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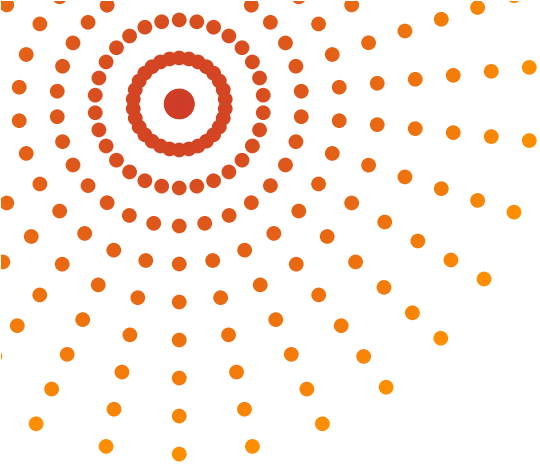## Hanyang University, South Korea

Information Technology- Batch 2019
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I was accepted into the IISMA program through **complicated selection processes.** Before the application deadline, I did a Duolingo test preparation within a week. I never took a Duolingo test before, and fortunately, **I passed the minimum score.** Then, I did some research about the country and host university target. After doing some research, I decided to choose Hanyang University in South Korea. I chose Hanyang University in South Korea as my Host University because **I am highly interested in daily Korean life and culture.** I already knew some essential Korean words. As an information technology student, I also looked for courses related to my Hanyang University major. Afterward, I wrote it down in essays as the required documents for applying for the IISMA scholarship. I was nervous, but **with prayer, practice, hard work, and support from my family and ITS,** I can be selected as an awardee for Hanyang University. I even got chosen as the **Student Representative** by my fellow awardees and IISMA.

Receiving a scholarship to study in South Korea was **a dream come true for me.** Preparing for this exciting journey, I took several steps to ensure I was fully prepared for the challenges and opportunities. After being selected as an IISMA awardee, **I prepared for all the pre-departure documents,** such as my VISA, health insurance, and COVID Test. I went to KVAC (Korea Visa Application Center) to apply for my Korea VISA. I double-checked that all the documents were up-to-date and valid for the entire duration of my exchange program. I kept digital copies of these documents on my phone or other electronic devices to avoid losing them. I also did a medical check-up at the hospital because it was still in a pandemic. I wanted to check if I was in good condition. Besides, I gathered information about the university where I will be studying. I researched the academic programs, campus facilities, housing options, and student services. **It helped me better understand what to expect** and how to prepare for my studies.

As an IISMA awardee, I was given the opportunity to immerse myself in **a completely new environment and culture.** My experiences during the program were diverse and enriching, leaving a lasting impact on me. For an Information Technology student like me, studying in South Korea was an exciting and fantastic experience. Unlike in Indonesia, **I could choose from various Information Technology subfields.** They outline their curriculum, the intended outcomes, what we will learn, and even their grading system. It was advantageous because I could select the courses I wished to focus on. I took classes in that sector mostly because **I wanted to specialize in Cyber Security, Web Development, and Blockchain.**

Another memorable experience from my exchange program was the opportunity to explore South Korean culture. **I am a very avid fan of K-dramas and also K-pop.** I even knew some essential Korean words from the many hours I watched. K-dramas and all of my current playlists are filled with K-pop. I was amazed by the vibrant music festival on my campus. The cultural immersion experience was truly unforgettable. The language barrier was one of the most significant aspects of my exchange program. Although I had learned some basic Korean phrases before my arrival, **I found it challenging to communicate effectively** with the locals. However, this challenge quickly became an opportunity for growth. I enrolled in a Korean language course, and with the help of my language instructors and classmates, I gradually improved my language proficiency. Fortunately, I could pass the TOPIK 2 pass before returning to Indonesia.

The time I was passed by swiftly while I was in South Korea. Returning home from South Korea was a bittersweet experience. On the one hand, I was excited to see my family and friends again, but on the other hand, **I knew that my life had been forever changed by my experiences abroad.** My experience as an Information Technology student in South Korea was helpful and unforgettable. I could concentrate on what I enjoyed and pursue my goals by enrolling in appropriate courses. The lecturers were incredibly friendly and knowledgeable, and they helped me complete each assignment and ensured that I grasped all the subjects given. Finally, the assignments assigned were convenient parts of information technology, which I may learn a lot by completing. Another change I noticed was my appreciation for diversity. **The exchange program introduced me to people worldwide,** and I formed meaningful friendships with individuals from different backgrounds. This experience taught me to **embrace diversity and value different perspectives.** I now feel more open-minded and accepting of others.