



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AWARD NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED FOR GILMAN PROGRAM Spring 2021**

*May 18, 2021* – The U.S. Department of State’s [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#) is pleased to announce that more than 1,500 U.S. undergraduate students have been selected to receive Gilman scholarship awards from the March 2021 application deadline. The recipients of this prestigious scholarship are American undergraduate students attending 467 U.S. colleges and represent all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. These Gilman Scholars will study or intern in 96 countries through the end of 2022. Recipients of the John McCain International Scholarship for the Children of Military Families (Gilman-McCain Scholarship) are included in this group, as well as Gilman Scholars supported by the governments of France, Israel, New Zealand, and Wales, and the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) in Portugal. The complete list of students who have been selected to receive Gilman Scholarships this cycle, including the students’ home states, colleges or universities and host countries, is available on the website: [gilmanscholarship.org](http://gilmanscholarship.org).

Given the disruption of the pandemic, the Gilman Program is committed to offering flexibility to participants whose plans may be impacted. The Gilman Program will support students who are unable to start their programs abroad in their original destination or in the original timeframe by permitting students to defer to a program starting later or by supporting participation in a virtual study abroad or international internship program.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) recognizes all the American students who applied for the March 2021 deadline, as well as the 140 selection panelists from colleges and universities across the nation who reviewed their applications. We appreciate all the educators who continue to promote the Gilman Program and support their students in education abroad and international exchange experiences.

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000, or up to \$8,000 if also a recipient of the Gilman Critical Need Language Award, to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs. Since the program’s establishment in 2001, over 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent over 33,000 Gilman Scholars of diverse backgrounds to 151 countries around the globe. The program has successfully broadened U.S. participation in study abroad, while emphasizing countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study. As Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said,

“People-to-people exchanges bring our world closer together and convey the best of America to the world, especially to its young people.”

The late Congressman Gilman, for whom the scholarship is named, served in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chaired the House Foreign Relations Committee. When honored with the Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Medal in 2002, he said, “Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views but adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community.”

The Gilman Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

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*The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ (ECA) mission is to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, professional and private exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships and mentoring programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States. ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges. For more information about ECA programs, initiatives, and achievements, visit [eca.state.gov](http://eca.state.gov).*

*The Institute of International Education (<http://www.iie.org/>) works with policymakers, educators and employers across the globe to prepare students and professionals for the global workforce and equip them to solve the increasingly complex challenges facing our interconnected world. An independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1919, IIE has a network of 18 offices and affiliates worldwide, and over 1,300 member institutions.*