

Mason Johnson
Mellon Recruitment Award
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I am incredibly grateful for the grant that I was awarded a grant through the Institute for Regional and International Studies to help further my graduate and professional education. With the funds that I was given, I enrolled in a month long intensive German language course through the Goethe Institut in Freiburg, Germany. The funds that I was provided through this grant allowed me to pay for my tuition, room and board, and living expenses for a comfortable stay in Freiburg. This trip has allowed me to hone my professional skills, particularly in the acquisition of the German language which is necessary for my continued growth as a scholar, and it has also provided me a chance to visit some ancient collections up close, such as Roman ruins located in southern Germany which are of personal and professional interest to me as well. This grant has provided me also with great life experience, as I got to experience the excitement (and useful struggle) of traveling abroad on my own to a nation in which I was coming to terms with their language as I was there, and this has helped me both as a language speaker as well. All said, I would like to reiterate my thanks and gratitude for the opportunity afforded me by the Institute for Regional and International Studies.