



Nancy Tumbarell

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador

Japan, 2019

“Living abroad taught me how to build communities and tear down stereotypes.”

As a Gilman Scholar, Nancy studied Japanese language, history and politics at Waseda University’s School of International Liberal Studies. During her time in Tokyo, she was involved in several on-campus clubs that facilitated Japanese-English language exchange. She also engaged with Japanese students and businesses in Spanish and increased awareness of the Latino community.

Nancy, alongside students and professionals from various countries, helped launch Tokyo Period — a nonprofit that advocates for menstruators. Through her work with the organization, she had a firsthand look at English-language journalism and advocacy work being done by Tokyo’s expat community.

Since returning home, she has continued to work remotely on Tokyo Period, seek out other opportunities for internships abroad and promote studying abroad to others.

- ★ Studies global and international studies at Michigan State University as a first-generation student
- ★ Gained experience in the nonprofit sector through a youth-led organization
- ★ Improved Japanese language skills
- ★ Studied Japanese and Russian history while abroad

 Gilman Scholarship[★]

