

Saliya Ali

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Kenya, 2019



“My ideas around diplomacy, cultural exchange and travel have grown as a result of my experience, and now I feel like a whole new world has opened up for me!”

As a Gilman Scholar, Saliya interned at the Kenya Ministry of Health and studied Swahili. Her internship included hands-on experience with Public Health Officers and various nongovernmental organizations. In addition, Saliya worked for the Ministry of Health in Kisumu during the launch of Universal Health Coverage. Saliya conducted independent research and presented her findings to her peers and instructors.

During the past year, she volunteered with organizations in her local community to provide information about COVID-19 in the Afaan Oromoo language. Saliya remains involved in her community and works to advocate for vulnerable immigrant and refugee populations. She plans to obtain a master’s degree in International Development and hopes to become a Foreign Service Officer. Saliya is interested in social entrepreneurship and, in the years to come, she hopes to empower vulnerable community members, particularly women and young people. She plans to accomplish this by offering a path to finding meaningful employment and a means to rise above poverty.

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government/International Affairs and Spanish from Augustana University
- Conducted independent research on Kenyan public health and Universal Health Coverage
- Gained an understanding of Kenyan public health through experiential learning, field visits and guest lectures
- Honed language skills and made long-lasting connections with her host community

20 YEARS
with Gilman

