

Darlene Nawuridam

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
Spain, 2023



“Studying abroad made me more aware of my culture and upbringing. My experience allowed me to identify with people from different backgrounds and, even though I had to adapt to a new culture, it allowed me to view my culture from a different perspective.”

Darlene studied abroad as a Gilman scholar during the spring of 2023 at the Council on International Educational Exchange’s Open Campus Block Program in Madrid, Spain. Her time in Spain taught her to take risks and advocate for herself, with her best memories being the times she stepped out of her comfort zone. These times not only added to her growth as a student and an individual but also showed that the more she took risks, the more she was comfortable voicing her opinions and asking for help when needed.

Darlene is a Ghanaian-born American and notes she encountered many people in Spain who did not know much about her culture. So, while she was trying to learn Spanish culture, she also taught the locals she met about her culture. The willingness of others to know more about her culture showed her how the community was open and accepting. They even gave recommendations for African restaurants to try and spaces to make her feel at home. Darlene feels her experience of being born in Ghana and then raised in the United States gave her the necessary skills to see cultural and social cues that made her transition to Spain smooth.

Darlene is a senior at Spelman College, where she is majoring in international studies and minoring in Spanish. She credits her Gilman Program experience for solidifying her interest in the international community and influencing her to apply for positions that allow her to work abroad or provide support and aid to communities abroad in need. Darlene is excited to be a Gilman Alumni Ambassador so she can share the values and perspectives of the Gilman Program with future Gilman scholars and help students apply the skills they gained while studying abroad to different career paths.

- Hometown: Princeton, New Jersey
- Pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in international studies and minoring in Spanish from Spelman College
- AmeriCorps alumna (2019-2020)

