# Nicole Rothenberger

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

*South Korea, 2018*

***"Don't limit yourself to what you are comfortable with because it's harder to grow if you stay complacent."***

Nicole studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar during the 2018–2019 academic year at Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea. Nicole had dreams of studying abroad since the seventh grade, but, growing up in a very rural state such as North Dakota, she did not have the opportunity to see the world until she received a Gilman Scholarship.

Her time in South Korea was her first immersive experience with another culture. This experience shaped her career trajectory and worldview in many ways. Studying abroad is the best decision she has made for herself, and it has made her a better, more understanding, and compassionate person than she was beforehand.

Nicole gained a newfound interest in cultural studies and intercultural communications, which influenced the rest of her time as an undergraduate. Her senior thesis, using a comparison of the United States and South Korea, focused on how culture affected responses to COVID-19. As she continues her education, Nicole intends to study culture and how it affects our everyday lives, as well as how it affects governmental and political climates.

Nicole is currently a social media manager and general manager of a small business in Grand Forks, ND. She is preparing to go back to school next year to pursue graduate education in communications.

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts in International and Intercultural Communication from the University of North Dakota
- Wrote her senior thesis focusing on the influence of culture on responses to COVID-19
- Holds certifications from the University of North Dakota in diversity & inclusion, conflict mediation, and professional & executive communication

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