

Global Decolonization Initiative Research Internships, HUB CC 284
BU HUB Co-Curricular for Teamwork/Collaboration
AY 2021-22 (Fall and Spring)

Jayita Sarkar
BU Pardee School of Global Studies
jsarkar@bu.edu

WHAT IS IT?

This cocurricular experience, offered through the Pardee School's Global Decolonization Initiative (GloDec), is designed to enrich students' research experience through guided teamwork and collaboration. Students develop qualitative case studies in teams for one of GloDec's two research projects, Nuclear Sites or Connected Partitions. The experience includes research meetings, reflection papers, and presentations of findings. Students first apply through GloDec.

CAS IR 377 is a prerequisite for Connected Partitions.

CAS IR 315/CAS PO 358/CAS HI 335 or CAS IR 522 is a prerequisite for Nuclear Sites.

Effective Fall 2021, this Hub cocurricular fulfills a single unit in the following BU Hub area: Teamwork/Collaboration.

HOW TO APPLY?

Apply only if you meet the course prerequisite for the project you are applying for.

Apply with a one-page CV and a cover letter explaining (a) prior research experience, (b) writing and analytical skills, and (c) which project you wish to join and why. Short-listed candidates will be invited to a Zoom interview. Only selected candidates will be registered on HUB CC 284.

Send applications to decolo@bu.edu with a copy to jsarkar@bu.edu.

For fall 2021 internships (Sep. 15-Dec. 15), apply by **May 31, 2021**.

For spring 2022 internships (post-MLK Day- Apr. 15), apply by **November 30, 2021**.

IN DETAILS

The Global Decolonization Initiative (GloDec), a research initiative based at the BU Pardee School, aims to develop an intellectual community passionate about understanding the ongoing processes of decolonization through studying borders, borderlands, partitions, identities, race, citizenship and political violence. It does so through two student-led qualitative research projects: Nuclear Sites Project and the Connected Partitions Project. The GloDec research internships are semester-long research opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in developing team-led qualitative case studies, for either the Partitions Project or the Nuclear Sites Project.

The Connected Partitions Project is developing a comprehensive database of territorial partitions from 1880s to the present with in-depth case studies that could be used for future research and teaching. Examples include, partition of Ireland, British India, British Palestine, Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Burma, Inner Mongolia and others. The Nuclear Sites Project is developing a database with in-depth case studies of nuclear weapons, nuclear energy and mining sites that are located in the world's borderlands with fraught political, social and legal histories since 1945 to the present. Examples include the Nevada and Trinity test sites in the United States, the Lop Nor test site in China, the Reggane test site in Algeria, the Rio Tinto-owned uranium mines in South Africa and Madagascar, and others.

In order to be eligible for the research internships, students must have already taken in prior semesters, IR377 (U.S. in South Asia since 1940) for the Connected Partitions Project, and IR315/PO358/HI335 (International Nuclear Politics) or IR522 (Politics of Nuclear Weapons) for the Nuclear Sites Project. This is because prior knowledge of the content is necessary to develop research expertise in it. Student interns in mini teams of two each, conduct research and writing on one single case study. The mini teams then share data and findings as they go along with the rest of the team of 6. This facilitates peer-to-peer learning and allows them to observe the “connectedness” of the issues that they research on. As a result, each semester Connected Partitions and Nuclear Sites will have six research interns each, who will be distributed across three mini teams of 2 student research interns each.

This cocurricular learning opportunity is designed to enrich a student’s research experience through guided collaboration, through which they will develop a key marketable skill in today’s workplace: teamwork. This cocurricular meets the HUB Unit entitled *Teamwork/Collaboration*.

Learning Outcomes & Objectives

Training and practical experience of teamwork allows innovation, develops leadership, and fosters knowledge of one’s own strengths and appreciation for those of others. Teamwork and Collaboration are the key to success in the 21st century workplace. GloDec research internships train students to conduct research in collaborative teams of six students.

Learning Outcome 1:

As part of this research internship, students will be provided with explicit training in teamwork and collaborative research. First, they will be required to participate in a collaborative research workshop as part of their orientation at the beginning of their internship. Second, they will be provided with handouts on how to manage their participation in collaborative research teams. Third, they will be required to attend bi-weekly team meetings prior to which they will be required to submit individual reflection papers on their teamwork experience. At the bi-weekly meetings, there will be peer feedback for discussion of the teamwork experience. Fourth, they will be required to submit a monthly team reflection note prior to the monthly meeting #1 and #2 with GloDec's director, who will give feedback to all the interns on their teamwork, in addition to discussing their research. Fifth and finally, students will write a final team reflection paper for monthly meeting #3 on their team research experience during the internship, which will be discussed and debriefed by GloDec's director at that meeting. The Nuclear Sites Project and the Connected Partitions Project will function as two separate teams of six interns each with separate orientations and bi-weekly team meetings.

Learning Outcome 2:

Student research interns, who will come from a diverse set of intellectual and social backgrounds, will be assigned clear tasks and responsibilities on how to develop their case studies, what kind of data to use, where to find that data, how to analyze the data, and present their findings analytically in the form of a case study that can be used for case teaching and future student research. GloDec research interns will be sharing their data and circulate their draft case studies through Google Drive for peer feedback, and feedback from GloDec's director. They will also report back on their research progress in bi-weekly team meetings. Students will be required to submit individual reflection papers on their teamwork experience at the bi-weekly meetings, where there will be peer feedback for discussion of the teamwork experience. In addition, students will be required to submit two monthly team reflection notes prior to the monthly meeting #1 and #2 with GloDec's director, who will give feedback to all the interns on their teamwork, in addition to discussing their research. Students will write a final reflection team paper for monthly meeting #3 on their team research experience during the internship as a whole, which will be discussed and debriefed by GloDec's director at that meeting.

In the bi-weekly team meetings, student interns will engage in meaningful group reflection that will inspire collective ownership of results. Student research interns will also be encouraged to use their case studies and those of their peers in their future research such as honors theses, directed studies, and term papers, while acknowledging their participation in the GloDec research internship, and their contribution and that of their peers.

Prerequisites

Prior to the beginning of their internship, students must have taken for credit IR377 (U.S. in South Asia since 1940) for the Connected Partitions Project research internship, and IR315/PO358/HI335 (International Nuclear Politics) or IR522 (Politics of Nuclear Weapons) for the Nuclear Sites Project research internship. Students must be enrolled full-time at Boston University during their internship term.

Release and Waiver Request

No releases or waivers are required. The GloDec internships will involve a time commitment of 4 hours per week.

Outline

This co-curricular consists of the following components:

- 1. Teamwork Orientation Meeting:** This is a two hour-long workshop for the Connected Partitions and Nuclear Sites research interns' team for an immersive training in collaborative research. At the end of this meeting, students will have clear conceptions of their roles, rights and responsibilities within their

teams. They will receive handouts on teamwork, on how to develop case studies on their team cases, and on how they to collectively investigate the “connectedness” between their cases and those of their team members to draw new insights on their subject of research. At this meeting, research interns will also get a sample case study from David Moss’ *Democracy: A Case Study* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2017) to help them understand their tasks.

2. **Regular Data Sharing on Google Drive:** Each student intern will have access to a shared Google Drive folder through which they will share the primary and secondary source data that they are using for their own research. Each intern will also regularly share their reflections on their findings as they go along. This would facilitate peer-to-peer learning in a collaborative research environment.
3. **Buddy System or Mini team:** Each intern will be paired with a fellow intern in the same research team. This “buddy system” or mini team is to institute a mutual peer-review and accountability structure for each intern, on the one hand, and co-authorship of the case study that they will conduct research and writing for. The buddy will be the first point of contact for the intern’s research and writing. They will ask helpful questions, provide frequent feedback on rough drafts, and discuss research and writing progress on a regular basis.
4. **Bi-Weekly Team Meetings:** Research interns will meet bi-weekly with their teams to discuss their findings, share challenges they encountered, and jointly discuss solutions to those challenges. Each team meeting will be led by a team leader on a rotational basis. This will ensure each research intern will act as a team leader as well as a team member during their term as a GloDec intern. There will be four bi-weekly team meetings for each internship term (fall or spring). Please see calendar below. Students will be required to submit individual reflection papers on their teamwork experience at the bi-weekly meetings, where there will be peer feedback for discussion of the teamwork experience.
5. **Monthly Team Meetings with GloDec’s Director:** In each monthly meeting, GloDec’s director will assess research progress of the mini teams, and the entire team, and provide feedback and guidance on next steps and opportunities for improvement of their research for and writing of the case studies. There will be three monthly team meetings for each internship term (fall or spring). Please see calendar below. Students will be required to submit a monthly team reflection note prior to the monthly meeting #1 and #2 with GloDec’s director, who will give feedback to all the interns on their teamwork, in addition to discussing their research. Students will write a final team reflection paper for monthly meeting #3 on their team research experience during the internship, which will be discussed and debriefed by GloDec’s director at that meeting.
6. **First draft of Case Studies:** At the end of the Week 4, the first draft of case studies will be due. This draft will be discussed at the monthly team meeting with GloDec’s director. This draft must have the structure of the case study, a list of references, a list of 5-10 primary sourced documents if applicable, and an assessment of the gaps in the literature.
7. **Presentation of Preliminary Findings:** In Week 8, at second monthly meeting, each intern makes a 10-minute presentation of key findings, challenges, generalizable concepts, overlapping themes, and next steps. This will be followed by 10-minute Q&A. Q&A will be led by intern’s “buddy” but their entire team will contribute.
8. **Case Studies at 50% completion:** A month prior to the end-date of the internship, the mini teams will submit their team case studies 50% completed to GloDec’s director for review and feedback. Detailed feedback and guidance will be provided to help with 100% completion of the case studies. This feedback will be discussed at the bi-weekly meeting following the submission by both GloDec’s director as well as peer-reviewers chosen from within the teams of research interns.

- 9. Final Case Studies submission:** A week before the termination of the internship, each mini team will submit their final case studies. Each study will be approximately 3,000 words long, be analytical with all primary and secondary sources clearly cited as footnotes in Chicago Manual of Style, and have a list of references and “further readings”. These case studies will also be shared with the team members. The case studies of the highest quality will be made available to the Boston University community for research and teaching.

12-Week Calendar

Fall: Sep. 15 – Dec. 15

Spring: Jan. 15/ Day after MLK Jr. Day – Apr. 15

Week 1

- Teamwork Orientation Meeting
- Team leaders assigned for all bi-weekly meetings
- Handouts provided and discussed on (a) case writing, (b) conducting research, and (a) case study sample.

Week 2

- Interns begin working on first drafts due in Week 4.
- Buddy or mini team meetups begin.
- Interns prepare individual reflection papers on teamwork prior to bi-weekly meeting #1.

Week 3

- Bi-weekly meeting #1 led by team leader
- Interns discuss working versions of their first drafts.
- Peer discussion of teamwork based on individual reflection papers submitted prior to meeting.

Week 4

- Monthly meeting #1
- Mini teams submit first drafts to GloDec’s director 48 hours before monthly team meeting
- Interns must submit individual reflection papers on teamwork prior to monthly meeting #1.
- GloDec’s director discusses and provides feedback on teamwork based on team reflection papers in addition to peer discussion.

Week 5

- Bi-weekly meeting #2 led by team leader
- Mini teams improve their first drafts and continue to conduct research
- Peer discussion of teamwork based on individual reflection papers submitted prior to meeting.

Week 6

- Mini teams improve their first drafts and continue to conduct research

Week 7

- Bi-weekly meeting #3 led by team leader
- Peer discussion of teamwork based on individual reflection papers submitted prior to meetings.

Week 8

- Monthly meeting #2: **Interns' Presentations**
- Interns must submit individual reflection papers on teamwork prior to monthly meeting #2.
- GloDec's director discusses and provides feedback on teamwork based on team reflection papers in addition to peer discussion.

Week 9

- Bi-weekly meeting #4 led by team leader; case studies are discussed in team meeting
- Case studies at 50% completion submitted to GloDec's director
- Peer discussion of teamwork based on individual reflection papers submitted prior to meetings.

Week 10

- Interns improve their drafts at 50% completion and continue to conduct research and write the case.
- GloDec's director provide feedback to each intern on their written case study.

Week 11

- Monthly meeting #3 (last meeting)
- Team discusses generalizable findings, interconnections across cases, and what they can all include in their case studies in terms of common themes.
- Interns must submit team reflection papers on teamwork for the whole internship prior to monthly meeting #2.
- GloDec's director discusses and debriefs on teamwork based on team reflection papers in addition to peer discussion.

Week 12

- Bi-weekly meeting #4 held (last meeting)
- Interns to wrap up their cases and submit their final case studies to GloDec's director.
- Internship completion certificates awarded after final case studies are submitted.
- Final peer discussion of teamwork based on reflection papers submitted prior to meetings.