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I had set my eyes on the IISMA program since I was still in the second semester of my college because **studying abroad has always been my dream** since I was in high school. After looking for information regarding IISMA through their official site, I started to prepare all the required documents and tasks. I chose IELTS as my English proficiency certification and took the test in December 2021. Other documents were also prepared carefully, from passport to academic transcript. After that, came the hard parts, essay writing, and the interview selection.

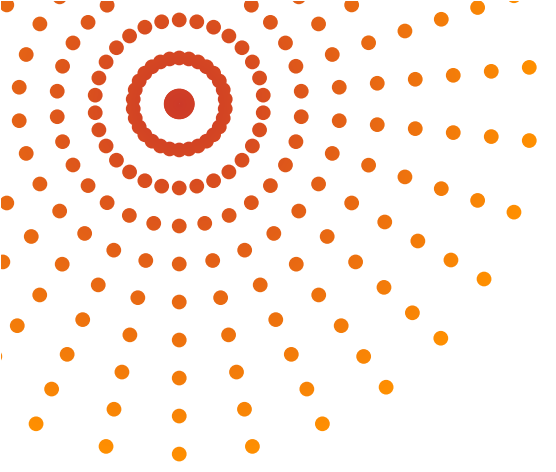
In my essay, I **wrote about my dreams of creating a digital startup that helps sports enthusiasts with an application that can support their sport activity needs.** I believe that the IISMA program can give me a chance to look at the sport's development in developed countries so that I can come up with better innovations to apply in Indonesia.

With the help of my friends and mentors who got accepted in the first batch of the IISMA program, I managed to pass the essay and the interview stages. **I was so grateful that I have highly supportive friends and an academic advisor.** Some of my friends were actually helpful in making sure I had enough preparation for the interview. Also, my academic advisor helped me with an insightful mock-up interview and I could not be more thankful for her support.



After the final announcement, came the preparation time. There were many things to do before we took off. Getting a student visa, online meetings preps, as well as coordinating with other IISMA Twente awardees were some of the memories. **Moreover, we need to also educate ourselves about the destination country and the host university.**

The hardest thing to do at this stage is **to work together with the other Twente awardees to prepare everything we need before the departure.** We held several online meetings to share information about pre-departure preparations. It was so strange at the beginning that we knew nothing about each other before but had the same goal, which is to study in the Netherlands. **However, things went smoothly as** each of us contributed to the work, and also because our Student Representative led us excellently.



IISMA is the best experience I have ever had in my life so far. The new environment, new friends, and new landscape were absolutely priceless. IISMA has taught me so much about life and that the world is always waiting to be explored. The friends with whom **I spent the time adventuring in European land were so much friendly and warm.**

Living in a different geographic area with a rather unfamiliar climate and culture was such an eye-opening experience. **I had a chance to see another part of the world besides my own home country.** Learning, exploring, and understanding various cultures and people felt like a dream to me, but it was real. You can see, hear, touch, and taste every bit of it, and then the core memory of your brain recorded each step you made under the sky of Europe.

I enjoyed all of the events in IISMA, from the orientation week to the final project presentation of our course, and I believe all of the awardees would feel the same. It was so good to be able to learn and exchange ideas with people from various backgrounds. With all of the lessons I receive inside and outside of the class, I could not be more grateful for the IISMA opportunity that I got.

It is so hard to accept that **my IISMA journey had to come to an end.** Time just flies so fast, no, it's too fast. We finally had to say goodbye to each of our IISMA friends and continue our separate lives in Indonesia. We felt sad that the adventure has ended, but also happy that we can finally meet again with our family and friends. But one thing for sure is that after all the learning processes we have been through, we are ready to develop ourselves and the people around us using the **knowledge and experience we got** during our study in the Netherlands.

After IISMA, **I feel my confidence in almost every aspect of life has skyrocketed,** and I am ready to share everything I know about the "outer" world. I wish to inspire people to also have a dream of studying abroad, seeing Indonesia from a different point of view, then making changes. Furthermore, I also try to keep in touch with fellow IISMA awardees across the cities to create greater collaborations between the awardees in the future. We always believe that **our next responsibility as IISMA alumni is to apply what we have learned during the program to create a better society in Indonesia.**