



# **VIU SUMMER SCHOOL science DIPLOMACY: IMPROVING CAPACITY OF SCIENCE TO INFORM POLICY**

**Science Diplomacy:  
Improving Capacity of Science to Inform Policy**

**July 19-30, 2021**

**Venice International University  
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

# VIU Summer School

## Science Diplomacy: Improving Capacity of Science to Inform Policy

Venice International  
University

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Scientific Coordinator:

William Pan  
Duke University

Humanity's greatest challenges – and some of its most promising opportunities – require effective partnerships between scientists, policymakers, and diplomats. Science Diplomacy is a tool that recognizes science as a process for pursuing evidence and diplomacy as a process for dialogue and cooperation between different stakeholders. In our increasingly interconnected world, there is a growing need for science diplomacy as we are confronted by issues concerning agriculture or trade, automation or cryptocurrencies, peace & security, global health pandemics, and climate change, among many other complex challenges.

Our decision-making power is strengthened or weakened by the relevance, timeliness, reliability, and communication of information in a fast-paced changing environment. Academic and research institutions, working at both local and global levels, are in a privileged position to help build science-policy partnerships. While academia includes specialties in translational science and policy-related fields, these programs do not address the needs of the vast matrix of other scientific disciplines to provide students with training and tools to effectively partner and communicate with non-scientists, whether they are policymakers, community leaders or the general public. This is Science Diplomacy at its core—partnerships to eliminate cultural, sectoral, and knowledge barriers.

As we move toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and adjust to the currently unknown post-COVID-19 social, political, and economic restructuring, it has become increasingly important to train young professionals to be effective science diplomats. Recognizing this need for cross-disciplinary training, this summer school is designed by scientists and diplomats to introduce students to concepts, skills, and strategies to become more effective science diplomats in their fields of study.

### Faculty

William Pan, Duke University, USA (Scientific Coordinator)

Giulia Costa, Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy

Philip Landigran, Boston College, USA

Kurt Straif, Boston College, USA

Sonia Silvestre, University of Bologna, Italy

Marco Marani, University of Padova, Italy

Chris Lara, Sustainable Healthy Habitats & Healthy Humans, United Nations  
Marga Gual Soler, Center for Science Diplomacy, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Third World Academy of Science (TWAS)

### Topics

- 1- Introduction to the concepts of science diplomacy;
- 2- Raise awareness among young scientists of the role of science diplomacy in building consensus and finding common interests among stakeholders (nations, regions, communities, industries, NGOs, universities, etc.) to address local and global challenges related to (for example) balancing economic development, environmental conservation, and human well-being;
- 3- Gain skills in stakeholder assessment, science communication and negotiation
- 4- Review of case studies associated with local (or global) response and negotiations to complex problems such as air pollution (i.e., Padova), Sea Level Rise (e.g., Venice), gold mining and mercury pollution (e.g., Amazon), and emerging diseases (e.g., COVID-19).

### Learning outcomes

Students will leave this workshop with the fundamental understanding of how to identify and communicate with stakeholders connected to their research.

### Who is it for?

Graduate students (Master and PhD) from various disciplines:  
Global / Public Health, Environmental Science, Economics & Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology & Demography, Biology, Engineering, Clinical Medicine

### Application procedure and cost

The Program will admit up to 25 students participants.

### Fees

Participants of VIU member universities:  
€ incl. VAT. (tbd)  
Participants of other universities:  
€ incl. VAT. (tbd)

### Applications

**December 5, 2020 – March 31, 2021**  
via the VIU website

Admitted candidates will be notified by April 10, 2021 and asked to pay the tuition fee and accommodation (if requested) by April 20, 2021.

The fees will cover tuition, course materials, lunches in the VIU cafeteria and social events. Participants will be responsible for covering their own travel expenses to and from Venice and local transportation.

VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee. PhD candidates and post-docs from universities in EU universities may be eligible for Erasmus+ mobility grant support. Candidates should consult the International Office in their own university for information about the calls for applications for funding. VIU will provide any supporting documentation requested for such applications. Contact VIU Erasmus office: [erasmus@univiu.org](mailto:erasmus@univiu.org)

### Accommodation costs on campus

The costs of accommodation on campus in shared room with other participants (triple or quadruple) is € 520 for 13 nights. Further information will be available in the Application form.

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate's research interests, a curriculum vitae and a photo.

### Credits

Number of ECTS equivalence: **4**

A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the course.

*As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, VIU will continue to monitor the situation, and in the event that it is not possible to confirm the program on the VIU campus as scheduled, other practicable solutions will be evaluated. Applicants and confirmed participants will be informed of any changes.*

**Venice International University** is a consortium of 20 universities, representing 15 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

### Location



### **Venice International University**

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