

# Abena Afari

Gilman International Scholarship  
Alumni Ambassador  
*Chile, 2019*



*“The opportunity to study abroad as a Gilman Scholar reinforced the idea that I am not bound by circumstance.”*

Abena’s interest in health care systems abroad led her to spend a semester participating in a Health Studies program in Santiago, Chile. Her program offered a comprehensive curriculum, which allowed her to take a Spanish course for health care practitioners, learn about the Chilean health system and shadow health care professionals in a public hospital. She also elected to work with Educación Popular en Salud (EPES), helping to combat childhood obesity through community engagement.

In the semester following her Gilman Scholarship experience in Chile, she became an IES Abroad Ambassador. Her time abroad strengthened her interest in public health, and she hopes to obtain a Master of Public Health degree.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Grinnell College
- Worked with a community health nonprofit organization abroad
- Improved Spanish language skills and stepped outside of her comfort zone by participating in outdoor enrichment activities, such as trekking
- Learned about the principles of popular education and how to apply them

**20** YEARS  
with Gilman

