



## Bass Connections Student Feature

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First Year, Master of Science in Global Health Program

### **How does your participation in Bass Connections influence your current Duke experience?**

The Bass Connections program is an outstanding example of interdisciplinary work here at Duke. I am a member of a Bass Connections team focusing on “Displacement, Resettlement and Global Mental Health.” By concentrating on the psychosocial effects of resettlement on Bhutanese, Iraqis, and Syrian refugees in Durham and abroad, I have been able to link my Bass Connections work with my area studies of global mental health at Duke Global Health Institute. It has also been fantastic to integrate my thesis work with my Bass Connections work. For example, I will be traveling to Nepal for two weeks at the end of November, 2013 to conduct a field assessment for my thesis which is exploring the psychosocial impacts of climate change. At the same time, I will be meeting with policymakers to discuss Bhutanese refugee policy in Nepal for our Bass Connections team.

### **How do you think your participation in the program will shape your future endeavors?**

The interdisciplinary nature of Bass Connections will prepare me for working on diverse teams in the global health field. Having an opportunity at Duke to collaborate and ideate on complex and relevant problems has been both rewarding and challenging. My participation on the Bass Connections team has further developed my creative problem-solving, leadership, and cross-cultural competencies that will set me up for success in my future endeavors.

### **What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of the Bass Connections program?**

The two things I find most rewarding about participating on this Bass Connections team is: (1) engaging and collaborating with students and faculty from different departments and (2) synthesizing global health challenges on a local scale while having the opportunity to compare and connect our learnings in the field abroad. As a global health student conditioned to focus on the big picture, I really enjoy having the opportunity to be so connected with the local community.... which in turn, helps inform the big picture.

