Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
The Georgetown Initiative for U.S.–China Dialogue on Global Issues is a university platform for research, teaching, and high-level dialogue among American and Chinese leaders from the public sector, business, society, and the academy.

The initiative is premised on the view that despite inevitable national differences, there remains considerable room for the cultivation of shared U.S. and Chinese approaches to global issues, including climate change, global health, business and trade, peace and security, and economic and social development.

Founded in 2016, the initiative builds on Georgetown’s core strengths of academic excellence, location in Washington, D.C., and Catholic and Jesuit mission of service to the world. Four core principles organize the Initiative’s work—independence, transparency, balance, and academic excellence.
The Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues allows us to leverage Georgetown’s strengths in order to identify and deepen shared approaches to critical issues facing our world today, including the environment and global development.

- John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University
Initiative research groups bring leading U.S. and Chinese scholars together to identify issues of common concern and to pursue shared research that informs better policy and advances practical cooperation around global challenges.

Each research group convenes multiple times in Washington, D.C., and Beijing to develop joint research and to conduct policy consultations with government officials and other stakeholders. The groups share their work with scholars, decision makers, and a wider public through academic publications, background reports, meeting summaries, and a curated blog.

Research groups on climate change and global health began work in 2016. The formation of groups around the initiative’s other core themes began in 2017.
“The research dialogue brings together stakeholders from the policy community for their input. We want to make sure our work has impact.”

– Joanna Lewis, Associate Professor, Walsh School of Foreign Service
The U.S.–China Student Fellows Program promotes dialogue among U.S. and Chinese university students around critical global issues. The program features a cohort of eight to ten young leaders selected from top U.S. and Chinese colleges and universities. Over the course of an academic year, fellows participate in dialogue through in-person meetings, a web-based platform, and networking opportunities.
The two five-day meetings of the group, one in Washington in the fall and one in Beijing in the spring, provide opportunities to the student fellows for substantive discussions among the cohort and with scholars, senior government officials, and leaders from other sectors. The fellows also have the opportunity to visit agencies and organizations in the host city, and to exchange ideas with students from Georgetown and Chinese universities.

The inaugural U.S.-China Student Fellows Program meeting was held at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in October 2016 on the topic of the “Challenges of Globalization.”

“A big challenge of globalization is reconciling the different perspectives that everyone brings to the table. The student fellows program brings our voices into the conversation.”

– Vicky Gu (MSB’17)
HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

Georgetown’s Washington, D.C., location provides opportunities to convene high-level dialogue that engages leaders from the public sector, business, society, and the academy.

Critical challenges ranging from climate change to security require creative solutions that draw on expertise across sectors. Research generated by the initiative will inform the efforts of policymakers and practitioners to address global problems. At the same time, dialogue with leaders from government, business, and society will enrich perspectives within the academy.

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