

2025–2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RECIPIENT



Priyanka Bhutani

Priyanka Bhutani is a senior at The University of Texas at Austin majoring in International Relations and Global Studies and Government, with minors in History and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies..

This summer, Priyanka took part in the Cambridge Security Initiative, a program she first encountered during the Clements Center's 2025 London May Term, where she met its director, Professor David Gioe. At Cambridge she joined students, scholars, and practitioners examining challenges in intelligence, national security, and international affairs, through lectures on hybrid warfare, emerging technologies, nuclear security, regional conflict, and the changing role of intelligence in policymaking. Small-group sessions with Professor Gioe and Professor Mike Goodman let her apply the readings to present-day security problems. She also advanced her research on energy security and coercive statecraft in a policy paper on how major powers use energy resources, trade relationships, and hostage-taking as instruments of geopolitical leverage.

At a two-day Intelligence and International Security conference, Priyanka followed discussions of Russia's borders, open-source intelligence, Indo-Pacific security, and hybrid threats. After a panel on Russia's border regions she spoke with a Georgian security policy expert about historical memory, Russian influence, and the political and security futures of post-Soviet states, drawing on her time in the Baltics through Summer Beyond Borders. The program connected her coursework on the Forty Acres with what she learned on the Korea May Term and in the Baltics, and strengthened her commitment to public service.