

**WANERH CHEN | TAIWAN , 2016**

- Economics at University of New Mexico, Main Campus
- Increased Chinese language skills
- Gained professional experience through volunteering at the Taipei 101
- Promoted study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship through a personal blog

**Gilman Alumni Ambassador**

Wanerh's international educational program changed her as a person and a student; it made her realize her passion for travel and getting to know other people and cultures. She met many other exchange students who shared her passion. As someone who was born in Taiwan but moved away at a young age and became a United States citizen, study abroad meant more to her than just academics or the experience. She reconnected with her roots and found a part of herself that she always thought was missing.

Her time in Taiwan inspired her to explore and develop parts of herself that she didn't know were there. At Taipei 101, she acted as a mediator between English and Chinese speakers because of her fluency in both languages. She realized that her unique background of being Taiwanese and American has set her up perfectly to be a bridge between two different places and culture. Since coming back from abroad, she seeks out opportunities where she can use this newfound ability, including encouraging and supporting others to study abroad. She plans to pursue a career as a Foreign Service Officer, where she can continue with her passion for law while traveling and interacting with people internationally.

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The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a program of the U.S. Department of State, supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad. Such international exchange is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.