



Darnell Sharperson

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador
France, 2018

“My self-identity has been recharged, and I possess a whole new perspective on it. It is now more necessary than ever to have a global presence and be represented.”

Darnell’s study abroad program in France provided him the opportunity to participate in lectures and discussions about the architecture, history, and culture of Paris. Darnell focused on improving his linguistic skills, reinforcing his passion for the art of the French language. Outside of his coursework, Darnell explored the historic cities of Normandy, Chantilly, and Marseille to observe and compare the communication styles between locals and nonlocals. The experience Darnell valued the most was his introduction to the African diaspora and its effect on the progression of Africa becoming the center of issues related to art and culture in Europe.

Since returning to the University of Alabama, Darnell has used his experience and perceptions to inspire other students of color to impact the narrative of global education positively. With a passion for branding, strategic communications, and internationalization, Darnell has focused his energy on a career in global public relations supporting arts and entertainment, cultural promotion, and diversity.

- ★ Studies public relations, French, and global perspectives at the University of Alabama
- ★ President of the Black Student Union at the University of Alabama
- ★ Conducted self-motivated field reports detailing African cultural and artistic influence on Paris
- ★ Collaborates with the Office of Education Abroad to promote the Gilman Scholarship
- ★ Increased individuality, adaptability, and problem-solving skills

 Gilman Scholarship[★]

