For immediate release: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign student Silvia Martin, receives a Prestigious place on a Fulbright Summer Institute to Wales

Silvia Martin a student from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has received a place on a Fulbright Summer Institute to study at Cardiff University, Bangor University, and Aberystwyth University in Wales on one of the most prestigious and selective summer scholarship programmes operating worldwide.

The US-UK Fulbright Commission is the only bi-lateral, transatlantic scholarship programme, offering awards and summer programmes for study or research in any field, at any accredited US or UK university. The Commission is part of the Fulbright programme conceived by Senator J William Fulbright in the aftermath of World War II to promote leadership, learning and empathy between nations through educational exchange. Award recipients and summer programme participants will be the future leaders for tomorrow and support the ‘special relationship’ between the US and UK.

As a participant, Silvia has been selected from a strong applicant pool to experience the UK on a six week summer programme. The programme theme is “Contemporary Wales: Industry, Politics, Culture and Change”. Participants will have the chance to explore the geography, culture, heritage and history of Wales, through visiting museums, galleries, parks, castles and islands.

Commenting on receiving the place, Silvia said:
When I learned I was selected, I couldn’t believe it! I had to slow down and do a double take to make sure I was reading things correctly. I can’t wait to meet the other participants and be immersed in Welsh culture. As a Fulbright summer programme participant, I am excited to learn more about the historical suppression of the Welsh language and culture because part of my family is Catalan and there are many similarities between the histories of the two languages. I hope that this work will enable me to gain a deeper understanding of cultural differences and values for my future career as a bilingual speech-language pathologist.

Penny Egan CBE, Executive Director, US-UK Fulbright Commission said: “In the 70th year of the Special Relationship, we can celebrate American students seeking study abroad opportunities through our Summer Institute programme. This is a unique opportunity to get a taste of British higher education while interacting with students from across the globe. As part of a diverse and high-achieving cohort, these students will gain immensely from the experience.”

The Commission selects participants through a rigorous application and interview process. In making these awards the Commission looks not only for academic excellence but a focused application, a range of extracurricular and community activities, demonstrated ambassdorial skills, a desire to further the Fulbright Programme and a plan to give back to the recipient’s home country upon returning.
Fulbright Summer Institutes cover all participant costs. In addition, Fulbright summer participants receive a distinctive support and cultural education programme including visa processing, a comprehensive pre-departure orientation, enrichment opportunities in country, a re-entry session and opportunity to join our alumni networks.

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About the US-UK Fulbright Commission:  
The US-UK Fulbright Commission was created by treaty on 22 September 1948. The Fulbright Programme aims to foster mutual cultural understanding through educational exchange between the US and the UK. This it achieves through its Awards programme for US and UK citizens and through its EducationUSA Advisory Service. The Fulbright Commission offers grants at postgraduate and postdoctoral level for study in any discipline and at any accredited institution in the US and UK, as well as a number of special exchanges programmes for shorter projects or for younger scholars. It is funded by a range of partners including leading US and UK universities, charities and both governments. For more information visit www.fulbright.org.uk.

About the Summer Institutes:  
Each year, the Commission supports around 60 UK and US undergraduate students to undertake a demanding academic and cultural summer programmes at leading institutions in the US and UK respectively. This year we are hosting the following nine Summer Institute programmes at host institutions across the UK: AIFS Summer Institute at Shakespeare’s Globe; University of Bristol Summer Institute; Durham University Summer Institute; University of Exeter Summer Institute; King’s College London Summer Institute; Queen’s University Belfast Summer Institute; SOAS, University of London Summer Institute; Scotland Summer Institute (at the University of Dundee and the University of Strathclyde); and the Wales Summer Institute (at Cardiff University, Bangor University and Aberystwyth University). For more information visit http://www.fulbright.org.uk/fulbright-awards/exchanges-to-the-uk/undergraduates.