



Matthew Sutija

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador
India, 2018

“I was able to engage with the Persian language in a new manner, taught from a different perspective, in a foreign teaching method, all to my benefit in a country with a rich spoken and written Persian language history.”

In India, Matthew was able to approach Persian study through an alternative method than what is found in typical programs in the U.S. From Delhi to Kolkata and later Hyderabad, Matthew studied in different schools, with diverse peers and professors. This experience broadened his understanding and confidence in the language, particularly in written Persian. While in India, Matthew also explored the pre-colonial history of the nation, particularly the introduction of Islam and when the governing language of the region was Persian due to the Delhi Sultanate.

Matthew later continued his studies in Tajikistan and found himself thriving in an immersive experience. He has been able to expand the reach of his Persian teaching program through helping to develop a sustainable student volunteer program. Matthew is exploring opportunities with the Peace Corps and hopes to pursue a career with the U.S. Foreign Service. His ultimate goal is to serve as a consular officer in Central Asia.

- ★ Studied in Delhi, Kolkata, and Hyderabad
- ★ Interviewed by the largest Indian Urdu language news network and Tajik state media
- ★ Studied and practiced the intersection of India, Islam, and Iran through poetry and history
- ★ Expanded Persian teaching program to high schoolers

 Gilman Scholarship[★]

