

**BROOKE LAPKE | SPAIN, 2017**

- Shadowed doctors at a local hospital 40 hours a week for 4 weeks
- Increased Spanish language skills
- Gained professional experience through a medical fellowship with Atlantis Project
- Blogged about experience abroad

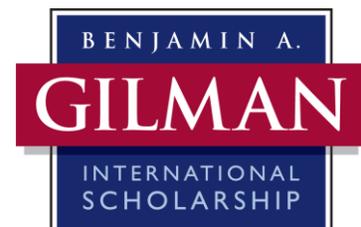


**Gilman Alumni Ambassador**

During her medical fellowship in Spain, Brooke had the chance to shadow physicians of multiple specialties, from multiple nationalities, operating under a different healthcare system which served to truly enhance her view of medicine. Since she was placed at a government-run hospital, Brooke saw firsthand the pros and cons of government-run healthcare and is now prepared to participate effectively in the debate surrounding the role of government in U.S. healthcare.

Brooke's time in Spain not only provided her a window into potential career opportunities, but also allowed her to gain insight into the progression of hospital life. The physicians and staff all demonstrated vital components of a physician's mental toolbox; she learned that ability and medical knowledge alone do not fully heal a patient. Rather, character, compassion, and understanding are what separate good doctors from great ones. On this trip, Brooke gained a sense of self-awareness as well as cultural appreciation. She was humbled and forced to recognize that her view of the world and healthcare are only as wide as her experiences. She learned not to compare and judge, but to investigate and appreciate the culture she was in, and by doing so, gained a tolerance of difference as well.

“Through experiencing the differences between U.S. and international healthcare, I am now able to distinguish the areas of overlap in these healthcare systems, clarifying the essential elements of medicine and the physician's role.”



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