

Curriculum Prototype for Science Diplomacy Training

Based on Warsaw Science Diplomacy School Detailed Course Content

INTRODUCTION

The Curriculum Prototype for SD Training can be used to replicate elements of InsSciDE's pilot program Warsaw Science Diplomacy School (WSDS), which was hosted in June 2020 and with enhancements in June 2021. Key program documents from both editions illuminate how InsSciDE ran the 5-day virtual training program and the lessons from the first edition that prompted modifications in the second.

WSDS 2021 MATERIALS

Program Schedule 2021 (Schedule of Events)

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS21_Schedule-of-Events.pdf

Detailed Course Content 2021

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS21_Detailed-Course-Content.pdf

Class of 2021 Booklet (extract; including student diversity overview)

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS21_Class-of-2021-Booklet-Extract-only.pdf

Pub Night Flyer

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS21_Pub-Night-Flyer.pdf



WSDS 2020 MATERIALS

Brochure of case studies and student diversity 2020

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS20_Brochure-of-case-studies-and-student-diversity.pdf

Program Schedule 2020

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS20_Participants-Program-Schedule.pdf

Detailed Course Content 2020

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WSDS20_Brochure-of-case-studies-and-student-diversity.pdf

Class of 2020 Booklet (extract from full document; including participant profile examples)

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/WSDS20_Class-of-2020-Booklet-Extract-only.pdf

PILOT EXPERIENCE & DETAILS

The Warsaw Science Diplomacy School (WSDS) was a flagship program of the InsSciDE project, co-organized by seven of its international project partners: the European Academy of Diplomacy (EAD), UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI), Symlog and UNESCO.

Hosted online 22-26 June 2020 and 21-25 June 2021, the training embodied InsSciDE founding principles of historical connections and interdisciplinary dialogue, while fostering an intimate and constructive environment in a Zoom-intensive week of debate, analysis and fun.

Application Process

The application process was competitive and required students to submit thoughtful essays addressing ways to foster science diplomacy, balance interests and resolve coinciding tensions.

Pre-Study

With limited 'live time', students completed pre-study assignments ahead of the WSDS week, including modules from the [European Science Diplomacy MOOC](#) (by 'sister project' S4D4C), recommended readings and a warm-up session with their 'case study team' and case study author.

Curriculum Variety

Case studies by InsSciDE historians were placed at the heart of open discussions and collaboration in small student teams. The cases were analysed in ‘case study teams’ and served as a base in developing strategic and critical thinking around science, foreign policy and SD. In parallel, the week was enriched with specialist panels on practical elements for being a successful science diplomat, the variety of forms of SD and the (less commonly discussed) risk, safety and security aspects of the practice.

DAY-BY-DAY OVERVIEW

The below summary of each day of WSDS 2021 complements the program documents above with a sense of the tone and spirit of the sessions.

DAY 1 – Introductions, Open Session and Practitioners’ Panel

WSDS kicked off with a round of introductions and icebreakers, an open session with themes of power and geopolitical transitions, and a panel of practitioners testifying to the joys, challenges and daily life of being a science diplomat.

At the end of the day, students were placed in groups according to common professional interests and discussed their ambitions in SD and what they hoped to gain from WSDS21. In the evening, we hosted a Pub Quiz on the avatar-based social platform Gather (winners: The SciDip Rockers!).

DAY 2 – Historical case studies of SD

On Day 2, InsSciDE researchers presented the four historical cases of SD to be placed at the heart of WSDS (part of the 24 [case studies](#) that underscore the InsSciDE project).

The cases – on topics of nuclear energy research, space diplomacy, archaeological research and vaccine diplomacy – spurred first discussions on the constellation of actors, interests and obstacles involved in implicit or explicit SD.

In the afternoon, members of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance and the new Norway-EU Science Diplomacy Network discussed different avenues through which we can pursue SD or develop related resources, such as multi-stakeholder fora, university partnerships, education initiatives, or networks like the ones they represented.

DAY 3 – Tensions and Interests; Risk, Safety and Security

The day started with framing SD as a strategic instrumentalization of science for foreign policy purposes. The presentation highlighted SD as a powerful tool of statecraft and the power dynamics that underlie research funding and scientific progress, setting the stage for a broader theme of risk, safety and security in the afternoon.

Teams regrouped to examine their case studies through this narrower foreign policy lens and zoomed in on the tensions and interests that underlie the actions observed in their cases.

The afternoon afforded students exclusive insights from the frontlines of political decision-making and negotiations in two ‘off-the-record’ sessions with high-level scientists and science diplomats.

DAY 4 – Strategy and deliverable presentations

The fourth and most intensive day consisted largely of small-group discussions and interdisciplinary teamwork, culminating in plenary presentations by each of the student teams on a deliverable of hypothetical SD strategic advice.

A morning lecture introduced fundamentals of strategy as well as the major impacts/applications of history on the present – such as a source of knowledge or as motivation to mobilize. The students learned about six EU foreign policy objectives where SD might be a component of the EU’s strategic approach and were tasked with consolidating advice on pursuing 1-2 of the objectives in a context related to their case studies. After group ‘coaching’, further discussion with their case study authors, and independent team work, the four teams presented their advice – relating to ITER, space, archaeology, and health – and received feedback from subject matter experts.

Day 5 – Evaluations and Graduation

Before the graduation ceremony commenced, the students were once again placed in their ‘disciplinary groups’ from the first day, this time tasked with reflecting on WSDS21 from the rear-view mirror, as well as in view of leveraging the experience in the future. When groups returned to plenary, their feedback conveyed the training had illuminated unknown aspects of SD and sometimes changed perspectives on students’ own professional contexts. Cohort diversity emerged as one of the most valuable elements of the training and there was a great determination to pursue further collaboration within the WSDS network.

