

# Logan Pender

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador  
South Korea, 2022



***“The most significant impact the Gilman Program had on me was its role in transforming my perspective on cross-cultural communication and diplomacy.”***

Logan’s experience abroad profoundly shaped his perspective on cross-cultural communication and diplomacy. Navigating the hardships of a first-generation, multiracial student in South Carolina, the complexities of the foster care system and overcoming homelessness, Logan remained steadfast in his pursuit of education, driven by a desire to effect positive change in the world.

While in South Korea, Logan seized opportunities to volunteer and immerse himself in the local community, where he actively contributed to cross-cultural initiatives. One of his most impactful experiences was at Nanjido Ecological Park. This volunteer work not only deepened his understanding of South Korea’s environmental challenges, but also highlighted the global importance of sustainability.

Logan’s experiences as a Gilman scholar enriched his academic trajectory and allowed him to contribute to reshaping the narrative for historically underrepresented minoritized groups in America. He recognized the immense value of resilience and cultural exchange in fostering meaningful connections across borders and how these experiences can serve as a catalyst for positive change in an increasingly interconnected world.

Logan is a predoctoral student in the Ed.M. program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He hopes to eventually serve as a public diplomacy officer, leveraging his experiences and insights to strengthen international relationships and promote U.S. interests abroad. He also hopes to serve as a diplomat within higher education, working to break down silos with the system and its partners.

- Bachelor of Arts in individualized studies with a concentration in international education for higher education administration
- Ronald E. McNair Scholar
- Fund Education Abroad Scholarship

