

## GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI PROFILE

### ALEXANDRIA RODRIGUEZ | COSTA RICA, 2015-2016

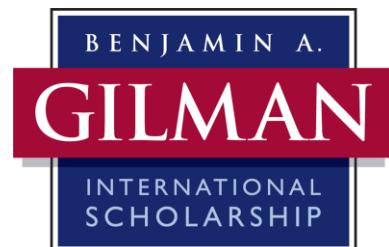
- Psychology at the University of Houston
- Gained Spanish language fluency while abroad for the academic year
- Volunteered with her local university to gain further cultural insight and understanding
- Lead a scholarship workshop for students at the University of Houston and served as a Gilman Global Experience Blog correspondent



Alexandria was enriched by her experiences in Costa Rica. She counts the ability to adapt to foreign situations, gaining a stronger understanding of Latin America, and being able to speak Spanish fluently as some of the many lifelong skills that she gained from her academic year abroad. The confidence that she built through her relationship with her host mom helped her to achieve her goals of language learning and engaging in communication with locals. Her program allowed her to be part of the local community as Alexandria served as an English language tutor, joined her host university's chess team, and volunteered at the university greenhouse.

After returning from abroad, Alexandria used her language skills as a bilingual medical scribe and a bilingual pre-school teacher. Her time as an exchange student helped her to experience life through the eyes of an immigrant learning to adapt to speaking an entirely different language. To read more on Alexandria's experiences abroad, visit the [Gilman Global Experience Blog](#).

“Everything that I learned and gained [while abroad] has made me a brighter and more empathetic human being.”



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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.