

IPL DELIVERABLE

EAST ASIA PRACTICUM

March 16th- March 24th, 2019

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Introduction:

In the following report, I outline information about the Foreign Policy, Trade and Security in East Asia Seminar, my decision to take the course, followed by my personal learning objectives from the field trip, detailed itinerary of my eight days in Asia and a reflection on the importance of this experience and its future. The East Asia field trip was made possible by the generous donations through the immersive professional learning fund. All pictures in the report were taken by myself and other students between March 16th- and March 24th.

About the Course:

On March 16th, 24 MIIS students set out for Tokyo, Japan and Beijing, China for the field research trip component of the Foreign Policy, Trade and Security in East Asia Seminar course led by Dr. Tsuneo Akaha and Dr. Wei Liang. 6 weeks prior to the departure, students attended a weekly course with extensive lectures on various topics in Asia; including but not limited to: trade issues and partnerships, security, diplomacy, and policy. Afterwards, students submitted a research proposal and supporting research questions for approval by the professors. Students in various programs, such as translation and interpretation, international policy and development, international trade economic diplomacy and non-proliferation and terrorism studies, all participated in the practicum and were able to write about a topic in Asia applicable to their studies.

Out of the many options for courses at MIIS, I chose to take Dr. Akaha and Dr. Liang's Foreign Policy, Trade and Security in East Asia Seminar Course for many reasons. After my work in the Graduate Initiative for Russian Studies with Professor Anna Vassilieva, I wanted to expand my understanding of Russia. Dr. Akaha is one of the leading experts on Japan's relationship with Russia and the Far East, and this opportunity presented a great way to complete my research. Additionally, I desired to expand my horizon as a policy student and further understand trade issues (specifically, US-China trade wars) as it is one today's most pressing conflicts. Finally, the opportunity to travel to Japan and China was extremely appealing to me in order to develop a deeper understanding of East Asia and establish international and domestic networks with the MIIS community.

Learning Objectives:

In order to fully take advantage of my time in East Asia, I came up with four learning objectives that would not only allow me to develop academically, but as a well rounded professional.

1. Develop deeper understanding for Asian culture and society
2. Establish networks with MIIS professors, students and alumni
3. Learn to conduct meaningful interviews with leading experts
4. Understand full scope of research topic



As a student, I have never traveled or study Asia, an extremely important global partner. The first learning objective was to take the opportunity to expose myself to a part of the world that I had no experience with. The second learning objective was to establish a network with various members of the MIIS community. Through traveling,

I was able to connect with students outside of my program, develop closer relationships with Dr. Akaha and Dr. Liang and even meet with former MIIS students that reside in these countries now. Learning objectives three and four address the academic portion of the experience. I wanted to learn how to conduct meaningful interviews by designing appropriate research questions in order to understand the full scope of my research topic: Russia’s current relationship with China, as Russia pivots to the East.



Trip Itinerary:

In the following section, I briefly outline the lectures and extracurricular activities that were completed between March 16th- and March 24th.

Tokyo, Japan	
Date	Activities
Saturday, March 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Checked in at hotel ● Explored Otako district
Sunday, March 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yasukuni Shrine and Yushukan Museum ● Group lunch with Dr. Akaha and other students ● Explored Ginza shopping area ● Hama-Rikyu Gardens and Ferry ● Asakasu

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner with Former ITED student(Gunther) and ITED colleagues
Monday, March 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture at National Institute for Defense Studies on security issues and Russia/Japan relations • Lunch in Ichigaya • Japanese Parliament Tour • Lecture with Mr. Mastaka Suzuki on domestic discourse on constitutional revision • Lecture with Kazunari Morii- principal deputy director, multilateral trade system department, WTO
Tuesday, March 19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture by Professor Narushige Michishita National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies, Roppongi • Lecture on Japan- US trade and economic relations at Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Dinner with Japanese study abroad student from University of San Francisco study abroad
Wednesday, March 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival in Beijing
Beijing, China	
Thursday, March 21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Jianguo Huo, Ministry of Commerce “China’s Foreign Economic Policymaking” • Professor and Director Xinquan Tu, Center for WTO studies • UIBE “China’s New Policy Initiatives in the region of Asia-Pacific” • Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director Tao Yang • Temple of Heaven Park • Traditional Chinese hot pot dinner with classmates
Friday, March 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable discussions with with

	<p>Scholars and diplomats from East Asian Research Center “China’s Foreign Policy toward Russia-Japan-Southeast Asia at University of Foreign Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch meeting with other graduate students from the University of Foreign Affairs • Lecture by Dr. Ke Fang, General Manager at AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) • Yuyuantan Park
Saturday, March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture by Professor Yunxiang at Peking University on China-Japan Relations • Lunch with MIIS alumni, Professor Rui Lin • Lecture by Frank Hawke, Stanford University center at Peking University on US business interest in China • Traditional dumpling dinner with other students
Sunday, March 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forbidden City • Departure for San Francisco



Outcomes:

The East Asia field trip, made possible by generous donations for the immersive professional funding, helped me achieve my learning goals for my time at MIIS. I was able to build a relationship with students outside of my program, develop closer relationships with Dr. Akaha and Dr. Liang and connect with MIIS alumni. Networking is an extremely important element of professional development. Additionally, I will be able to complete insightful research, and become a more well rounded academic with exposure to a number of topics in international affairs. Overall, the East Asia field trip was one of the most memorables opportunities at MIIS, and it is my hope that MIIS and IPL continue funding incredible opportunities for students in the future.