Madhat Fares

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

United Arab Emirates, 2017

"By studying abroad, I found that I enjoy learning about people and their traditions while sharing my own."

Madhat studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar during the 2017–2018 academic year at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. As a civil and environmental engineering major, the Gilman Program gave him the opportunity to explore a new country and immerse himself in a new culture.

The infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates is among the best in the world, and it was a great experience for him to take civil engineering courses there. Studying and living in the United Arab Emirates for a full academic year also allowed Madhat to explore his Arabic heritage first hand. He took Arabic language classes and practiced speaking with native Arabic speakers. Through studying abroad, Madhat found that he enjoys learning about people and their traditions while sharing his own with them. He wants to continue to travel and gain new experiences and help others do the same.

Madhat is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in civil engineering, with a focus on hydraulics and flood analysis, and hopes to one day teach at the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Villanova University
- Earned a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Villanova University
- Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in civil engineering at the University of Michigan

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