Twenty-seven Western Kentucky University students were recognized by the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad in the March 2020 application cycle. Twenty-six WKU students were offered scholarships totaling $95,000 and an additional student was designated an alternate. They were selected from nearly 7,000 applications for this cycle.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the operations of the scholarship program and the study abroad programs it funds. Recipients whose study abroad plans were interrupted by travel restrictions are able to defer awards to programs starting between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, or apply funding to virtual international opportunities that are credit-bearing.

Students include Mary Osborne of Elizabethtown, the daughter of Doug Osborne. With majors in science and math education and biology, she plans to teach high school biology. Before graduating in May, she will complete International Student Teaching in Italy in spring 2021.

Students interested in studying abroad in 2021 are encouraged to work with the Office of Scholar Development at WKU and the Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning before the upcoming Gilman Scholarship deadline Oct. 6.