

Isaiah Sattlefield

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
Australia, 2022



“The Gilman Program allowed me to study the changing climate in coastal ecosystems, which has inspired me to continue learning about this subject in a Master of Science graduate assistantship in environmental toxicology at the University of South Alabama.”

Isaiah studied abroad as a Gilman scholar during the winter of 2022 through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Managing Diverse Ecosystems program in Sydney, Australia. His time in Australia allowed him to study the changing climate in coastal ecosystems, where he witnessed the healthy parts of the Great Barrier Reef and the parts experiencing the catastrophic effects of climate change. He observed firsthand some of the first ecosystems that will collapse from the changing climate, which instilled a feeling of caution and motivation in him to continue a career in his field.

Isaiah credits his Gilman Program experience with widening his perspectives. He now realizes that the Australian government’s reliance on fossil fuels is minimal when compared to other countries in the Western world. Additionally, he observed that Australia’s largely bipartisan attitude towards climate action has enabled the nation to make large strides in sustainability and climate justice policy. He also experienced firsthand that attitudes towards climate change vary dramatically in different parts of the world.

Isaiah currently works as an administrative support assistant for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he reviews and organizes Omaha district historical records concerning Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Isaiah notes that his Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) status as a Gilman alumni assisted him in obtaining his federal government position immediately after graduation. He is excited to be a Gilman Alumni Ambassador and to use his teamwork, community, and communication skills to help students study abroad through the Gilman Program. Isaiah will be pursuing a graduate degree in environmental toxicology soon and would like to work at the Environmental Protection Agency or the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration later in his career to tackle the challenges of a changing climate.

- Hometown: Papillion, Nebraska
- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Restoration Science and Water Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2023)
- Administrative support assistant for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Recipient of a Susan T. Buffett Scholarship, a competitive scholarship for Nebraskans who are first-time freshmen entering college at a Nebraska public college

