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 Seth:

**Pre-Fletcher Experience**
I spent four years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force.

**Fields of Study**
Pacific Asia  
International Communications

**Capstone Topic**
An academic thesis on youth culture in Taiwan, and its political implications for China and the U.S.

**Post-Fletcher Professional Goals**
I am applying for a PhD in either history or politics, with the hope of studying east Asian international relations.

**Curriculum Overview**

**Semester One**
- Processes of International Negotiation  
- Quantitative Methods Module  
- Econometrics  
- International Legal Order  
- International Communications

*Coming from a history background, I was interested in finding other tools to do research. I also wanted to branch out from my “comfort zone.” Both decisions worked out well in the end.*

**Semester Two**
- International Relations of East Asia and the U.S.  
- China’s Frontiers  
- Economics and Management of Technology  
- Foreign Relations and National Security Law

*After experimenting in the first semester, I committed to studying Pacific Asia. However, I was still able to take interesting courses outside of my focus area. Hence “national security law,” which was irrelevant to me as a scholar, but very relevant to me as a citizen.*

**Summer**
I went to Taiwan for research.

**Semester Three**
- Maritime History and Globalization
- Foreign Relations of Modern China
- Nationalism, Self-Determination, and Minority Rights
- Capstone Independent Study

At this point, I knew I wanted to study Taiwan and China, so I chose courses suited for it. I also took a capstone course, which freed up a lot of time. Get your capstone done early!

**Semester Four**
- GIS for International Applications
- Economics and Business Environment of Greater China
- Intro to Economic Theory
- North Korean State & Society

This semester was only 3.5 credit hours, since I took 4.5 in my first semester. I would recommend something like this, since you’ll be pressed for time (job applications, finishing a thesis) in your fourth semester. Again, I was able to take courses that expanded my “toolbox,” like economics and GIS.