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Hi! My name is Hanna Caecilia and I'm currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in urban & regional Planning, ITS. When I was registering for IISMA Batch 1, I was still in my 5th semester. Contrary to many people's assumptions related to IISMA Awardees, I had a lower amount of experience in organizational activities and competitions compared to my peers. **However, careful planning and insights from ITS International Office helped me to boost my chance of getting accepted.**

Other than its offer, another reason why I decided to sign up for IISMA is also due to its unique and fresh approach in learning experiences. IISMA, as a part of MBKM Program, focuses on the opportunity for students to gain many kinds of knowledge in real life instead of **limiting it in classrooms**. Through the program, I had many opportunities to expose myself to international experiences, not limited to cultural experiences, emerging paradigms in international academic settings, and of course, new friends and meaningful connections. It is also very interesting to compare your current study and knowledge to top-ranking universities—other than your new environment, you will most definitely learn many things about your own country and yourself.



Additional **signing up for the school admission** and adjusting to the new place were the hardest for me. The additional process of signing up for admission was hard for me because I had to rummage through my misplaced education certificates and rapports. In British Columbia (the province where I studied at), international students are required to fill in detailed information regarding their past study even as far as Junior High School. Obtaining Visa was also quite hard for me and my friends because it was a detailed and careful process while we need to do it as fast as we can. Everyone's experiences will be different, but my suggestion is to always **take care of your important documents** so that it's not all over the place and pick the most suitable candidate for your SR (Student Representative)! SR's work ethic is very important at pre-departure stage—communication to IISMA, your respective universities representative, making sure your whole group is in the same page, information updating, also just being the leader and the face of the group for many occasions.

My classes are the most exciting and memorable experience during the whole program. I had the **opportunity to sit and learn** in one of the best universities in the world and work with amazing classmates, teachers and TAs (Teacher Assistants). Even though I had a hard time adjusting to the new learning culture due to the massive amount of readings and pre-class assignments I had to do, everything was just **very impactful** for my development.

I learned new systems to study new things and classic and new paradigm in international academic setting which I have never heard of before. I had challenging yet fun and meaningful projects and assignments. I thoroughly enjoyed everything. This might sound very extreme, but the way I perceive the world changed after taking the classes. The classes incorporate the theory they are teaching to real world scenarios and problems and constantly reminded of their importance, in relation to humankind, nature through philosophical thinking. The classes successfully impacts the present and future—**they made my love for studying bigger** and I can see myself pursuing a higher education abroad.

IISMA and the Faculty of Forestry of The University of British Columbia (UBC) had taught me so much regarding the humankind aspects of many things.

**Through my studies, I realized how inequalities persists and would constantly affect our people either in global or smaller settings.** We are also constantly reminded of how it takes everyone to work to make the whole world a better place. Related to my current study in Urban & Regional Planning, I believe that both things are indispensable as Urban & Regional Planning focus is the human itself. **By accommodating the new paradigm into Urban & Regional Planning research and/or process during my work in the future, I believe I can give new perspectives which focus on elevating many Indonesian's life.**