

The Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs advances research and teaching about the world beyond the borders of the United States. We draw on cutting-edge international research across Northwestern's twelve undergraduate, graduate and professional schools to generate new knowledge about pressing global challenges and promising solutions for addressing them.

Research

Our faculty are bringing cutting-edge research to bear on critical global and international challenges. Our Global Working Groups leverage expertise across the social sciences, sciences and humanities to address pressing issues through ambitious, collaborative projects.



We support cohorts of **faculty and graduate fellows** in addition to hosting **visiting scholars** as well as a **Roberta Buffett Visiting Professor of International Studies** each year. We also help Northwestern scholars find research partners within the university through lunchtime workshops and support international research partnerships through Global Collaboration Grants.

Education

The Buffett Institute prepares students to serve as global citizens and leaders through coursework, research assistantships, grants and international learning experiences. Our **Global Learning Office** works with scholars and communities worldwide to develop study abroad and international internship experiences that foster cross-cultural communication, collaboration, empathy and humility.

Our **Office of Global Safety and Security** supports students, faculty and staff who travel abroad, and our **Office of International Student and Scholar Services** supports Northwestern's international populations on campus through advising, advocacy and cultural exchange programming.

In 2023, the Buffett Institute's Global Learning Office administered:

150 global experiential learning programs in **50** countries

The same year, our Office of International Student & Scholar Services supported:

8,500 international students, scholars & families

Impact

Our scholars contribute to public understanding of complex international challenges and develop knowledge, policies and technologies to improve people's lives. A few examples include:

Our **Making Water Insecurity Visible Global Working Group** is addressing major gaps in the measurement and visibility of the underlying issues driving the global water crisis. The group's co-leaders have secured a \$3 million National Science Foundation grant to produce new at-home water quality testing technology for toxins like lead and copper. Group members have also launched the research network Water Insecurity Experiences-Latin America and the Caribbean. Policymakers in Nuevo León, Mexico have since committed to administering regular surveys of vulnerable residents' water insecurity experiences—creating a playbook for other government entities to follow.

Our **Antibiotic Resistance Global Working Group** has established research partnerships with Aga Khan University and the National Institutes of Health in Pakistan to establish a pathogen surveillance program. They have secured a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a roadmap for coordinating responses to antimicrobial resistance across academic, political, pharmaceutical and medical institutions.

Our **Defusing Disasters Global Working Group** is developing globally applicable and locally informed Hazardous Weather Vulnerability Indices that can be used to identify and protect those most vulnerable to extreme weather phenomena. They have secured funding and public health data to develop urban heat vulnerability indices in partnership with the City of Chicago and plan to expand their partnership model beyond the U.S. to help facilitate collaborative problem-solving among universities, local governments and community groups.

Our **Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges Global Working Group** collaborates with Indigenous communities to identify and mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. To date, they've secured \$7 million in funds from the National Science Foundation to monitor the effects of climate change on the Great Lakes and its surrounding natural ecosystems, using environmental sensors to collect data Ojibwe Nations can use to monitor water contamination from nearby pipelines and mining operations, assess the impacts of climate change on crop production, and protect their treaty rights.

The Buffett Institute also hosts **Buffett Book Talks, Lectures and Conversations** to foster public engagement with cutting-edge international scholarship. Explore upcoming events and news from the Buffett Institute on our website:

buffett.northwestern.edu

