Abstract

The New York University (NYU) course on science diplomacy for graduate students and postdocs is a potential model for institution-based early career training in this field. Now in its second year, the course introduces the role of STEM professionals in international diplomatic affairs. Over an eight-week period, presentations given by science diplomacy experts provide an overview of contemporary science diplomacy topics with an emphasis on three primary themes: science policy for diplomacy, science diplomacy, and science for global development. Speaker case studies raise awareness of organizations involved in science diplomacy efforts, skills and qualifications useful for facing challenges in the field, and avenues for involvement of early-career STEM professionals. Students gain an understanding of the skills (analytical, ethical) to apply science in a diplomatic/international framework through a group-based case study and development of a policy memo. Course participants include both domestic and international early-career professionals from a broad range of STEM fields, including basic sciences, medical sciences, and engineering. A certificate is provided to course participants upon completion. The course is organized by the NYU Office of Postdoctoral Affairs with input welcomed from current graduate students and postdocs. Support for the course provided by the NYU Science Training Enhancement Program (STEP), and a Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) grant from the NIH.

Methods

Summary

- Format: 8-week course, 1.5 hours/week, seminar series
- Cost/Commitment: no student cost, no course credit
- Student Work: group project (policy memo), Recommended Readings
- Student Outcomes: certificate
- Logistic Requirements: course space, volunteer speakers
- Organization: students/postdoc course design, NYU Office of Postdoctoral Affairs support for design and logistics (room reservations, speaker accommodations)

Course Syllabus

NYU Science Diplomacy Course

The role of science in international relations and global development

Science Policy Memo Assignment

Course Participants – 2016 Class

- Graduate Students: 15
- Postdocs: 7
- Other: 8

Future Directions

Washington D.C. Field Trip

A field trip to D.C. is being considered as a capstone for future courses.

Student/Postdoc Club Connection

Following the 2016 course, a Science Diplomacy Club for postdocs and doctoral students is currently forming at NYU.

Acknowledgements

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