

CAROLINA GONZALEZ | SPAIN, 2015

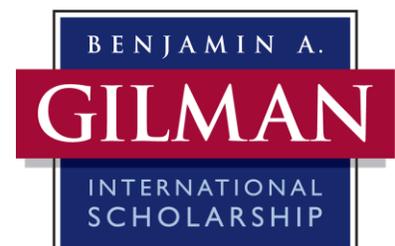
- Biological Studies at University of Valencia
- Increased Spanish language skills
- Volunteered at the Clinical Hospital of the University of Valencia
- Gained community development and outreach skills through health awareness projects
- Presented to several groups about experience abroad as a Gilman Scholar

**Gilman Alumni Ambassador**

As a volunteer, Carolina integrated herself in the community which allowed her to join groups to address the health disparities within Valencia. The community projects she worked on focused on the dangers of tobacco use and dangers associated with eating disorders among teens. Through these experiences she learned the importance of tackling health disparities within underserved populations through policy changes. Being immersed into a foreign culture allowed Carolina to become more independent, culturally sensitive and competent.

Since studying abroad, Carolina's career goals have been transformed. Currently, she is working to achieve a Master of Public Health. Her thesis will focus on rural residence and access to mental health care for children and adolescents after a suicide attempt. As a professional she will now be able to contribute multicultural perspectives at organizations she works with, which she would not have gained from staying solely in the U.S.

“The Gilman Scholarship gave me the opportunity for personal growth, professional development, and career assertion. Overall, I feel better equipped to contribute to society.”



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