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**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship

# Gilman Advisor Best Practices

## Hispanic-Serving Institutions

The Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).





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# U.S. Department of State



**BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**



**USA Study Abroad**

Promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, and they do so by facilitating opportunities of academic, professional, athletic, and other cultural exchange.

[studyabroad.state.gov](https://studyabroad.state.gov)  
[exchanges.state.gov](https://exchanges.state.gov)

# Gilman-McCain Scholarship

- Congressionally funded initiative
- Named after late senator John McCain
- \$5,000 awards
- Child dependents of active-duty service members



**Gilman-McCain Scholarship**  
for Undergraduate Children of Active Duty  
Service Members

**APPLY TODAY!**

Awards of \$5,000 to study abroad!

  

Learn more and apply at [gilmanscholarship.org](http://gilmanscholarship.org)



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## Gilman-McCain Eligibility

- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate student
- Traveling in a country or area with overall Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2
- Minimum 3 weeks (21 days) or 2 weeks (14 days) if at two-year institution
- Dependent Child of active-duty military member(s) during time of application (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard)
- Recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid



## 2 Steps

# 1

### Student Application

- Abroad Program Info
- Essays
- Unofficial Transcript(s)
- Select Advisors

# 2

### Advisor Certifications

- Study Abroad Advisor
- Financial Aid Advisor

## Advisors

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley<sup>TM</sup>



**Alan Earhart, PhD**

Director of International  
Programs & Partnerships



**Lizette Galvan, MA**

International Programs  
Specialist

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**The University of Texas**  
**Rio Grande Valley**<sup>TM</sup>  
.....  
*International Programs  
& Partnerships*

- Facilitates creation of new partnerships with international HEIs
- Administers J-1 BridgeUSA Program of U.S. Department of State
- Manages & Promotes Study Abroad & Exchanges



**Alan Earhart, PhD**  
Director of International  
Programs and Partnerships



**Lizette Galvan, MA**  
International Programs  
Specialist



The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley<sup>TM</sup>



- Established 2015
- A Bilingual, Bicultural, Biliterate Education
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest HSI
- ~60% of students are Pell eligible
- ~90% of students are Latinx (Mexican American)
- 30,000+ students (5,000 graduate students)

## Gilman October 2020 Deadline

- 40 Completed Applications
- 25 Awardees
- \$107,500 total awards
- 87 awards for \$317,500 since 2015



## Get To Know Your Students



- Personal Capital
- First-Generation
- Commuters
- Live With Parents
- Responsibilities At Home



## Find What Works and Amplify That

- Personal Capital
- First-Generation
- Commuters
- Live With Parents
- Responsibilities At Home
- Bring Enthusiasm
- Don't Take Anything For Granted
- Make It Easy For Them
- Talk To The Parents
- Positive Peer Pressure



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## Gilman Promotion October 2020 Deadline

Emails to  
~16,000 eligible  
students

Early Sept



Multiple Zoom  
Webinars

Mid-Sept



Continuous  
Support

- More than 300 attendees  
= 40 applications

- Coaching & feedback
- Prompt responses
- Email reminders



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## It Takes a Village

- Gilman Recipient Buddy Mentor Program
- Writing Center Partnership for Virtual Workshop on Essay Writing
- Virtual Info Sessions
- Individualized Student Advising
- Social Media Marketing
- Student Success Ninja Email System (Over-powered)
- Study Abroad Faculty Promotion



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## Additional Support Networks

**Study  
Abroad Club**

**Ambassador  
Program**

**Bilingual  
Parent Info  
Sessions**



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## Faculty Buy-in & Promotion

- Dedicated study abroad faculty:  
**Mijin-Oh-Villarreal**
- South Korea study abroad faculty leader
- Creates group chats with students early in the semester
- Engages students in traditional Korean culture, dance, & language







## Focus Group

- Kristen: Faced a roadblock with transcript from another school and texted Gilman directly and they found a workaround.
- Kristen: Info sessions with IPP were useful.
- Kristen: Prof. Bradley had already planted the seed and then the info session cemented it to try to get the Gilman.
- Kristen: I got 2 emails! 9/17 and 9/24. Getting the Zoom invite was really helpful.
- Presilla: I thought I had to be in a club to study abroad. Info sessions on Zoom were helpful. Gilman felt like a second chance to study abroad.

All Students: Essays are the major roadblock

## Omar Nedzelsky - Gilman Scholar, 2018



*Studying abroad has made me more aware of what I want to do with my life.*

## Lessons Learned

- Virtual info sessions work best for our students
  - Commuters
  - Full-time and part-time jobs
  - Family obligations
- In-person info sessions and fairs did not work
- Positive Peer Pressure





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**¡Gracias!**  
**¿Preguntas?**

## Contact Information



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