

MANUEL RETANA | UNITED KINGDOM, 2015

- First-generation college student, Mechanical Engineering major at the University of Nevada, Reno
- Took aerospace engineering courses
- Gained research experience abroad with Airbus leading to internships at NASA Johnson Space Center
- Shared his experience abroad with a middle school classroom as a Gilman-Reach the World Traveler

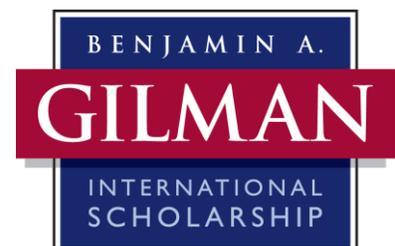


**Gilman Alumni Ambassador
Gilman-Reach the World Traveler**

While studying at the University of Bristol, Manuel took aerospace courses that were not offered at his home university. His research class with Airbus focused mainly on space weather satellite development. He gained skills in Finite Element Analysis as well as advanced materials and vibrations to develop the satellite structure for a hypothetical rocket launch. While abroad, he also participated as a Travel Correspondent through Reach the World, a partner organization to the Gilman Program, virtually sharing his experience abroad to a middle school classroom in New York.

Manuel’s study abroad experience challenged him to the limit. It was his first time doing graduate level research at a top research university in the U.K. His experience and the skills he developed prepared him for his future career at NASA and gave him confidence that he was capable of doing research. His study abroad experience opened many doors for him and today, Manuel continues to reach out to students and motivate them to think big and to pursue their dreams.

“Studying abroad allowed me to leave my comfort zone and find my true potential by taking challenging courses with top students in a different country”



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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.