

Robert Larsen

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
Italy, 2023



“Studying history and culture while being immersed in it is far more profound than simply reading a book or attending a lecture. Thanks to my Gilman experience, this immersion has been instrumental in shaping me into a more informed, empathetic, and competent global citizen.”

- J.D. candidate at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
- Bachelor of Arts in Italian
- Global Business Certificate from the Marriott School of Business and the Whitmore Global Business Center

Robert studied abroad in Rome through the Brigham Young University Rome Internship Program. This program allowed him to participate in an internship with a local boutique law firm, Dioguardi European Law Firm, while also completing coursework for his undergraduate degree. Robert’s research as an intern centered on the critical issue of human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their implications for regional political and economic stability. Working alongside experienced European attorneys, he also gained a comprehensive understanding of the European Union’s framework and the current challenges it faces. Robert’s time in Rome deepened his appreciation of Italian history and culture, subjects he was able to more closely analyze thanks to the on-site nature of his coursework at various historical locations throughout Italy.

Robert has always had an innate passion for living and learning abroad. This experience in Italy, combined with his time as a Gilman scholar and his undergraduate study of Italian, has enabled him to achieve a high level of proficiency in the Italian language, a skill that he enjoys improving daily. In addition to his love of the Italian language, Robert enjoys exploring subjects such as international business, business ethics, international law, European history, culture, and gastronomy.

As a Gilman Alumni Ambassador, Robert is committed to empowering students from small rural communities, like his own in Idaho, to pursue study abroad opportunities. He believes that it is through these experiences that individuals are prepared to foster global citizenship, bridge cultural divides, and elevate mutual understanding and respect across the world, in their home nations, and in their local communities.

