



Anyssa Q. El-Manfaa

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador

Japan, 2018

“An international experience is for everyone — not just for a small demographic. Support and encouragement is here for you — within the Gilman Scholar community and beyond!”

Anyssa’s academic experience as a Gilman Scholar in Hiroshima, Japan, was inspired by her interest in nuclear power policy, and recovery and resilience after nuclear crises. Alongside various peers with dynamic talents and interests, Anyssa visited the World Friendship Center and attended lectures on nuclear policy. During this visit, she listened to the testimony of an atomic bomb survivor, an experience that profoundly impacted her life and routed her career trajectory toward international conflict mitigation and politics.

After returning from this experience, Anyssa transferred to Swarthmore College as a McCabe Scholar. She is pursuing a degree in linguistics, and peace and conflict studies. Anyssa’s Gilman experience has inspired her to continue pursuing international learning opportunities. She has since participated in the Critical Language Scholarship Program, traveling to Azerbaijan. Anyssa hopes to become a Foreign Service Officer.

- ★ Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Community College of Philadelphia
- ★ Studied U.S.-Japan nuclear umbrella policy abroad and analyzed Japan’s reconstruction efforts after the dropping of the atomic bomb, and the re-integration experiences and generational trauma of Hibakusha
- ★ Explored resilience amid crisis, peacekeeping and humanitarianism in Hiroshima and applied that lens to Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi, and examined Hiroshima’s impact on nuclear power regulation and policy

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