A Fletcher education is highly customizable, and each student may decide on a different academic trajectory to suit his or her own professional and academic goals. To get a better sense of how these individual curricular decisions can play out, we asked recent students in their final semester to talk about their goals, their classes, and the decisions made during their Fletcher career. Meet Bernardo:

Pre-Fletcher Experience
Human Resources Business Partner, Target Corporation, Minneapolis, MN
Group Leader, Target Regional Distribution Center, Fridley, MN
Logistics Analyst, Target Corporation, Minneapolis, MN

Fields of Study
International Organizations
United States

Capstone Topic
U.S. Diplomatic Engagement with Non-state Armed Groups

Post-Fletcher Professional Goals
After Fletcher, I will be joining the U.S. Foreign Service as a Foreign Service Officer. Although I do not know my official assignment yet, I will spend the summer after graduation interning at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Curriculum Overview

Semester One

- Diplomacy: History, Theory, and Practice
- U.S. Public Diplomacy
- The Foreign Relations of the United States to 1917
- Analytic Frameworks for International Public Policy Decisions

Prior to starting my first semester, I was very methodical in proactively mapping out my two-year academic plan. I had selected my two fields of study and wanted to knock out the breadth and depth requirements my first year. Since my undergraduate degree was in Business and I had worked in the private sector for four years, I wanted to primarily take courses within the Diplomacy, History, and Politics division. Also, since I knew I’d be joining the U.S. Foreign Service after graduation, I began to take courses relevant to U.S. foreign policy and the practice of diplomacy. This semester was a nice balance of intertwining the theory and practice of diplomacy.

Semester Two

- The Foreign Relations of the United States since 1917
Building off my first semester, I decided to take the second part of the Foreign Relations of the United States with Professor Henrikson. I, however, also wanted to revisit my passion for Latin America, so I decided to take Professor Burgess’ class. I also decided it be wise to fulfill my quantitative analysis requirement, while taking my course requirement for International Law and Organizations. Professor Johnstone’s International Organizations course was very enlightening in understanding the complex world of multilateral organizations.

Summer Internship
U.S. Department of State, The Operations Center’s Office of Crisis Management Support

At the Department of State, I interned in the Office of Crisis Management Support. I monitored potential and emerging crises as lead crisis management officer responsible for regional portfolio of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA) and backup officer for Near Eastern Affairs (NEA). I identified specific incidents and threats that could potentially affect private U.S. citizens, official U.S. personnel and facilities, and/or other key U.S. interests in assigned regions.

Semester Three

- International Negotiation
- Foundations of Policy Analysis
- Evolution of Strategy
- Islam and Politics

My summer internship was very influential in my course selection for my final year. Over the summer, I had to write numerous briefs and memos. As a result, I began to take courses that would further hone my writing skills, while also helping me formulate frameworks for policy analysis and strategy development. I also wanted to expand my horizons by better understanding the intersection of Islam and politics. Finally, for each of my classes I began to think about how each of my papers could contribute to my thesis topic.

Semester Four

- International Mediation
- Leadership in Public and Private Sector Organizations
- Decision Making and Public Policy
- Management of Crises Response (Harvard Kennedy School)

Since I thoroughly enjoyed my International Negotiation class, I decided I wanted to further explore this discipline by taking International Mediation with Professor Babbitt. As an aspiring policymaker, I continued to take Professor Martel’s courses: one on leadership and the other one on decision-making. Finally, I decided to cross register at the Kennedy School. Although
the course is focused on the management of domestic crises, I know I can apply these lessons to international crises as well.