Wisaam Haj

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

France & Italy, 2019

"Upon my return, I internalized a desire to step beyond the confines of the familiar and work towards becoming a globally minded citizen."

Wisaam studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar in fall 2019 in France and Italy while attending Santa Barbara City College. During his time abroad, he completed coursework in film, art history, cinematography, and screenwriting. The Gilman Program allowed Wisaam to embark on a journey of self-discovery unhindered by what parents, friends, relatives, advisors, or teachers thought he *should* do. Wisaam's experience as a Gilman Scholar opened avenues for him that he never would have previously pursued, including changing his major from economics to communications.

Wisaam is currently a fifth-year senior at the University of California at Santa Barbara and is teaching English as a second language to high school students. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration and hopes to one day start his own manufacturing company to capitalize on his background in engineering, technology management, communication, and international business.

- International business major at Santa Barbara City College
- Transferred from community college to University of California at Santa Barbara
- Pursing a Technology Management Program Certificate at the University of California at Santa Barbara

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