BASS CONNECTIONS
Collaborative interdisciplinary research addressing complex societal challenges

BASSCONNECTIONS.DUKE.EDU
BASS CONNECTIONS IS A UNIVERSITY-WIDE ACADEMIC PROGRAM that gives students a chance to apply classroom lessons to complex societal challenges, working alongside faculty from all of Duke’s schools. Named in honor of founding donors Anne and Robert Bass, Bass Connections exemplifies Duke’s commitment to TEAM-BASED INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.

Students of all levels can participate at any time while at Duke

Each year, more than 550 undergraduates, 200 graduate students and 300 faculty and staff participate in Bass Connections through approximately:

- **YEAR-LONG PROJECT TEAMS** that bring together faculty, graduate students, undergraduates and external partners to explore open-ended research questions.
- **ONE-SEMESTER COURSES** featuring collaborative assignments and interaction with external partners.
- **SUMMER PROJECTS** in which small teams conduct intensive research over 6 to 10 weeks.
- **STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS** for student-driven projects proposed by individuals or teams and mentored by faculty.
FIVE THEMATIC AREAS LINK TO SOCIETAL CHALLENGES:

» Brain & Society
» Information, Society & Culture
» Global Health
» Education & Human Development
» Energy & Environment

Bass Connections
Open supports other interesting projects that fall outside of these themes.
Through Bass Connections, undergraduates can:

» Build research skills in a small group setting
» Collaborate with faculty, graduate students and other undergraduates
» Contribute to meaningful research outcomes (e.g., publications, datasets, algorithms, policy papers)
» Explore career paths and gain valuable experience
» Engage with communities and organizations outside of Duke

“Bass Connections is all about research that you can see and feel and uniquely contribute to. The questions we seek answers to have vast implications, and Bass Connections brings together amazing interdisciplinary teams uniquely equipped to tackle them head on.”

“Bass Connections gives you an opportunity to be intimately involved with very sophisticated and difficult research topics, with the freedom that you might not otherwise have in a more traditional undergraduate research setting.”
Through Bass Connections, graduate and professional students can:

» Develop career-oriented skills, including mentoring, managing projects, working on teams and building relationships with external partners
» Access professional development resources and opportunities for funding
» Deepen relationships with faculty
» Network with colleagues in diverse fields
» Contribute to meaningful research outcomes (e.g., publications, datasets, algorithms, policy papers)
» Enhance dissertation or thesis research

“I got invaluable experience mentoring undergraduates and leading them as a team. I also established new interdisciplinary collaborations that allowed me to learn new skills and new topic areas, which was important for my professional development.”

“Not only have I had the opportunity to learn from a variety of experts ranging from famous atmospheric chemists to former U.S. ambassadors, I also have had the experience of helping build a team of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty.”
## Choose a Bass Connections experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Estimated Commitment</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Apply* or Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Teams</strong></td>
<td>Two semesters; optional summer component</td>
<td>10 hours per week during academic year</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>For summer component, if applicable</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Apply early in spring semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Courses</strong></td>
<td>One semester</td>
<td>10 hours per week</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Register during normal registration periods</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Research Awards</strong></td>
<td>Up to 12 months</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Apply early in spring semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER PROGRAMS</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Estimated Commitment</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data+</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>40 hours per week</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Apply early in spring semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story+</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>40 hours per week</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Apply early in spring semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Health Student Research Training</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>40 hours per week</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Rising juniors and seniors</td>
<td>Apply early in fall semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Neuroscience Program</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>40 hours per week</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Rising junior and senior Neuroscience majors</td>
<td>Apply early in spring semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See our website for specific deadlines
“Bass Connections has been, by far, the best learning experience I have had in my life. The multidisciplinary team approach helped me learn in new ways. I have formed close friendships with everyone on my team. This experience has led me to find a topic of study I am truly passionate about.”

EXAMPLES

» Improving Neurosurgical Patient Outcomes in Uganda
» Developing the Political Citizen
» How to Build Ethics into Robust Artificial Intelligence
» Language, Music and Dementia
» Providing Clean Fuel for the Developing World

Apply to join a project team:

» Project teams last for two semesters; students may receive course credit.
» Some teams include a summer component; funding is available.
» Teams meet at least once a week on campus during the academic year.
» Some teams travel during breaks or over the summer.
» Apply in January-February; start in fall (or summer).
Register for a course:

» Courses integrate interdisciplinary topics and methods and engage students in team-based learning.
» Courses are available at all levels, from gateway courses to advanced undergraduate and graduate courses.
» Register during normal registration periods.

EXAMPLES

» EGR 101L: Engineering Design and Communication
» PUBPOL/MUS 290S-04: Social Entrepreneurship and the Arts
» EHD 290S-02: Social Science Research Lab: Evaluating Healthcare Innovation
» ENVIRON 593-65: U.N. Climate Change Negotiation Practicum
» GLHLTH 750: Health Systems and Policy in Global Health
Apply to a **summer program**:

- Four summer programs engage students in intensive research around a diverse set of interdisciplinary challenges.
- Apply in September-October for Global Health Student Research Training; apply in January-February for Data+, Story+ and Summer Neuroscience Program.
- Programs take place over 6-10 weeks the following summer.

**EXAMPLES**

- **Data+:** American Predatory Lending and the Global Financial Crisis
- **Story+:** Coal and America: Stories from the Central Appalachian Coalfields
- Global Health Student Research Training: Community Health in Rural Uganda

“Nobody held my hand at Data+ and walked me through how to solve a real world data problem; instead, awesome mentors pushed me to make big decisions on my own and think critically, which prepared me so much better for a career in the real world.”
Learn more

» **Sign up** for the Bass Connections mailing list and **follow us** on social media.

» Explore our website and **browse stories from students**.

» **Attend** the Bass Connections Fair in January to learn about new projects and talk to team leaders.

» Seek guidance from Duke’s Directors of Academic Engagement: [ADVISING.DUKE.EDU/DAE](mailto:ADVISING.DUKE.EDU/DAE)

» **Contact** a member of our Student Advisory Council to **ask questions**.

» **Review** project descriptions carefully before applying.

» **Come to the Bass Connections Showcase** in April to see what teams have accomplished.