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

Legal/Human Rights

- **Transparency International** – Elements for an Effective UN Special Procedure Mandate on Corruption and Human Rights
- **Sidley Austin (Africa-Asia Agricultural Enterprise Pro Bono Program)** – Seed Laws in West Africa: Challenges and Best Practices

Gender

- **UNEP** – Understanding the Gender Dimensions of the Exploitation of Oil and Gas Resources in Fragile States
- **UNDP** – Gender-Aware Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction

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