THE INSTITUTE OF WORLD POLITICS
A Graduate School of National Security, Intelligence, and International Affairs

Dissertation Prospectus

The dissertation prospectus should consist of 500-1,000 words and include the following elements:

Preliminary Dissertation Title

Statement of Dissertation

- Statement specifying the applicant's research interest and the subject or problem proposed for examination, including its current or historical significance, and the applicant's understanding of it. The statement should describe any pertinent previous academic work by the applicant on the proposed subject and indicate whether the applicant intends to utilize it.

Current State of Research and Scholarship

- Short summary of relevant, published research or scholarship in both primary and secondary sources on the proposed subject or problem. The summary should suggest some of the strengths, weaknesses, limitations, and any problems or central issues associated with the existing scholarship.

Methodology

- Approach to the subject or problem, which the proposed thesis will use, including any theoretical statistical, quantitative, qualitative, and data-analytic aspects. Indicate whether the level of analysis and inquiry will be international, national, regional, comparative, multi-disciplinary, and whether the proposed thesis will use case studies.

Sources

- Conspectus of the available primary and secondary sources on the proposed subject or problem, emphasizing primary sources, particularly declassified U.S. and foreign government, diplomatic, military, and intelligence documents. Any foreign-language secondary sources should be noted, including books, articles, and traditional and Internet media. The location and accessibility of archival materials and foreign-language secondary sources should be noted, including key libraries and repositories such as the U.S. Library of Congress, university libraries, and U.S., U.K., and foreign national archives. The conspectus should indicate whether any special skills are needed to exploit the anticipated sources: for example, data analytics; foreign language translation; Bayesian analysis.