

# Noah Leonard

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador  
Argentina, 2022



***“The Gilman Program helped me explore new academic and personal interests by giving me the opportunity to go on my dream study abroad program! Studying topics like the intersection of social and economic movements, and economic development more broadly, from a different global perspective was a paradigm shifting experience.”***

Noah studied and interned abroad as a Gilman scholar during the spring of 2022 through the School for International Training (SIT) Study Abroad Transnationalism and Comparative Development in South America program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His time in Argentina provided the opportunity to meet people from all around Latin America and gave him a different and more comprehensive understanding of the regional politics and differences in South America. It also helped him to continue improving his Spanish language skills and complete an internship with 100% Diversidad y Derechos, a national LGBTQ+ civil rights organization.

Noah credits his Gilman Program experience for helping him slow down, think about social expectations and institutional norms that he assumed were universal or standard, and realize they were specific to the United States. He notes it is easy to see the similarities between countries or cultures when initially comparing them, but spending some time in another country can open a person’s eyes to the roots of various things that may seem similar but are entirely different. Having an opportunity to experience and acknowledge these kinds of differences gave Noah new perspectives that he now brings to his communities, classes, and colleagues.

Noah works as a bilingual family re-housing case manager for Everyone Home DC, where he works with families exiting shelter and short-term housing programs to help them remain stable and housed. This includes helping families access resources and navigate new employment or pursue educational opportunities. Previously Noah was a resident assistant for three years at the College of Wooster, in addition to working for the college as an assistant at the Academic Resource Center and an intern for the Worthy Questions Program. He also holds a certificate in accounting from Marion Technical College. Noah is excited to be a Gilman Alumni Ambassador and communicate the importance of studying abroad and advocate for every area and group in the United States being able to study abroad. He knows some students believe that studying abroad is not possible, so he wants to help them overcome this belief by sharing the positive and real-life experiences from his time abroad.

- Hometown: Upper Sandusky, Ohio
- Earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and Spanish with a minor in Latin American studies from the College of Wooster (2023)
- Bilingual family re-housing case manager for Everyone Home DC
- Interned for 100% Diversidad y Derechos, a national LGBTQ+ civil rights organization in Argentina

