INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY PROGRAM
Student Testimonials

MA. Amy Stello Lekeu - New Freedom, PA

Prior to the International Education Policy program, I had participated in study abroad and volunteer programs that promoted intercultural communication and interaction, but I wanted to dig deeper into international education perspectives. I was committed to implementing social change through education, but I did not feel that I had the tools to accurately examine the forces that affect students across the world. Through the IEP program, I was able to interact with professors who provided the educational tools of peace, gender equity and critical dialogue to better understand the changing face of international education.

I have been humbled and inspired through the genuine commitment and openness that the UMD community has provided. The IEP cohort always includes diverse perspectives that challenge the status quo and widens your perspective beyond personal and national concerns. The faculty members challenge you and facilitate meaningful conversations surrounding education: they are true examples of individuals who are committed social justice. I truly love the academic and personal work of this program.

MA. Julie Keddell - Annandale, VA

Teaching Program (JET). I am drawn to the IEP program at UMD not only because of its strong commitment to internationalization, but because it is a flexible, individually tailored program that allows me to choose courses based on my career goals.

Like many other students, I chose the University of Maryland because of its proximity to Washington, D.C.,

in May and I have no regrets about my decision to enroll in this program. The classes I have had the opportunity to take, have immensely widened my knowledge on the field of education and has helped develop my research skills. Also thanks to this program I recently able to embark on my first ever study abroad experience in Cuba which was one of the most rewarding trips of my

potential. For the IEP concentration, the proximity to Washington D.C. is a significant benefit. I am very lucky that my Graduate Assistantship directly relates and connects my interests of arts and peace education. The ability to connect my work to my studies brings everything to life through synthesizing the intellectual with direct applications.

convinced me that I would be able to pursue my intellectual interests at UMD.

In the past year, I have never had a moment where I regretted that decision to pursue doctoral studies. I appreciate the flexibility that the IEP provides to take classes in other departments and other schools in the DC area. My advisor, Dr. Klees, is just wonderful both as a teacher and a mentor. He has really pushed me to publish, and is always available and willing to read my multiple drafts or just listen to me rant about my ideas. I also like that the IEP program is flexible enough that you can be well-prepared to go into either academia or the field. I do think that you have to take initiative in seeking out resources or opportunities (such as courses available in other departments, funding for conferences, etc.) but they are certainly there for you to take advantage of. It has been a wonderful year for me at UMD, and hopefully I will get to meet all of you next year!

PhD. Jeremy Gombin-Sperling - Baltimore, MD
The 2015 Comparative and International Education Society Conference in Washington, D.C. was the moment during which I decided to pursue a Ph.D. I was in my second year of working at U.S. State Department on the Fulbright Program and roughly one year outside of my Master's which was also in the IEP program at the University of Maryland. Prior to those experiences I had also taught as an English Language Assistant in Spain for two years as well as worked at the University of Maryland as an Advisor and Program Manager in the Education Abroad Office. I was at the CIES conference to present on my Seminar Paper from my M.A. that looked comparatively at developments in bilingual education in the United States and Bolivia. It was this feeling of wanting to study and explore more about the