



Robert J. Lares

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador
United Kingdom, 2018

“My disability kept me at home for a long time, but now I realize that in the United States of America, I am the limit of my own potential.”

Robert studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar in the United Kingdom through the University of Southern Mississippi’s British Studies Program. As a history major, he could earn credits toward his degree while experiencing world history firsthand.

Due to mental illness, Robert dropped out of high school at age 17. He returned to school later in life and credits the Gilman Scholarship for allowing him to include an international experience in his education.

Returning to Mississippi, he felt wiser and changed. Robert completed his required Follow-on Service Project by presenting twice on the Gilman Scholarship to young people incarcerated in the Forrest County Juvenile Detention Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He now has embarked on a journey to become a screenwriter, studying under Larry Wilson (known for his work on Beetlejuice and The Addams Family).

- ★ Earned Bachelor of Arts in history at University of Southern Mississippi
- ★ Invited to and visited the United States embassy in London
- ★ Influenced by experience abroad to change future education and career plans
- ★ Increased ability to function in a multicultural environment
- ★ Gained stronger understanding of key global issues

 Gilman Scholarship[★]

