

Brandon Vanlandingham

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
New Zealand, 2020



“Studying abroad has the capacity to be a life-altering experience. The Gilman Scholarship Program allowed such an opportunity to redefine my perspective on fundamental problems we face as a single worldwide community.”

Through his experience studying at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, Brandon gained firsthand insight into successful and collaborative efforts toward renewable energy and dove into the philosophical and religious belief systems of the Maori culture. This exposure, paired with a pandemic isolation period abroad, gave Brandon both invaluable experience in engineering sustainable energy systems and a more thorough understanding of cross-cultural connections within Indigenous culture.

Since returning from abroad, Brandon has been interning at Airbus Helicopters, Inc. His plans for graduate school have shifted and he now hopes to pursue higher education to study space systems engineering with the intent of becoming a Project Manager focused on a more sustainable aerospace industry. Brandon also aims to continue his interactions with Indigenous cultures through world travel and graduate study to serve as an advocate for misunderstood communities.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Mississippi State University
- Studied sustainable energy systems and the belief systems of the Maori, New Zealand’s Indigenous population
- Gained a more thorough understanding of cross-cultural communication
- Reprioritized career goals as a result of international networking and is now focused on promoting sustainability and positive community impact

20 YEARS with Gilman

