

# Andrew Lara

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador  
Spain, 2023



*“Studying abroad allowed me to experience the world outside of the U.S. for the first time, an opportunity that nobody in my family has had since my grandparents immigrated almost 50 years ago.”*

Andrew studied abroad at Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain. He views his time in Madrid as one of the happiest, most transformative, and fulfilling times of his life thus far. The Gilman Program made it possible for him to go abroad for the first time and immerse himself in an international community that has shaped his personal and professional development. He studied humanities in Madrid as a pre-medical student and worked to improve to a bilingual proficiency in Spanish. He views himself as more compassionate and adventurous because of the Gilman Program.

- Texas Medical Association Diversity in Medicine Award
- UT Austin Rajaram Family Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- Bachelor of Science and Arts in biology
- Current M.D. candidate at McGovern Medical School at UTHHealth Houston

Andrew credits the Gilman Program for introducing him to new paths that he can pursue concurrently with his medical career. Taking courses in existential-humanistic psychology, international migrations, and Spanish art and culture have contributed to a diverse and innovative approach to practicing medicine that will make him a patient-centered physician who takes pride in interprofessional, interdisciplinary work. After returning to the U.S., he completed his degree at University of Texas (UT) at Austin and took a position as an instructional specialist in the biosciences department teaching genetics and scientific pedagogy, while improving the curriculums of other courses.

Andrew is now a first-year medical student at McGovern Medical School – UTHHealth Houston and plans to work in integrated primary care to make the healthcare system more accessible and functional for underserved populations by leading diverse care teams of professionals. He is passionate about storytelling, international education, and helping create a more equitable society.

