

Jade Fong

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
South Korea, 2019



“When I first arrived in Korea, I attended a Pride Festival that had more protesters present than attendees. Despite the country’s discomfort with the LGBT+ community, I was able to find a coterie of queers and engage in important conversations about critical race theory, feminism and socioeconomic status.”

While abroad, Jade studied at Yonsei University, one of the three most prestigious universities in South Korea. She completed intensive coursework in the Korean language and urban natural disaster planning and management, which complemented her interdisciplinary major. Jade conducted research that compared Seoul’s and New York City’s natural disaster management for cyclones and hurricanes. The Gilman Scholarship also opened opportunities for her to intern as a digital marketer at Korean start-up Dreamfora.

Jade returned to the United States shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic began. During self-isolation, she and a friend drafted plans to create a sustainable farm on the Navajo Nation that will utilize Korean Natural Farming (KNF), a farming technique Jade learned about in Korea that produces fertile soil and draws high-yield outputs without the use of pesticides or herbicides. Jade is currently exploring a career in digital marketing before pursuing a PhD in Indigenous and Environment Studies. She also plans to apply for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

- Earned Bachelor of Science in Society & Environment from the University of California, Berkeley
- Interned for Korean start-up Dreamfora
- Tutored North Korean refugees in English
- Served as a Reach the World travel correspondent

20 YEARS
★ with **Gilman**

