

# Libby Pollak

Gilman International Scholarship  
Alumni Ambassador  
*Ghana, 2018*



***“Studying abroad made me appreciate the opportunities I have back home, as well as planted my desire to want to help others achieve those same opportunities, despite challenges that may stand in the way.”***

Studying abroad in Ghana opened Libby’s eyes to ways of living and perspectives she had not been exposed to before. At the University of Ghana at Legon, Libby studied African literature, and her professors provided insight on the political background and history of African countries. Learning the local dialect Twi while mingling with locals in cities and villages helped her to develop curiosity and patience while gaining an appreciation for different cultures.

After returning from her experience in Ghana, Libby promoted the Gilman Scholarship and supported Gilman applicants through YouTube videos and workshops at Hunter College. She is currently a voice contributor for the language learning app Duolingo and works as an English/Yiddish translator. She plans to pursue a PhD in Linguistics or Psychology in 2022 and credits her time in Ghana with inspiring her to further study humor and wit in translation.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the City University of New York, Hunter College
- Completed academic coursework abroad that directly related to her sociolinguistic studies at Hunter College
- Sharpened critical thinking and listening skills during her experience in Ghana, leading her to a 2019 Grove Fellowship with StoryCorps
- Conducted research on the linguistic and cultural effects that influence humor translation and presented her findings at a conference after her return from Ghana

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