

Scout Osborne

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador

Mexico, 2019



“To study abroad was to see different ways of life: how similar and distinct our cultures and ways of thinking really are.”

Scout studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar in 2019 in Mexico. Studying abroad tested his self-confidence and ability to acknowledge and regulate his own emotions in a completely unfamiliar context. He also became more open-minded, not to simply accept everyone as if they are perfect, but to accept people with all their strengths and flaws as they are.

The Gilman Program solidified his passion and interest in the liberal arts, particularly in culture and language studies. The Gilman Program enabled Scout to think in terms of both science and cultural studies—a way to merge his passions and interests.

Through his experience, it became apparent that his career in research must consider the context of global health. Community practices, spread of health education, and access to medical care is vastly different in different places around the world. In research, we cannot focus so narrowly on only what a disease looks like in the United States if we want to eradicate it worldwide.

Currently, Scout works as a Research Technologist II in the Department of Microbiology-Immunology at Northwestern University. He studies Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus, a virus known for causing AIDS-defining cancers in patients with HIV.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Oregon State University
- Attended U.S. Future Leaders Topical Seminar on Natural Resources in Wyoming in 2019
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