



2021 CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECTS

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



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 credits.

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 projects are allocated to tracks and academic supervisors according to the following broad themes although additional themes may also be included (e.g. health, gender, humanitarian action):

I Mobilities, Spaces and Cities, **II** Power and Conflict, **III** Environment, Resources and Sustainability, **IV** Global Security, **V** Trade and International Finance

Examples of Research Topics and Completed Projects

I Mobilities, Spaces and Cities

- **IOM** – Livelihoods in protracted displacement: what really works?
- **Terre des Hommes** – Situation analysis of child begging in Senegal, focusing on Talibé children

II Power and Conflict

- **GCERF** – Preventing Violent Extremism and Humanitarian Action: synergies, tensions and a space for action?
- **WILPF** – Gendered impact of artisanal and small scale mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo

III Environment, Resources and Sustainability

- **WFP** – How has collective response contributed towards averting famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and north-eastern Nigeria?
- **Oxfam UK** – Sustainable subsidies for water and sanitation in the developing world

IV Global Security

- **OHCHR** – The role of armed forces in transitions: promoting or abusing human rights?
- **DCAF** – Establishing the nexus between conflict prevention and security sector reform

V Trade and International Finance

- **UNCTAD** – Selected impacts of digital technologies on LDC manufacturing
- **OECD** – Leveraging more from the Digital Economy in Developing Countries

Additional Themes

- **MERCK** – Research on the global discourse on access/ global health and supply chain & delivery challenges
- **WEF** – Higher Education on the Spot: MOOC opportunities for Developing Countries

Capstone Timeline 2021

Spring semester	
February – March	Meeting and planning with supervisor, TA, allocation of projects
March – April	Meeting with partner organization and onset of work
April – May	Group work
June, week 1/2	Submission of inception reports outlining the research framework
	<i>Students are encouraged to continue research during the summer</i>
Autumn semester	
October	Update on research
November	Submission of the First Draft
December week 1	Submission of the Final Report
December	Partner, student and supervisor concluding event

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↗ <http://graduateinstitute.ch>