

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 Lulu:

Pre-Fletcher Experience

Financial Analyst, J.P. Morgan, NYC

Fields of Study

International Security Studies

International Information & Communication

Capstone Topic

The Cyber Relationship between the U.S. and China

Post-Fletcher Professional Goals

To work for a private company or international organization that deals with technology and strategy

Curriculum Overview

Semester 1

- Analytic Frameworks for International Public Policy Decisions
- International Communication
- Processes of International Negotiation
- Technology Strategy and Innovation in Global Markets
- The US and East Asia

For the first semester, I tried to get a mix of useful tools (i.e. Analytic Frameworks and International Negotiation) and broad experimentation (since I was still doing some soul searching to narrow my interests). To date, Analytic Frameworks has been one of my most useful classes, giving me a great foundation for understanding a wide range of policy issues through models like decision trees and game theory. The professor, Carolyn Gideon (who also teaches International Communication), quickly became a mentor and is now my thesis adviser.

Semester 2

- Strategic Dimensions of the Rise of China
- Decision Making & Public Policy
- Technology & International Security
- Terrorism & Counterterrorism

This might be my best semester, in terms of course selection. Every single one of these classes was a big win – fascinating subjects, useful assignments, and excellent professors. I've had some great classes every semester, but this combination was probably the most enjoyable all around. I had no plans to take the Terrorism class, but signed up at the advice of a second year who told me it was one of his favorite classes at Fletcher. It is now one of my favorite classes at Fletcher.

Summer Internship

Consultant, World Bank ICT Sector Unit, Washington DC

Semester 3

- International Finance
- Petroleum in the Global Economy
- The Role of Force in International Politics
- Independent Study

Finance –this class makes the topic as un-painful as possible. I learned a lot in a short time, and Professor Klein's jokes are seriously underrated. The Petroleum class is a favorite for a lot of Fletcher students, and there are usually far more people who want to take it than physically fit in the classroom. Role of Force is a packed 11 weeks of security studies and international relations theory, and Professor Shultz is a fan favorite here at Fletcher. I also took an independent study credit in order to focus on making progress on completing my thesis, and, uh...I don't care to comment more on that.

Semester 4

- Communications Policy Analysis and Modeling
- Gender, Culture and Conflict in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies
- Law & Development
- International Relations of the US & East Asia

It just occurred to me that my last semester is a throwback to my first semester, with continuations of two of my favorite classes: Communication and US & East Asia. Communications as a field and East Asia as a region are two areas of study where I had little previous experience and where Fletcher really deepened my interest. I also try to take a “just because” class every semester. These are classes that might not directly pertain to my academic concentration but that are interesting and fun. In previous semesters, these have included Modern Terrorism & Counterterrorism and Petroleum in the Global Economy. This semester, it's the Gender class. I've heard great things about it since before coming to Fletcher, and it definitely approaches the study of armed conflict from a different (and important!) angle.