

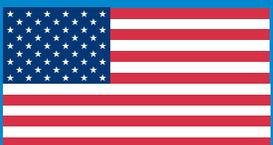
# Gilman Scholarship<sup>★</sup>

## SCHOLAR IMPACT REPORT

2017-2018

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# About the Gilman International Scholarship

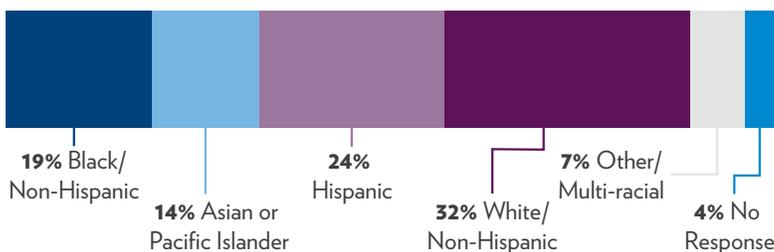
**The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is reshaping study abroad to make it more accessible and inclusive for American students.** The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State, is committed to ensuring that our next generation of leaders — American students of all backgrounds — engages internationally to foster mutual understanding and develop critical skills in support of our national security and economic prosperity, as well as their own futures.

The Gilman Scholarship Program broadens the U.S. student population that studies and interns abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduates who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Participants in the Gilman Scholarship Program are better prepared to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

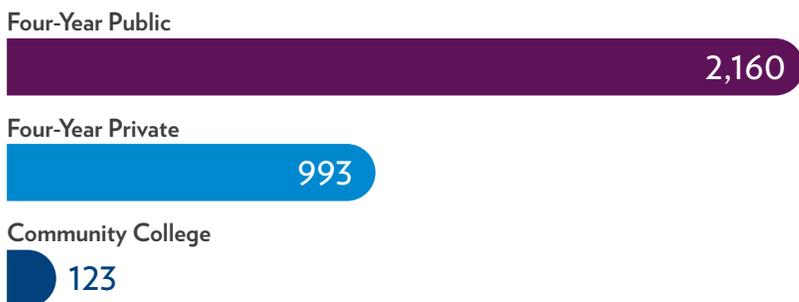
**The Gilman Scholarship Program engages a diverse U.S. student population.** Since the program’s establishment in 2001, more than 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent more than 28,000 Gilman Scholars to 150 countries around the globe. Gilman Scholars represent U.S. students from various backgrounds and fields of study that are underrepresented in U.S. study abroad.

## Diversity Snapshot of 2017-2018 Gilman Scholars

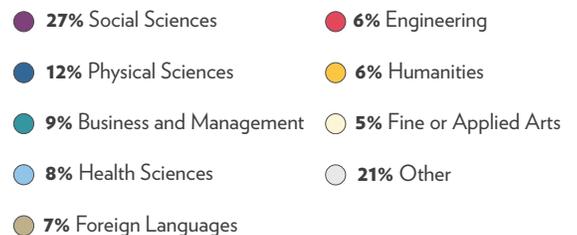
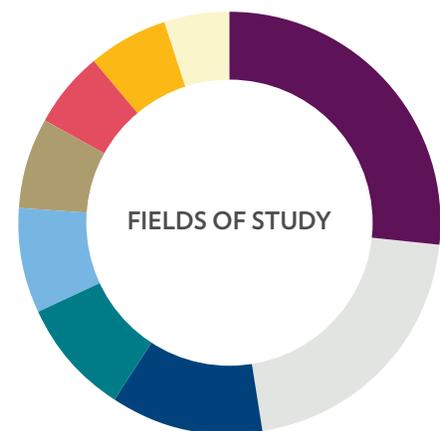
### RACE AND ETHNICITY



### INSTITUTION TYPE



18% of Gilman Scholars were enrolled in minority-serving institutions.



# Measuring Gilman's Impact

**Evaluation goals:** The Scholar Impact Report captures the outcomes and the impact of the Gilman Scholarship Program on the personal and professional trajectories of Gilman Scholars and their home communities in the United States. This report analyzes the vital role of the program in promoting opportunities for U.S. students to expand their knowledge and intercultural competence and support greater international understanding and cooperation.

- Measure the outputs, outcomes, and impacts of the Gilman Scholarship Program on program participants.
- Explore the extent to which Gilman Scholars are applying the knowledge, skills, and insights they have acquired as a result of the Scholarship.
- Identify best practices and program recommendations for implementation.

**Data collection methods:** The Pre-Departure Survey is administered within one month of Gilman Scholars' departure, while the Reentry Survey is administered within one month of their return to the United States.

### Pre-Departure Survey



### Reentry Survey



# Gilman Scholar Profile

The Scholar Impact Report draws on alumni experiences between May 2017 and August 2018.

3,136  
SCHOLARS

from 356 U.S.  
INSTITUTIONS

STUDIED IN  
82 COUNTRIES

65%  
represented racial and  
ethnic minority groups.

59%  
were first-generation  
college students.

30%  
studied in STEM fields –  
Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics.

53%  
went abroad for study, while  
smaller percentages went for  
internships, service-learning,  
and independent study.

# Scholar Changes Increased Knowledge and Skills

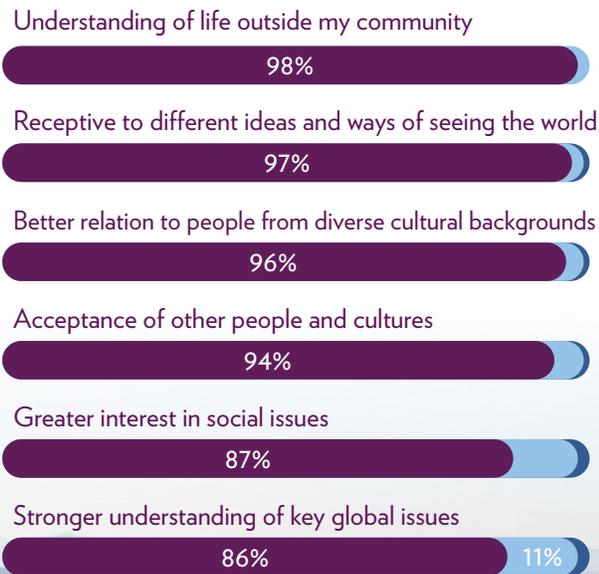
## GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AND INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Gilman Scholars gained new knowledge about their host countries. They deepened their understanding of their host country’s culture and values (98%), government and politics (93%), and religious and ethnic diversity (89%).

Moreover, Gilman Scholars expanded their global perspectives and increased their understanding of other people and cultures, as well as life outside their own communities.

### Gains in Intercultural Competence

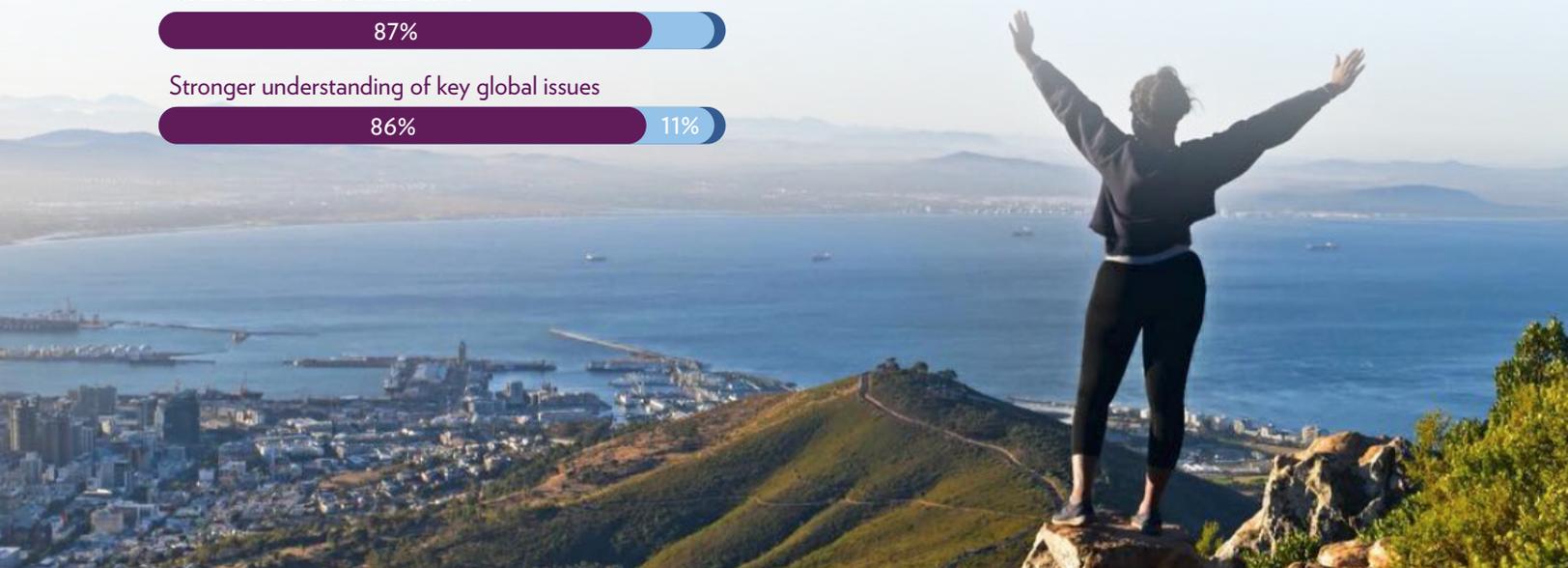
● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree



“My world has been expanded so much ... and ultimately, it has shown me that no matter how different people are or the environment is, we are the same; we face the same challenges and obstacles, and with kindness and a helping hand we can truly make it a better place for everyone.”  
 —Gilman Scholar to the Solomon Islands

The Gilman Scholarship Program provided opportunities for learning not only for Gilman Scholars but for their host communities as well. One Scholar who is visually impaired described the challenges of taking classes in a country where accommodations for learners with disabilities were not widely available. Working with professors abroad who had limited exposure to or understanding of the needs of visually impaired students was a struggle, but one he feels was worthwhile. He noted:

“I wouldn’t have learned anything if [the study abroad experience] had been smooth sailing ... and my teachers wouldn’t have learned anything [either].”



## ACQUIRING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Gilman Scholars gained valuable skills from their experience abroad, such as the ability to cope with new situations and function in a multicultural environment. They also increased their foreign language skills and further defined their career goals.

Gilman Scholars learned how to communicate with people from other cultures and built on the knowledge and skills that they can employ upon their return to the United States. These field-based professional experiences helped them develop job-related skills, especially for those who participated in internships and service-learning.

A Gilman Scholar noted that her Gilman experience in India prepared her for her current work with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. It provided her with a hands-on experience working to improve challenges faced by underserved and impoverished communities.

Almost all (99%) respondents said their study abroad experience expanded their personal development. A Gilman Scholar who participated in a homestay program in a rural community in Spain noted that the “program was incredibly beneficial towards my language development, but also towards my personal development.”



## Gains in Professional Skills

● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree

Coping with and adapting to new situations

98%

Functioning in a multicultural environment

98%

Multicultural communication skills

96%

Job-related skills

82%

15%

Foreign language skills

77%

14%

Definition of career goals

74%

21%

Regional or country-specific competence

62%

34%

## ACQUIRING LANGUAGE SKILLS

A key goal of the **Gilman Scholarship Program** is to encourage language study, in particular those languages that are deemed critical by the **U.S. Department of State**.<sup>1</sup>

**65%**

studied or interned abroad specifically to improve their language skills.

**64%**

took language courses or courses taught in another language while they were overseas.

**73%**

of those who studied foreign languages abroad have continued studying these languages.

Improved Language Proficiency



**72%**  
SIGNIFICANT

**27%**  
SOMEWHAT

**1%**  
NONE

“Receiving the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad has impacted my academic and professional goals in a tremendous way. This Scholarship was pivotal to my success and allowing me to gain experience, knowledge, and the opportunity to not only learn through language immersion, but to also give back by teaching abroad globally.”

—Gilman Scholar to Costa Rica

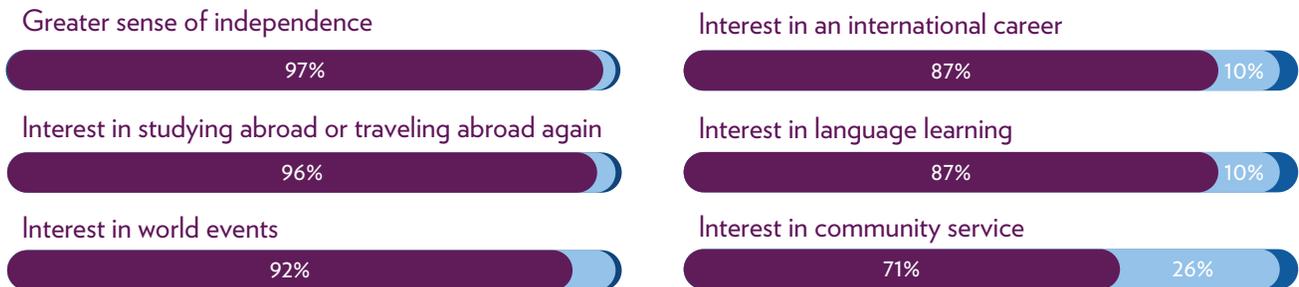
<sup>1</sup>The Gilman Scholarship’s website defines these as Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bahasa Indonesian, Bangla, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu.

# Impacts on Scholars' Studies and Careers

**The Gilman Scholarship Program equips Scholars with the necessary skills and competence to succeed in their studies and careers upon their return to the United States.** Almost all (98%) Gilman Scholars agreed that the Scholarship helped them improve their academic and professional lives. The Scholarship furthered Scholars' professional interests and provided a foundation for continued language learning and an interest in opportunities to live and work abroad. Scholars reported that this experience gave them a greater sense of independence, which could benefit both professional and personal development.

## Gilman Impact on Professional and Personal Trajectories

● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree



89%

of respondents reported that the Gilman Scholarship had influenced their future educational and career plans.

Scholars further defined their career goals while abroad. Many (88%) Scholars said that they were planning to pursue the field or profession they focused on during their Gilman experience. One Gilman Scholar reported that her year abroad in South Korea influenced her decision to focus on East Asia in her graduate work.



## SHARING THE GILMAN EXPERIENCE

**9**  
out of  
**10**

**Gilman Scholars shared their experiences while abroad, speaking to local communities, individuals, and institutions about the United States and the Gilman Scholarship.**

A Gilman Scholar who was overseas during the U.S. presidential election explained the electoral process to her host community. Her effort to foster learning and understanding helped her learn cultural diplomacy.

Gilman Scholars also shared their experiences with their U.S. community. Through the Gilman Global Experience blog, one Gilman Scholar kept his peers and colleagues at home informed about his exchange, the role of the Gilman Scholarship, and his personal experiences. Since then, he has accepted a position on campus advising future Gilman and study abroad applicants.

**61%**

**of Gilman Scholars have conducted activities to spread knowledge about the Gilman Scholarship within their U.S. campus communities.**

**59%**

**of Gilman Scholars indicate that the program is viewed positively on their campus.**

**Scholars shared that the Scholarships are viewed as “competitive,” “generous,” and “prestigious.”**

## CREATING SUSTAINABLE NETWORKS

The Gilman Scholarship Program gives students the ability to engage with a wide array of institutions across the globe. The relationships that these Scholars have created with their host communities are sustainable and speak to the Gilman Scholarship Program’s impact in building a global network.

**94%**

have expanded their international personal networks.

**73%**

have expanded their international professional networks.

**88%**

intend to stay in touch with personal and professional networks they built abroad.

As the Scholarship approaches its 20th year, thousands of Gilman Scholars and alumni have built sustained networks abroad and with each other. While only 16% of Scholars indicated that they used alumni networking resources upon their return, 99% of those who used these resources found them to be helpful. The program is currently expanding alumni outreach and programming to provide greater opportunities and resources to the Gilman Scholar Network.



# Key Findings

## Gilman Scholarship Program Impact

The Scholar Impact Report provides key findings into why the Gilman Scholarship Program is necessary to support talented U.S. students with financial need to expand their global competence and contribute to America's economic competitiveness.

### The Gilman International Scholarship:

#### Promotes Gains in Global Knowledge and Cultural Ambassadorship

Gilman Scholars gained new skills in foreign languages, knowledge about their host countries, and cultural competence living and working in a multicultural environment. 97% of Scholars reported that they had gained a sense of independence as a result of the Gilman Scholarship.

#### Contributes to U.S. Campuses and Communities

Gilman Scholars returned from their study abroad experience and shared their perspectives with others in their university campuses and beyond. Based on their Gilman experience, they are equipped to pursue new challenges in working and functioning in a multicultural workplace. They also reported increased confidence in discussing global issues.

#### Developing Global Networks

88% of Gilman Scholars shared their intent to continue to engage with networks they created while abroad, contributing to building networks between the United States and other nations. Nearly all (96%) Gilman Scholars indicated that they would be interested in traveling abroad again, perhaps to countries where they have studied previously.

#### Provides Study Abroad Opportunities to Diverse Students

Gilman Scholars agreed that the program is unique in offering study abroad to students who otherwise would not be able to participate. 96% of Scholars felt that the experience had met their expectations.



