 [INSERT HEI LOGO]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Contact: [HEI Representative]

Date: 00/00/2018 Telephone: [HEI Email or Phone]

(HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION Name) Student (student name) awarded

**U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship TO study abroad**

***Month Day, Year*** – The [higher education institution name]is pleased to announce that [student’s name] is one of 844 American undergraduate students from 335 colleges and universities across the United States selected to receive the prestigious [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](https://exchanges.state.gov/us/program/benjamin-gilman-international-scholarship-program) to study or intern abroad during the spring of 2019. The complete list of students who have been selected to receive Gilman Scholarships this term, including students’ home state, university and host country, is available on the website: [*gilman*](http://www.iie.org/gilman)*scholarship.org.*

The Congressionally funded Gilman Program broadens the U.S. student population studying and interning abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduate Pell Grant recipients who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise study abroad. Since the program’s establishment in 2001, over 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent more than 28,000 Gilman scholars who represent the rich diversity of the United States to 145 countries around the globe.

The following student[s] from [HEI NAME] received a Gilman scholarship:

[STUDENT NAME; STUDY AND/OR INTERN, SUBJECT, DESTINATION]

[Brief information as to what student will do with Gilman scholarship]

“The Gilman Program aims to make study abroad, and its career advantages, more accessible and inclusive for American students.  These diverse American students gain critical skills overseas that expand their career options and ability to make an impact in their home communities,” said Heidi Manley, the Chief of USA Study Abroad at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.   She notes that the program particularly focuses on supporting first-generation college students, students in the STEM fields, ethnic and racial minority students, students with disabilities, students who are veterans, students attending community colleges and minority serving institutions, and other populations underrepresented in study abroad, as well as broadening the destinations where scholars study or intern.

The Gilman Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

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*The* ***U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ (ECA)*** *mission is to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, professional and private exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships and mentoring programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States. ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges. For more information about ECA programs, initiatives, and achievements, visit* [*eca.state.gov*](http://eca.state.gov)*.*

*The* ***Institute of International Education*** *(*[*http://www.iie.org/*](http://www.iie.org/)*) works with policymakers, educators and employers across the globe to prepare students and professionals for the global workforce and equip them to solve the increasingly complex challenges facing our interconnected world. An independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1919, IIE has a network of 18 offices and affiliates worldwide, and over 1,300 member institutions.*