



Diplomacy Lab's Wonk Tank Competition

The Competition

Under Secretary Kerry, the U.S. Department of State has increased its efforts to engage the American people in the work of diplomacy and development and broaden the Department's foreign policy making in response to a proliferation of complex global challenges. In recognition of the growing role young people are playing in shaping the global agenda, the U.S. Department of State is launching a new policy pitching platform, Wonk Tank, under the existing Diplomacy Lab partnership aimed at fostering the next generation of foreign policy leaders. Launched by Secretary Kerry in 2013, the Diplomacy Lab is a public-private partnership that enables the State Department to "course-source" research and innovation related to foreign policy challenges by harnessing the efforts of students and faculty experts at universities across the country.

How to Pitch

University students will have the opportunity to pitch policy recommendations or insights to policy experts at the U.S. Department of State and the world at large.

Students will submit two items for consideration: a policy pitch proposal and a 3-5 minute video. The proposal will detail the foreign policy or development challenge, the individual's proposed solution, and implementation steps. The video will be a snapshot into the individual's pitch to State Department officials in Washington during the final round of the competition taking place on Friday, March 11, 2016.

The deadline for proposals will be Friday, January 15, 2016. The student policy pitch proposal form can be found here: <http://goo.gl/forms/Kx1naVp68l>

Regional Semi-Finals

Exceptional students will be invited to participate either in-person or virtually at two semi-finalist competitions hosted by the University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK) and the University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA) between February 15th – 19th, 2016. Semi-finalist judges will be Diplomats-in-Residence and senior university faculty.

Winning in Washington

Two finalists will be chosen from each of the semi-finalist competitions, giving four American university students the opportunity to present their pitch to a panel of senior officials.

The Wonk Tank Final competition will take place at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. on March 11, 2016 during the annual Global Partnerships Week in



front of a live audience of Department officials, current and previous Diplomacy Lab partner offices from the Department, and the public.

The Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships at the U.S. Department of State is currently developing opportunities for the winning individual such as a potential fellowship and/or publication of their pitched policy proposal in leading foreign policy and development outlets.

Competition Timeline

December 15 – January 15: Call for student pitch proposals
January 29: OU and UVA will invite selected students
Mid-February (TBD): Semi-final competitions at OU and UVA
March 11: Wonk Tank final competition during Global Partnerships Week (GPW2016) at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

Contact Us

For more information, please visit diplomacylab.org, email us at diplomacylab@state.gov, or follow us on Twitter [@GPatState](https://twitter.com/GPatState) and [#diplomacylab](https://twitter.com/diplomacylab).

