

# GLOBAL POLITICS LAB (GPL)





## **GPL FELLOWS AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTS**

The GPL fellowship provides intensive, networked mentoring to students interested in deep engagement in scholarly analysis and writing. Every semester, 10–15 GPL fellows participate in a one-credit mentored research class. Fellows work on academic projects under faculty supervision and make substantial progress on a publishable paper to be presented at academic conferences. For example, students working for Dr. Hawkins recently surveyed 10,000 Latin American bureaucrats and followed up with several in-depth interviews. In addition, many other students work as research assistants for affiliated faculty. The lab provides a physical and intellectual space for students to collaborate and network with other students, faculty, and universities.

## **OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE LAB**

GPL provides international experiences through mentored-research abroad (field school) programs. Each year, GPL faculty design a program centered on critical topics that enables rich and rewarding student research experiences. In recent years this has included programs in England to study immigration and refugees and in Thailand to study democratic stability and security. In Thailand, students met with government officials, Buddhist monks, ordinary citizens and others, and then designed a nationwide survey experiment with a few thousand respondents. In 2022, the program will center on development, conflict, and governance in the Mediterranean region. Students will have the opportunity to conduct research in Morocco, Spain, Croatia, and Bosnia. In each of these programs, students design, implement, and write up results from professional-level research.



## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

In recent years, students have presented at major academic political science conferences such as the Midwest Political Science Association and at student fora such as the BYU Fulton conference. They have also published or are working to publish papers in political science journals.

## **WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE DOING NOW**

While some fellows go on to Ph.D. programs, others move on to law school, the foreign service, data analysis firms, management consulting work, non-governmental organizations, and other fields of endeavor. Many of these students say GPL helped prepare them in ways that are invaluable for each of their unique opportunities.

"My experiences in GPL provided me with a strong background in research and critical thinking skills that I use daily in my job at MIT. I use the statistics skills I honed in the lab on a daily basis."

**Elden Griggs**, Research Support Associate, Political Science Department, MIT

"My GPL project is a big part of how I got into my program, and all the Ph.D. prep we did in class really helped me apply and transition to graduate school."

**Braeden Davis**, Ph.D. 2026, UC-Davis

"I am in charge of tracking and analytics for all of Nu Skin's charitable projects both locally and internationally. GPL helped me really build my data analytics skills, which is the reason I was able to jump into this position!"

**Eliza Bennett**, Nu Skin Global Corporate Social Responsibility Data and Operations Analyst





## THE LAB

The physical lab space provides an environment that fosters creativity, collaboration, and rigorous scholarship. GPL is housed in the Kennedy Center, the perfect location to connect with the international and area studies programs. The lab holds 10+ workstations equipped with the computers students need to work on anything from literature reviews to statistical analysis. There are cubicles when students need private and focused space to work, and comfortable couches when the work calls for more collaboration. The environment of the lab is not only about the physical space it provides, but the community the students create within it.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Global Politics Lab enhances research and learning on global politics, development, security, and public policy issues through faculty-student networks, mentored research, collaboration with other universities, and international experiences.

### GLOBAL POLITICS LAB

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