The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) congratulates the Gilman Top Producing Institutions for academic year 2021-2022. The Gilman Top Producer campaign recognizes U.S. colleges and universities for their dedication to providing global opportunities for American students with support from the Gilman Program. ECA, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, categorizes Gilman Top Producers by institution size, with a separate category for two-year institutions. ECA is proud to have supported 3,121 Gilman scholars from 52 U.S. states and territories to study or intern around the world during academic year 2021-2022.

Throughout its more than twenty-year history, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program has reshaped study abroad to make it more accessible by providing scholarships to outstanding U.S. undergraduate students who, due to high financial need, might not otherwise go abroad. Since the program’s inception in 2001, more than 41,000 Gilman scholars from all U.S. states, and Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories have studied or interned abroad in over 160 countries.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program provides talented U.S. undergraduate students with life-changing opportunities to study or intern abroad despite financial circumstances. The Gilman Program aims to expand the population of U.S. students that study and intern abroad, ensuring more young Americans gain the professional skills, language abilities, and cultural competencies needed for successful careers that contribute to the country’s economic prosperity and national security. The outstanding and diverse U.S. undergraduate students who study overseas with support from the Gilman Program build relationships, foster mutual understanding, and represent American culture and values in diverse destinations. The connections formed through study abroad lay a foundation upon which people and nations can work together to address shared global challenges, such as climate change, food security, and global health.
Foreign Policy in Focus: Refugees and Migration

The Gilman Program hosted an interdisciplinary and interactive hybrid seminar series focused on global migration and refugees in 2023 to enhance participants’ understanding of global migration and refugees through a foreign policy lens, including the social, political, and economic impacts of these issues.

This series consisted of five virtual seminars and two overseas seminars. Through case studies and discussions with experts – including from refugee communities – participants learned how each refugee experience is unique, shaped by particular social, political, and economic conditions. The Gilman Program selected fifty Gilman alumni from over 600 applicants to attend one of the two seminars, taking place in Thessaloniki, Greece and Amman, Jordan. The overseas seminars allowed Gilman alumni to dive more deeply into the topics discussed during the virtual series – offering concrete examples of refugee policies in locations heavily impacted by global migration.

Top Producing Institutions

Western Kentucky University

“Through our institution’s investment in support for the Gilman Scholarship, WKU students make more possible for their academic and professional goals. Plus, developing Gilman application materials is a writing-intensive process with emphasis on authentic storytelling and revision; students engage in the high-impact practice of regular, frequent feedback. Because of our investment in the Gilman Scholarship, more WKU students are accessing these benefits than ever before. At an institution where 70% of first-year students are from rural settings and 32% of undergraduate enrollment is first-generation, this impact is critical.”

— Lindsey Houchin, Assistant Director, Office of Scholar Development

University of South Florida

“The University of South Florida is proud to prioritize advising students applying for the Gilman Scholarship Program. As an institution with a sizable population of Pell Grant recipients, the Gilman Scholarship is instrumental in helping send students abroad for educational programs and internships. We see experiential learning and education abroad as vital in preparing students for the global workplace, regardless of income level. USF’s strategic areas of focus include global and national security, sustainability, and social justice.”

— Lauren Roberts, Assistant Director, Office of National Scholars

University of Richmond

“The Gilman fits perfectly within our greater values at Richmond, combining affordability and access to opportunities with encouragement for all students to seek out global experiences (67% of students have at least one experience abroad). With strong cross-campus collaboration, we have redoubled efforts in recent years to ensure that all eligible Gilman students are aware of the opportunity, as well as the resources and support offered to help them apply. Gilman has even become a “gateway” application for us; we’ve had success with previous Gilman Scholars going on to receive Fulbrights and other fellowships down the road.”

— Dana Kuchem, Director, Office of Scholars and Fellowships

From the Department of State

“In recognizing the top institutions with students studying abroad as Gilman Scholars, the United States continues to prioritize its commitment to provide access and equity to international experiences for all Americans.”

— Lee Satterfield, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Visit www.GilmanScholarship.org for more institutions’ applicant recruitment and support strategies, alumni quotes, and complete tallies of all institutions participating in Gilman Top Producers during academic year 2021-22. Follow #TopGilman on social media for more in celebration of the Gilman Program and its Top Producing institutions!

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).