

Matty Lents

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador
Spain, 2018



“A study abroad experience will shape you in unexpected ways.”

Matty studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar in spring 2018 in Barcelona, Spain. As an applied linguistics major, studying abroad in Spain helped Matty develop a professional network that expanded their career prospects. Growing up queer and Mormon in a small town meant Matty had to work very hard to gain access to the same stability and opportunities their peers were given. Matty was the only queer student in their study abroad group, and the only Gilman recipient. The networking opportunities that became available to them after their experience have created stability and opportunity for them and their community.

Matty now works for a Software as a Service (SaaS) company as an Enablement Specialist. They say working in a tech start-up is a lot like studying abroad; things change every day, and it is important to remain adaptable. They work with international clients, so the cross-cultural skills Matty developed while studying abroad remain useful even today. “A study abroad experience will shape you in unexpected ways. When in doubt, study abroad and apply for the Gilman Scholarship Program!”

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics from Portland State University
- Holds a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate
- Enablement Specialist at 15Five, a SaaS company

