

DAWIT MARTIN | COSTA RICA, 2015

- First-generation college student, Communication major at University of Maryland, College Park
- Gained intensive field study experience through conservation coursework
- Learned conversational Spanish through cultural immersion
- Promoted the Gilman Scholarship at his university's study abroad fair



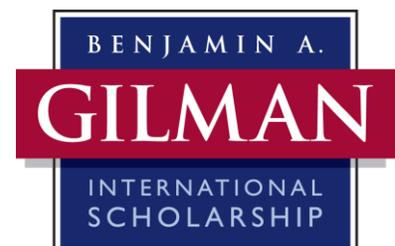
Gilman Alumni Ambassador

Dawit studied abroad to learn how to apply his multimedia skills to his interest in nature and the environment. In Costa Rica, he became familiar with tropical ecology and the issues surrounding conservation of biodiversity in struggling communities. Additionally, his unique experiences living with a host family and engaging with the local community as an English tutor helped him improve his intercultural communication skills.

With the help of the Gilman Scholarship, Dawit was able to learn that he has a passion for sustainable urban development. As a recent graduate, he has used this passion to complete multimedia projects highlighting economic, social, and environmental issues in Puerto Rico.

When Dawit returned to his home campus, he collaborated with a fellow Gilman Scholar to promote the Gilman Scholarship. Together they spoke to students at their university's study abroad fair, sharing stories and information about their host countries and impactful experiences.

“I was able to study tropical ecology in one of the world’s greatest rainforests while finding my passion for conservation and growing as a student and professional.”



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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.