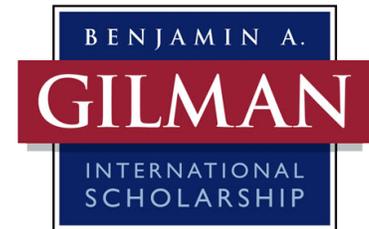


DARRYN LEE, SPAIN, 2010

Temple University
California



Ever since I represented Long Beach, California as a Student Ambassador in Yokkaichi, Japan during high school, a deep desire to become a truly global citizen was developed, being well versed in international affairs. My interest in Latin American and Spanish culture specifically stemmed from the influence of my aunt, who is of Mexican descent, and my frequent exposure to various Mexican foods, along with conversation and education. Such exposure drove me to major in International Business and Finance at Temple University, with a concentration in Spanish and Latin American Studies.

Studying abroad in Madrid was a transformative experience for me in many ways. The experience not

only allowed me to develop a better understanding of Spanish culture, and the cultures of several European and North African nations, but it also helped me see the importance of embracing the dynamism of each culture. I had a wide range of experiences that contributed significantly to my personal growth, from engaging, progressive political discussions with my host mother to witnessing Islamic prayer at the Sultanhmet Mosque during a visit to Istanbul.

Academically, I was able to learn from some renowned professors in the area of International Monetary Economics, Operations, Business Spanish, and Investments, equipping me with the knowledge of successful business practices. Currently, I work in analytics at BlackRock, developing my financial and technical acumen. I consistently seek out Latin American humanitarian experiences, of which I have ventured on a few over the past couple years.

I pursued a homestay while abroad, instead of a residence hall, because I wanted to get an

accurate view of Spanish culture and candid responses to my many questions. My host mother and host father did just that. Given my host father's occupation, as a divorce lawyer, he would leave us with pearls of wisdom through our conversations. Also, my host mother shared her honest opinions about her views on Franco's dictatorship, the current fiscal state of Spain, and the U.S.

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Her mentality made for interesting conversations and set the foundation for a long-lasting bond, which I still cherish three years after living in Spain.

FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

My Follow-on Service Project focused exclusively on educating Black American males in the Philadelphia public school and higher education system on the benefits to studying abroad, and

the financial assistance available through scholarship programs. I was able to further this cause through my work as a Study Abroad Ambassador on campus, partnering with ethnic student

organizations around the university. The interactions were very humbling and made me appreciate the opportunities that have been afforded to me.