

From Scholarship to the World: Study Abroad Information Session (Proposal)

Presented by: Valentine Joaceus
Fall 2025 Study Abroad Alumni
Fall 2025 Gilman Recipient/ Alumni



Introduction & Purpose

Valentine Joaceus Gilman Follow on Project to Help Other Students

This proposal aims to create an event that encourages students to study abroad by providing them with the information, resources, and inspiration needed to pursue global opportunities. The event will highlight scholarships such as the Gilman Scholarship, which helps make study abroad financially accessible for students. Alumni and former study-abroad students will share their experiences to demonstrate the academic, cultural, and professional benefits of studying abroad. This event will specifically aim to reach low-income and first-generation students, who are often underrepresented in study-abroad programs.





Positano, Costa D'amalfi, Italy

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." - Mark Twain

Why this matters?

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Misconception

Many students believe studying abroad is:

- Too expensive
- Too complicated to apply for
- Not accessible to them

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Goal

Break misconceptions and show students that studying abroad is achievable while increasing awareness of funding opportunities like the Gilman Scholarship.

Event Run Down

Target Audience

- HEOP students
- First-generation college students
- Low-income students
- Students interested in global careers
- Students considering studying abroad

Possible Event Location

Possible campus locations that can support a panel and workshop setting:

- Intercultural Center (IC) – ideal for community discussions and outreach to first-generation and multicultural students
- Regina Peruggi – allows for larger student attendance and tabling with study-abroad materials

Possible Event Date

April - Early May

Time: Between 3PM - 6PM

Possible Speakers

- Professor Bell (External Student Scholarships)
- Valentine and Study Abroad Alumni (At least 2)
- Professor with Study Abroad Experience
- Study Abroad Office Representative

Collaboration

This event will be organized in partnership with several departments to ensure strong outreach and support:

Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)

- Promote the event to HEOP students
- Encourage first-generation and low-income students to attend

Intercultural Center (IC)

- Assist with outreach to multicultural student organizations
- Provide support in promoting global engagement opportunities

Study Abroad Office / Gilman Advisor

- Lead the Gilman scholarship information session
 - Provide application guidance and resources
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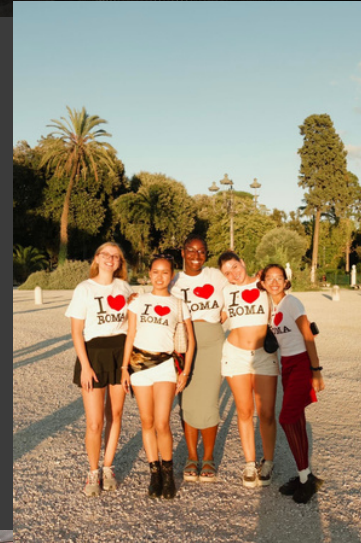
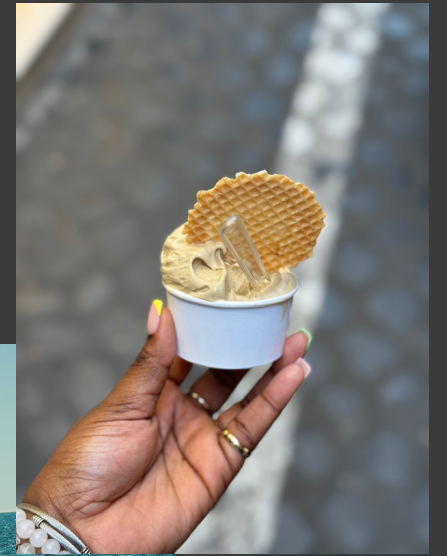
Sharing My Experience

Studying abroad in Rome, Italy was a transformative experience that allowed me to grow academically, culturally, and personally.

Through this opportunity, I was able to:

- Experience a new culture firsthand and immerse myself in a different way of life
- Expand my understanding of global perspectives and cultural diversity
- Gain confidence navigating unfamiliar environments and situations
- Build meaningful connections with people from different backgrounds

As a first-generation and low-income student, scholarships such as the Gilman Scholarship made this opportunity possible. My experience demonstrates that studying abroad is not only achievable, but also life-changing for students who may not initially see it as accessible.



Program Logistics

Event Duration: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Welcome & Introduction

- Opening remarks and overview of the event
- Brief introduction to study abroad opportunities
- Purpose of the session and what students will learn

Student Study Abroad Experiences

- Valentine shares her study abroad experience in Rome, Italy
- Additional study-abroad alumni share their journeys
- Discussion of cultural experiences, challenges, and personal growth

Faculty Perspective

- A professor who has studied or taught abroad shares their perspective
- Discussion of the academic value of global education and cultural exposure

Gilman Scholarship & Funding Opportunities

- Possible Presentation from Professor Bell (External Student Scholarships)
- Overview of the Gilman Scholarship and other funding opportunities
- Key tips for the application and essay process

Study Abroad Office Information Session

- Study Abroad Office representative explains available programs
- Overview of application steps, deadlines, and program options
- Resources available to help students prepare

Q&A and Networking

- Open floor for student questions
 - Opportunity for students to connect with speakers and advisors
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Long Term Benefit

This event can lead to:

- Increased study abroad applications
 - More Gilman Scholarship applicants
 - Greater participation from underrepresented students
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Thank You for your consideration

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