THE MIP PRACTICUM
Tackling Real-World Policy Problems

A key element of the MIP experience is the practicum, a two-quarter capstone course in which students work in teams to analyze real-world problems and propose solutions for partner organizations. With guidance from the partner, Stanford faculty, and MIP staff, students draw from the knowledge and skills they have gained in the MIP program to produce a detailed analysis of the selected problem and policy options to address it. Our students’ work has led to meaningful impact for our partner organizations and has been featured by the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and CNN.

Practicum Timeline
Students work on their practicum projects during the autumn and winter quarters of their second year of the MIP program. The key phases of the practicum are as follows:

- May to August: Project Development
- Early September: Team Formation
- Late September: Practicum Start
- December: Mid-point Presentation
- March: Final Report and Presentation

“The chance to tackle complex, real-world policy problems and propose workable solutions is invaluable for our students as they prepare for their careers. It’s one more way that our program bridges theory and practice.”

Dr. Kathryn Stoner
Practicum Chair, Deputy Director, and Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute
CALL FOR PRACTICUM PARTNERS

We invite potential partners to contact us to discuss the possibility of turning a policy problem they face into a MIP practicum project. Each year, we select about six practicum projects for our second-year students. We work with each partner individually to develop projects that offer them valuable insights and recommendations as well as a meaningful learning experience for students.

During the 6-month practicum period, partners meet with student teams regularly to discuss progress and provide feedback. Additionally, each student team is guided by a Stanford faculty member. Students also have access to travel funds in order to meet with partners in person, interview stakeholders, and collect data.

Throughout the practicum period, each partner will receive progress reports as well as a final report and presentation. Practicum projects may be publicized with partner consent. Past practicum projects have led to coverage in major media outlets and even legislative testimony. MIP students have also been hired by practicum partners after graduation.

For more information, contact:
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COUNTERERING ONLINE HATE SPEECH
MIP Practicum Project Highlight

Facebook has millions of posts by users each day, some of which include hateful speech. Though Facebook prohibits hate speech, attempting to identify and remove hateful content is a big challenge.

Through the MIP practicum, our students worked with Facebook to determine whether counterspeech - or responses to hate speech that support positive views - could be an effective strategy to combat online hate speech. The students developed an online experiment, exposing participants to hate speech and counterspeech on the Facebook platform. Preliminary results suggest that exposure to increased levels of counterspeech increased participants’ agreement with more positive views about marginalized groups. However, participants were also less willing to engage with those holding opposing views following the experiment. The results provide Facebook with important insights as it navigates its regulation of online expression.

Selected Past Practicum Projects

- Countering Online Hate Speech
  - Facebook

- Violent Extremist Recruiting of Foreign Fighters
- Combatting Terrorism Center, United States Military Academy
- Financial Effects of Natural Disasters on Governments
  - World Bank
- Tobacco Control and Industry Interference in Russia
- International Confederation of Consumer Societies
- Airport Procurement in South Korea
  - Republic of Korea
- Assessing MCC’s Signaling Effect: Investment beyond the Compact
  - Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Redesigning Refugee Communities
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Urban Reforms in Mexico: Challenges and Strategies
  - Centro Mario Molina
- Evaluating the Efficacy of International Aid
  - Center for Strategic and International Studies

Student Fara Abbas presents the results of her practicum project at INTERPOL headquarters.

Source: Reuters

Student Fara Abbas presents the results of her practicum project at INTERPOL headquarters.