Nicole Bettè

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

Sweden, 2014

"The most memorable and fulfilling experiences don't happen in the classroom; they happen with the friendships you cultivate while abroad."

Nicole studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar in spring 2014 at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. Her experience abroad fueled her passion for other cultures and languages, and she continued to study Swedish and Portuguese after returning from her time abroad.

Nicole's Gilman Program experience was fundamental to what she does now. The design thinking coursework she completed abroad inspired her to pursue a career as a human factors engineer and provided her with the experience she needed to kick start a career in medical device design. Design thinking provided foundational knowledge by which she solves problems and makes decisions at work. Without her international experience, that training would have been inaccessible to her, given that the only design thinking course at that time was offered at Stanford University.

Studying abroad as someone with a disability and chronic illness also gave Nicole a unique perspective, and she had to overcome many barriers. She looks forward to supporting other Gilman Scholars with disabilities and chronic illness to help them have a successful experience abroad.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- Studied design thinking and biotechnology in Stockholm and engineering in a global context at the University of Michigan
- Senior human factors engineer at embecta, a medical device company

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