

Marina Shenouda

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

Mexico (virtual), 2021



“Studying abroad with Gilman motivated me to learn more about health systems in other countries.”

Marina studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar through a virtual program in Mexico in 2021. Double majoring in biomedical science and Spanish gave Marina a unique perspective during her virtual program and led her to explore the practice of traditional medicine in Mexico.

Studying abroad with Gilman motivated Marina to learn more about health systems in other countries.

Additionally, her Gilman experience improved her written and spoken Spanish as well as her cultural literacy. This has proved very helpful so far because she encounters many Spanish-speaking patients and is able to converse with them directly in their own language and help them navigate any health care barriers they may encounter.

Marina’s experiences as a medical student, polyglot, and researcher in the field of global health gives her an additional unique perspective that she can share with others. She speaks Spanish, Arabic, Italian, and Japanese. Her passion for foreign languages and cultures has even guided her medical interests. She was accepted into the Global Health Scholarly Concentration at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and is currently spearheading a research project that investigates speech outcomes in cleft palate patients from different language backgrounds. She is expanding this research to work with a cleft palate institution in Cairo, Egypt.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Houston
- Pursuing medical degree at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Focusing on global health as part of her medical degree

