

Vanessa Diaz

Experience in the Middle East has had direct impact on career in graphic design

Qatar, 2014



“By studying in Qatar with the Gilman Scholarship, I was able to expand my network to include designers from the Middle East, as well as learn about other programs abroad that interest me.”

While studying in Qatar with a Gilman Scholarship, Vanessa learned Arabic and began creating bilingual design pieces for her portfolio. Now conversational in Arabic, she is able to expand her client base.

In 2017, she was accepted to the Arabic Type Design course at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, where she researched Arabic calligraphy and turned her research into digital fonts that can be used in computer software like Microsoft Word and Adobe Illustrator.

Vanessa credits her time abroad with teaching her how to be adaptable. This skill was especially important as she learned how to design with a language with which she was not familiar.

- ★ Served with AmeriCorps in 2015-2016, focusing on youth development
- ★ 2016-2017 U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Jordan
- ★ Volunteered as an English Teacher and Graphic Designer for Hopes for Women in Education, a nonprofit in the Gaza refugee camp in Jordan
- ★ Worked as Graphic Designer for AmeriCorps VISTA at Global Game Changers

 Gilman Scholarship[★]

