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 Nathan:

**Pre-Fletcher Experience**
Peace Corps Volunteer, Niger
Communications & Programme Assistant, Plan Niger

**Fields of Study**
Public & NGO Management
Human Security

**Capstone Topic**
Defining Success and Failure in Development NGOs

**Post-Fletcher Professional Goals**
Project, program, and policy work in international development

**Curriculum Overview**
My strategy for choosing courses was to get the combination of a) policy & management skills and b) a variety of sector knowledge, to be an attractive candidate for program and policy positions. For the technical & management, I took the management and accounting classes, as well as the design, evaluation & economics. I took these all at Fletcher, though there are a variety of classes at HKS and elsewhere. For more specific sector knowledge, I've tried to get a variety of areas relevant to aid work, with a focus on more empowering approaches such as education and financial inclusion. Adding human rights law, humanitarian studies and gender will help make me a more versatile professional.

**Semester One**
- Analytic Frameworks for Public Policy Decision-making
- Human Rights Law
- Humanitarian Studies in the Field
- Processes of International Negotiation

**Semester Two**
- Microfinance and Inclusive Commerce
- Econometrics
- Rights Based Approach to Design, Monitoring Evaluation & Learning
• International NGOs: Ethics & Management Practice

**Summer Internship**  
Plan West Africa Regional Office, "Because I Am A Girl" Campaign

At WARO, my main deliverable was a strategy for girls' education advocacy in West Africa. I also helped the country offices in the region with their advocacy and program plans for the 4-year Campaign, and worked on the BIAAG Africa reports from 2012 (editing) and 2013 (lit review to prepare for research).

**Semester Three**

• Development Aid in Practice  
• Econometric Impact Evaluation  
• Development Economics: Policy Perspectives  
• Education Policy Analysis in Comparative Perspective (at Harvard Grad School of Education)

**January Term**

• Evaluation of Development and Peacebuilding (1/2 credit module)

**Semester Four**

• Market Approaches to Human Development  
• Government and nonprofit accounting  
• Gender, Culture, Conflict in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies  
• Independent Study (Capstone)