**CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Part I: Partner Organization Information**

This information is necessary to establish a Capstone partnership between your organization and the Graduate Institute. In providing personal contact information you authorize the Graduate Institute (the student group and their support team) to contact you for research-based requests, meetings and updates.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Partner organization** | *Please provide the name of the partner organization.* |
| **Project owner contact and title** | *Please indicate the project owner in the partner organization (name, surname, department, and job title)and other partner contacts involved in this project* |
| **Preferred means of communication** | *Please indicate email and phone number, and, if necessary, Skype ID and/or mobile phone.* |
| **Overall availability** | *Please indicate what days/times you prefer to be contacted.* |

Please indicate which thematic track your project fits:

[**Mobilities, spaces and cities**](http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/study/academicdepartments/interdisciplinary-master-program/mdev/specialisation-tracks.html#citiesSpaces)

**[Power, conflict and development](http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/study/academicdepartments/interdisciplinary-master-program/mdev/specialisation-tracks.html" \l "PowerConflict)**

[**Environment, resources and sustainability**](http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/study/academicdepartments/interdisciplinary-master-program/mdev/specialisation-tracks.html#environment)

[**Global security**](http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/study/academicdepartments/interdisciplinary-master-program/mia/specialisation-tracks.html#globalSecurity)

[**Trade and international finance**](http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/study/academicdepartments/interdisciplinary-master-program/mia/specialisation-tracks.html#tradeInternationall)

**Other- please specify**

**Part II: Research Brief**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title** | *Please provide a title for the research project* |
| **Summary** | *Please provide a short introduction to the research project (approx. 500 words including historical context, key issues raised, main actors involved, legal framework, etc.)* |
| **Research objectives** | *Please describe the aims/objectives of the project* |
| **Research questions** | *Please provide a primary research question and elaborate with sub-questions if necessary* |
| **State of knowledge, sources and data** | *Please elaborate on what is known about the topic and suggest background reading. Also indicate, where applicable, any prior studies you have conducted on the topic as well as the sources of information and data that would be made available to the students* |
| **Research methodology** | *Please provide any suggestions on preferred methodology (literature review, field research, interviews, etc.).* |
| **Intended audience** | *Please describe the intended audience for this research and possible uses or outcomes (publications/dissemination etc)* |
| **Additional skills** | *Please indicate if particular skills would constitute an additional asset for the project (i.e. knowledge of certain languages, research methods, etc.).* |

**Specialisation Tracks**

**Mobilities, spaces and cities**

This specialisation track exposes students to the multiple and crosscutting challenges associated with the global movement of people and goods, capital and information, and how these movements structure the spaces they affect. The track advances student’s technical knowledge of the multiple drivers of the global flow of people, goods and capital, such as global warming, international migration, demography, and the communication revolution, and the complex ways in which rural and urban spaces intersect to structure the material life of individuals.

**Power, conflict and development**

This specialisation track focuses on the issues of power, conflict and development, and the interactions among them. Examining the nature of power and the origins and effects of armed conflict and their implications for development, the track surveys the historical and contemporary manifestations of these processes with a view to endow students with the ability to critically understand them and practically map their evolution and transformation. Specifically, students are introduced to the role of the state and non-state actors, real and symbolic power structures, the multifaceted drivers of violence, the complexity of humanitarian challenges and the politics of collective responses to them, peacebuilding issues and contexts, and regional and international conflict.

**Environment, resources and sustainability**

The track offers an opportunity to focus on the emerging questions of governance, environment, resources and sustainability/resilience. It looks at environmental issues from a global optic reviewing institutions, legal frameworks, multilevel and multilateral forms of governance, and how they shape both the realm of international relations as well as transformations in the field. The track also considers climate change, and therefore focuses on consumption patterns, social reorganization, rural development, urban patterns, climate justice and climate refugees, providing insights into the historical processes as well as the global array of legal, economic, political and social responses that now modern societies confront. It furthermore addresses the intersection of the politics and economics of resources (mining, hydrocarbon, water, biotic, land), access and development, looking at how economies structure their uses and their conflicts, paying attention to changing efficiencies, emergent resources and technology. Finally, the track also studies agriculture from its historical roots to its current problematics, looking at the drivers of land usage, the social, ecological and political transformation of rural areas, globalized production technologies and markets, and the vulnerabilities of traditional and modern agricultural systems.

**Global security**

This specialisation track offers students with a systemic and critical understanding of the evolution of the global security architecture, as well as the transformations shaping it at the beginning of the 21st century. The interlocked and evolving nature of state and non-state actors – as well as international institutions – in the international system are at the heart of the track’s core course. The track allows students to focus on more specific issues; from regional security dynamics (e.g. in the Middle East) to the role of business in shaping the evolving security environment.

**Trade and international finance**

The Trade and International Finance track introduces students to core issues in international economic integration. It will expose them to modern trade theory and key recent development such as the emergence of global value chains. Students are also introduced to the basics of exchange rate dynamics, capital flow, balance of payments and international macroeconomic policy. The track will also cover specialised topics such as international business, competition and industrial policy, Internet governance, international standard setting and the global governance of intellectual property rights.