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As an informatics student at ITS, I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of a university that **prioritizes student growth and development**. The support of the International Office and my lecturers has been invaluable in encouraging me to seek out international exposure.

During my time at ITS, I have participated in internships and events, which have allowed me to gain valuable experience and develop my critical thinking, problem-solving, and cross-cultural communication skills. This has made me more **confident and better prepared for studying abroad**.

The IISMA program caught my attention when two of my friends mentioned it to me during a meeting. After researching the program and reflecting on my own experiences, I decided it would be **an excellent opportunity for me to level-up my knowledge and skills**. I am excited to learn from top sources in an international setting, which will broaden my perspectives.

Participating in the IISMA program will also provide me with **a unique cultural exchange experience**. I am particularly excited to choose Italy as my host country due to **its long history of technological and scientific advancements**. Being in such an environment will inspire me and contribute to my growth as an individual. Building relationships with fellow students and professors will allow me to expand my network and potentially open up **new opportunities for my future career**.



Preparing for my study abroad program was an exhilarating experience, but I also knew that I would face several challenges as an Indonesian student. **Packing for a four-season country was one of the toughest tasks**, as I had to ensure that all the essentials were packed within the airline's weight limit. I felt overwhelmed, but I managed to make it work.

The most significant challenge I faced was the language barrier. I knew that **learning Italian quickly was crucial** to my survival in a foreign country. So, I took the initiative and began learning the language through language-learning apps. It was tough, but I persisted and gradually picked up the language.

To overcome other challenges, I **sought guidance** from the PPI in my region of the host university. I researched the city's transportation system and local customs to prepare myself. I also **created a budget plan** to ensure that I could enjoy my time abroad without overspending.

Looking back, I am thrilled that all my expectations and goals for the program were met. Living in Italy for six months allowed me to immerse myself in Italian culture, make friends from all over the world, and develop my language skills. The experience taught me so much about myself, and I will **forever cherish the memories**. Studying abroad is an opportunity that **everyone should take advantage of to gain invaluable life experience**.

Studying abroad in Italy was an amazing opportunity that **surpassed my expectations**. The program was filled with unforgettable experiences that **widened my horizons** and deepened my understanding of Italian culture.

Participating in **cultural immersion activities was one of the most memorable moments** of my 6-months-adventure. I attended a special event organized by the Indonesian Embassy of Italy in Forte dei Marmi, a quaint town near Pisa. Witnessing an Italian showcasing pencak silat, and watching an Indonesian and Italian movie allowed me to fully immerse myself in Italian culture and **connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds**.

Enrolling in academic courses at the host university was an exceptional opportunity for me to learn from experienced professors and engage with an international student community. Although the **coursework was challenging**, it allowed me to advance my knowledge both academically and culturally.

However, studying abroad presented challenges, especially in managing my time. Balancing academic commitments in Italy with personal responsibilities in Indonesia was a significant hurdle. **The time difference was also a struggle**, and I often had to stay up late at night to attend meetings scheduled according to Indonesian time.

To overcome these challenges, I learned to **prioritize my responsibilities** and manage my time efficiently. I made sure to make the most of my time in Italy. Looking back, I am **grateful for the obstacles I encountered**, as they taught me valuable lessons and helped me develop my character.

Upon completing the IISMA program, I am **enthusiastic about putting my new knowledge and skills into practice** in my future academic and professional endeavors. While IISMA has been an invaluable experience, I believe it is just one of many paths that can lead us to achieving our goals, and it is crucial to continue learning and evolving throughout our lives.

One of the most significant aspects of the IISMA program for me was the **opportunity to engage in cultural exchange** and be exposed to diverse ways of thinking. The program's culture of curiosity and **openness to new ideas has had a profound impact on me**, and I am eager to integrate these values into my personal and professional pursuits.

Apart from utilizing my newfound skills in my own work, I also plan to share what I have learned with my community. As a woman, I am especially passionate about sharing my experiences and **encouraging other women to be open-minded and unafraid to try different things**. I believe that by promoting a culture of openness and inclusivity, we can empower women to achieve their full potential and make meaningful contributions in a variety of industries.

By fostering a growth mindset and encouraging others to embrace diversity and new ideas, I am confident that **we can build a more innovative and inclusive society**. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities that IISMA has given me, and **I look forward to continuing my journey of learning and growth in the future**.