

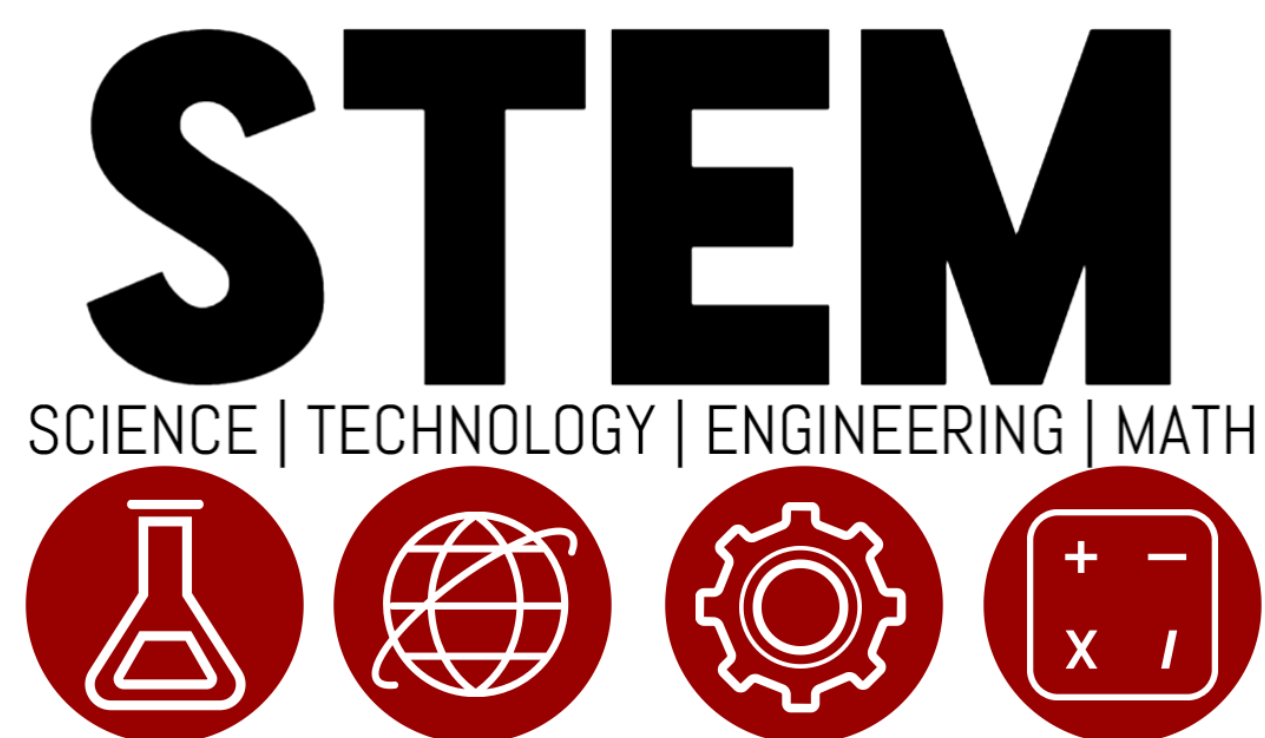


# Gilman Scholarship Michael Gardner, Physics, 2020

Leadership

## SUMMARY

I applied for and received a \$5,000 Gilman Scholarship to study at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. The Gilman Scholarship is based on your follow-up service project proposal. My project goal was to recruit STEM students into study abroad. STEM students are underrepresented in study abroad at UTSA. I believed this to be because of a lack of awareness that it is an actual possibility for two reasons: it is generally perceived as being only for non-STEM majors, and it is seen as unaffordable. To complete this proposal I have given multiple presentations to multiple student groups including freshmen, RISE/MARC scholars, and the society of physics students. I will continue to present in my final year and attend Gilman national events with other recipients.



## SPICES

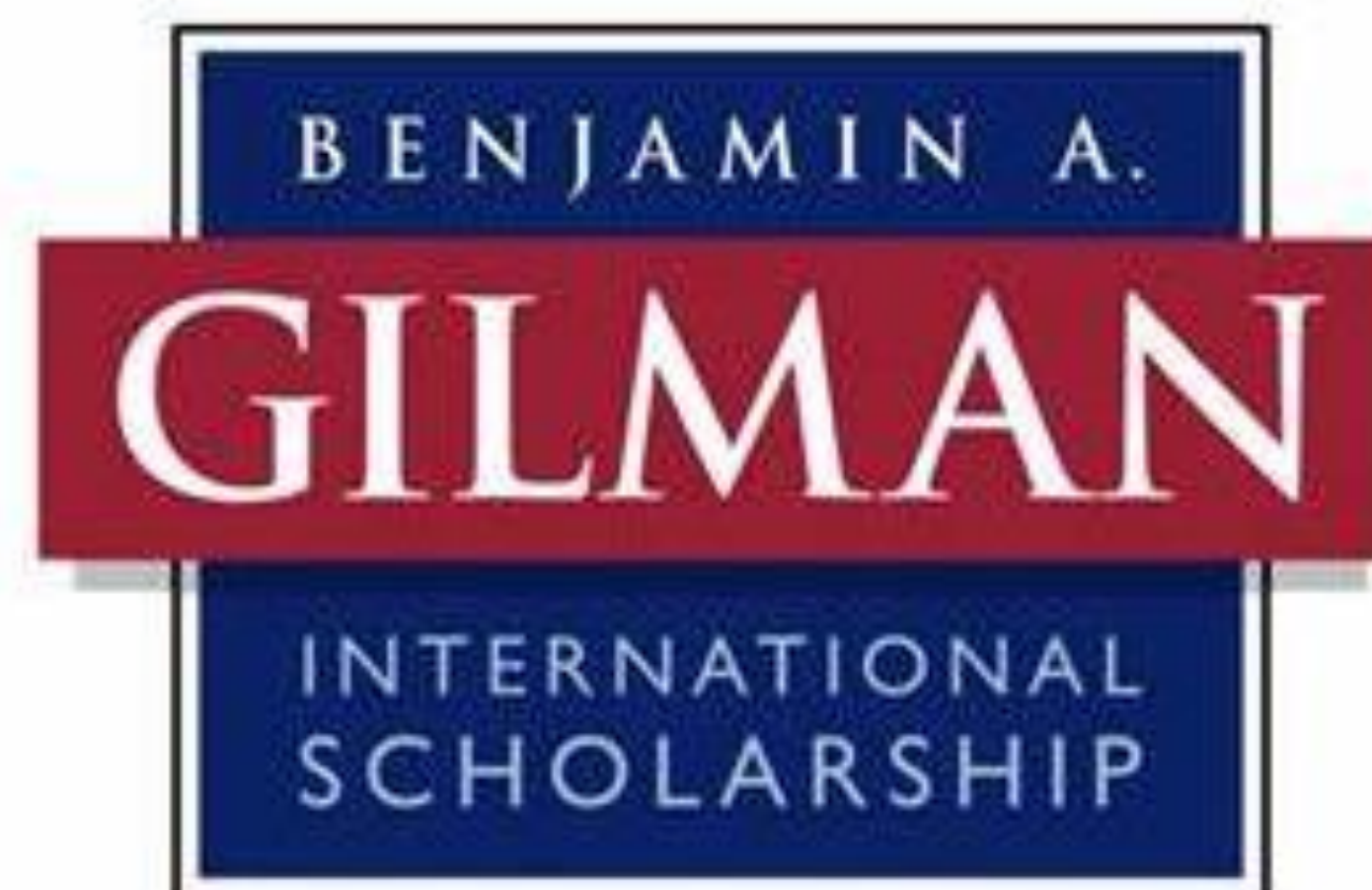
Fulfilling my proposal as a Gilman Scholar taught me about **leadership** by example. I paved the way for others to follow. I can dispense advice to cut down the difficulty for others to accomplish a study abroad goal.

## HERBS

This experience was **Honorable** and **Supportive**. My goal was to make a possibly once-in-a-lifetime experience possible for similar STEM students with financial need.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Completing this experience from application process to study abroad life to follow-on service project required **project management** skills. Presenting my experience to STEM students required me to learn to **communicate effectively** in both public speaking and written form to a diverse group of students.



## IMPACT

My Gilman Scholarship follow-on service project impacted a portion of the UTSA STEM student body. These students were made aware of ways to completely fund the experience, and how studying at another institution could broaden their extra-curricular research experience and options for upper level electives not taught at UTSA. I was impacted by developing my public speaking & mentor skills, and the networking made available through the Gilman program.

## ADVICE

A well thought out follow-on service project is key to winning a Gilman scholarship. Construct a project that will impact the demographic Gilman is trying to recruit as a representative of the US Department of State abroad.