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 Hillary:

**Pre-Fletcher Experience**
Peace Corps Volunteer, Benin
Portfolio Analyst, NEPC Investment Consulting, Cambridge, MA

**Fields of Study**
International Political Economy
Development Economics

**Capstone Topic**
Trade Policy and Economic Integration in West Africa

**Post-Fletcher Professional Goals**
International economic policy with a focus on developing countries

**Curriculum Overview**

**Semester One**

- Corporate Finance
- Political Economy of Development
- Law and Development
- Petroleum in the Global Economy

*My objective first semester was to lay the groundwork for the rest of my Fletcher curriculum. I wanted to knock out some of the breadth requirements while also taking at least one class out of pure interest in the subject. This semester I learned a lot about finance and a lot about development, both fields that I had worked in prior to attending Fletcher.*

**Semester Two**

- Development Economics: Macro Perspectives
- Econometrics
- International Investment Law
- International Trade and Investment

*Second semester I began to think more about my fields of study and decided on Development Economics and International Political Economy. I focused mostly on taking courses that would satisfy my depth requirements. I also began to think about my thesis and started to build an*
academic relationship with Professor Kowalczyk, who taught Trade and Investment and who is also my adviser.

**Summer Internship**
Treasury Department, Office of Environment and Energy

At the Treasury I worked with the Office of Environment and Energy. For most of the summer we were working on the design of the Green Climate Fund, an innovative new donor funded organization that provides financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The skills I learned in Corporate Finance and International Investment Law were very helpful in my internship.

**Semester Three**

- Advanced Trade and Investment
- Econometric Impact Evaluation
- Macroeconomic problems in Latin America
- International Finance

*Because of a quirk in course scheduling, most of the economics courses I wanted to take in my final year were offered only in the Fall semester. This meant taking four economics courses at once, which sounds crazier than it actually was. My favorite course was Econometric Impact Evaluation, because we had the opportunity to complete a consulting project for a development organization. My group worked with Catholic Relief Services and conducted an econometric impact evaluation of a malaria prevention campaign in Sierra Leone.*

**Semester Four**

- International Energy Policy
- Sustainable Development Diplomacy
- Political Economy of Reform, Growth, and Equity
- Decision Making in Public Policy

*With my fields of study complete, and just one breadth requirement left, I decided to take classes that would broaden my horizons and teach new skills. Having loaded up on economics courses the semester before, it is a nice to take some more writing intensive courses.*