

Kamundala Crispe

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
France, 2022



“My study abroad experience broadened my horizons by exposing me to different educational approaches. The experience of navigating daily life in a foreign environment also cultivated my problem-solving skills and adaptability. I learned to overcome language barriers and adapt to new situations, fostering a greater sense of self-reliance and confidence.”

Kamundala studied abroad as a Gilman scholar in Lyon, France, during the fall of 2022 through the University Studies Abroad Consortium program. His time in France studying European politics provided valuable insights into the complexities and dynamics of the European Union and its member states. It also provided the opportunity to engage with international faculty and fellow students and hear their fresh perspectives on political issues, which fostered his intellectual growth. Kamundala’s exposure to a different language, cuisine, and customs broadened his understanding of the world and allowed him to appreciate diversity more than ever. It also helped him develop valuable interpersonal skills, as he had to navigate through various social situations and interact with people from different backgrounds. Studying abroad enhanced his adaptability and self-reliance, nurturing a sense of independence.

Kamundala credits his Gilman Program experience with opening his eyes to the importance of global perspectives and cross-cultural communication. It also significantly improved his language proficiency, which has been advantageous in his career pursuits. Kamundala now communicates more effectively with international colleagues, cultivating better relationships and collaboration. His experience has been instrumental in preparing him for the challenges and opportunities that arise in his current work, and it continues to inspire his interests and aspirations.

Kamundala is a passport specialist at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs, where he contributes to the efficient processing of passports and supporting citizens’ international travel. He gained this position through the U.S. government Pathways Recent Graduates Programs, which afford developmental experiences in the Federal Government intended to promote possible careers in the civil service to individuals who have recently graduated from qualifying educational institutions or programs. He also is a graduate student at Boston University, where he is studying for a master’s degree in foreign affairs and diplomacy. Kamundala is excited to be a Gilman Alumni Ambassador and to make a positive impact on the lives of others and promote international education.

- Hometown: Auburn, Maine
- Earned a Bachelor of Science in political science with minors in legal studies and foreign affairs from the University of Maine (2023)
- Passport specialist at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs
- Participated in the Gilman Program’s Study Tour to Brussels, Belgium, in November 2022 to learn about the European Union, how it functions, and its role in transatlantic relations

