

# Loann Crane Award Recipient

## Kinjal Pandya

Kinjal is double majoring in Spanish and Psychology. Her research interests include environmental, social, and psychological factors that play a role in mental and physical health disparities in ethnic minorities, with a focus on Latinos.

She is a recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Grant, an International Study Abroad Enrichment Scholarship, Psychology Study Abroad Scholarship, and an Office of Diversity and Inclusion Education Abroad Scholarship.



**1. In 2012, you received the Loann Crane Award. What did you do with the funds received?**

I used the Loann Crane Award to fund the research I did in Spain this past summer with the Gypsy population.

**2. What did this award help you accomplish in your studies and professional development?**

This award helped me in building and conducting an exploratory investigation from start to finish and added diversity to my research experience. Being able to talk about this experience in my application and interviews for graduate school made me stand out compared to other applicants. Additionally, I learned valuable skills regarding community and qualitative research.

**3. What do you remember the most about this experience?**

The thing I remember most about this experience is meeting new people and hearing their stories. I learned that the gypsy language Romani was derived from the same root language as my native tongue (Sanskrit). Therefore, we have the same words for some things.

**4. What are the benefits of receiving this award?**

The Loann Crane Award allowed me to pursue my research questions and collaborate with the community to obtain the interviews needed for the research project.