

Thomas McLouth

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador

Jordan, 2019



“The Gilman Scholarship provides an opportunity to see the world, leave one’s own shell and learn in another’s culture, and provides motivation to not only travel more but also work within one’s own community to show what’s possible!”

Studying in Jordan provided Thomas with experience in quickly and seamlessly integrating and living in different cultures and locations, the ability to relate to and befriend those from differing backgrounds and cultures and knowledge of how to thrive in unexpected environments.

Thomas learned Arabic from native-speaking professors and exercised his skills with local language partners both inside and outside the classroom. Though the curriculum was intense, the ability to immediately use Arabic in different contexts was a unique opportunity for Thomas that he could not have experienced at his home university. Because of the Gilman Scholarship, Thomas vastly increased his comprehension of both Modern Standard Arabic and the Levantine Arabic dialect.

After returning from abroad, Thomas graduated from his undergraduate program in International Studies. The Arabic language skills and cultural knowledge he gained from studying abroad have become vital parts of his research for his master’s degree thesis and his professional career.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Studied colloquial and Modern Standard Arabic
- Related to and befriended people from different cultures and learned how to thrive in unexpected environments, which inspired further research of the Middle East and North Africa
- Graduated from his undergraduate program, began his master’s degree in the Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights and started a new career as a Manager in Cyber Threat Intelligence

20 YEARS with Gilman

