



Jeydelyn Martinez

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador

Spain, 2015

“My study abroad semester taught me that there is no real growth without discomfort.”

While abroad, Jeydelyn studied at the Saint Louis University in Madrid, a Jesuit institution like her home institution, Marquette University, in Wisconsin. She committed to taking nearly all of her courses in Spanish, including those in business, contemporary short stories, and global health. One of her most memorable classes was the one on advanced English that she co-taught weekly to local students through the Community English as a Second Language (ESL) program at her university. This ignited a passion for teaching ESL and would prove transformative when she graduated.

For three years following graduation, Jeydelyn served as a Language and Culture Assistant through the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Education and Vocational Training grant program. Working in primary and secondary schools in Aranjuez, Malaga and Valladolid, she developed further as an educator and bilingual professional. Wanting to expand her language skill set and once again step outside of her comfort zone, she took a position as kindergarten teacher in Shenzhen, China.

Studying and teaching abroad has given Jeydelyn numerous opportunities to enhance her critical thinking, project management and intercultural communication skills. Jeydelyn believes that her international experiences have set her apart as a student and leader, and hopes to pursue a master's degree in international development in 2021.

- ★ Studied social welfare and justice and Spanish at Marquette University
- ★ Learned about global health practices and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- ★ Volunteered as an ESL teacher and as support at a local food bank
- ★ Increased Spanish language skills and developed intercultural communication skills
- ★ Served as a Study Abroad Ambassador through workshops and presentations to share international experience at Marquette University

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