

WILFREDO GOMEZ | JORDAN, 2013

- Law, Jurisprudence, Social Thought and Asian Languages and Civilizations at Amherst College
- Increased Arabic language skills
- Gained exposure to Jordan and Circassian culture
- Partnered with a club on home campus to spread awareness of the Gilman Scholarship



Gilman Alumni Ambassador

Wilfredo spent his summer study abroad experience in the Wadi Seir neighborhood of Amman, Jordan where he lived with a host family. They took him into their home as if he were one of their own and introduced him to two sides of Jordanian society. He attended a Circassian festival in the northern town of Jerash, where he witnessed a magnificent display of music and dance unique to Circassian culture, all while seated in a repurposed Roman amphitheater.

Wilfredo's experience in Jordan provided him the opportunity to sharpen his spoken Arabic through his daily interactions with native speakers of the language. This exposure to colloquial Jordanian Arabic dramatically improved his understanding and fluency of the language, laying the foundation for advanced coursework upon his return to Amherst College.

“As a first-generation college student, studying abroad had always been a dream of mine. The Gilman Scholarship gave me the opportunity to turn that dream into a reality.”



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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.