

Olivia Ellis

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Vietnam, 2021



“Participating in a virtual international internship has shown me that we can continue to learn about diverse cultures and build connections with people around the world. I have learned that we are all living similar lives, just in different countries and time zones. In many ways we are connected, and in many ways we are different, but that is the beauty of understanding who we are.”

Olivia interned remotely as a teacher of English as a Second Language/English as a Foreign Language (ESL/EFL) through the Will to Live Center (WLC) in Vietnam, a center for people living with physical disabilities to learn technology skills and English. Her program included 16 weeks of teaching, conducting lesson plans and translation work. By the end of her internship, Olivia learned the soft and hard skills of working remotely in a different country. She also learned the skills needed to become an efficient ESL teacher.

After completing her virtual internship, Olivia graduated with a degree in International and Global studies. She now attends the International TEFL Academy and is working towards her EFL licensure online. Olivia hopes to eventually teach English in Japan, Vietnam and South Korea.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of North Carolina Greensboro
- Taught English to beginner and advanced-level students
- Developed time management and organizational skills through a leadership role in her internship
- Gained confidence in her ability to become an ESL teacher and strengthened her passion for traveling, which increased her cultural competence and gave her opportunities to meet new people

20 YEARS
★ with **Gilman**

