

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (IIE) NAMES OVER 2,300 TO RECEIVE THE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD

Houston, Texas, May 1, 2012 -- (student's name), who is currently a student at (student's college and major) is one of over 2,330 outstanding American undergraduate students from over 550 colleges and universities across the U.S. who was offered the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to participate in a study abroad program during the academic year. (Student's Name) is studying in (name of destination, field of study, and any other interesting details such as focus of follow-on project). Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad program costs, and a limited number of Critical Need Language Scholarships are given each year for a total award of \$8,000. The list of Gilman Scholarship recipients for the 2011-2012 academic year, including students' home state, university and country of study, is available at www.iie.org/gilman.

The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Houston, Texas. Applications for Spring 2013 study abroad scholarships are due October 2, 2012 and will be available online in August 2012. Students receiving a federal Pell Grant from two- and four-year institutions are encouraged to apply.

Since the establishment of the Gilman International Scholarship Program by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000, over 10,000 students nationwide have received this prestigious award. Congressman Gilman, who retired in 2002 after serving in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chairing the House Foreign Relations Committee, commented, "Study abroad is a special experience for every student who participates. Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but also adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in

the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community.”

Recipients of the scholarship have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages, and economies -- making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector. According to IIE President Allan Goodman, “International education is one of the best tools for developing mutual understanding and building connections between people from different countries. It is critical to the success of American diplomacy and business, and the lasting ties that Americans make during their international studies are important to our country in times of conflict as well as times of peace.”

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*The **Institute of International Education** (<http://www.iie.org>) is the world leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. An independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1919, the Institute is the world’s most experienced global higher education and professional exchange organization. IIE has a network of 17 offices worldwide working with more than 1,100 member institutions and over 6,000 individuals with a commitment to the internationalization of their institutions. IIE designs and implements programs of study and training for students, educators, young professionals and trainees from all sectors with funding from government and private sources. These programs include the Fulbright and Humphrey Fellowships administered for the U.S. Department of State. The Institute is a resource for educators and institutions worldwide, publishing the Open Doors Report and operating www.IIEPassport.org and www.studyabroadfunding.org search engines for study abroad program and study abroad scholarships. The Institute of International Education-Houston was founded in 1952 and is dedicated to building international understanding and goodwill through education, professional, and cultural exchanges, and developing closer associations between Houstonians and the world. IIE-Houston presents the city’s diversity and strength to current and future world leaders and creates opportunities for all Houstonians to serve as citizen ambassadors. For more information, please contact Michelle Dass Pickard, Executive Director, IIE-Houston, at 832-369-3505 or mpickard@iie.org.*