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IISMA was an unprecedented phase of my academic life. Studying abroad has never been a dream of mine. It's not that I was ungrateful for joining IISMA, I was under the assumption of studying abroad was costly and mingling with a complicated process. I thrived a maximum benefit after I got accepted, international exposure was what I expected but I got more than I imagine during the IISMA program.

I never had a problem academically in English, but I never had a chance to practice it in real-life situations. The preliminary stage of applying IISMA for me, is a disorganized and messy process. I was still doing a semi-military internship and left with little to none of the time to prepare for any registration process. I couldn't understand why I feel like obligated to do the whole process, but I've done it anyway. Went through one stage to another stage and realized that I'd done a quite amount of preparation for it.

In conclusion, preparing for the IISMA scholarship required extensive preparation, hard work, and dedication. It was a challenging and surprising journey, but it was also a rewarding one. My personal story is a testament that with precise work and dedication, anything is possible. I encourage fellow students who dream of studying abroad to start their scholarship preparation early and to believe in themselves. With the right attitude and effort, anything is achievable.



It is quite a thrill to know that I got accepted for IISMA in UTM (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia) Malaysia. It was my third choice, but it was a relief moment. I held the information from my family for I while, and eventually told them a week later to make up my mind. After I got accepted, I tried to find any information about the other UTM awardee and my soon-to-be student representative bring us together in a group.

We shared much information about living in Malaysia, the visa application process, and course registration through some online meetings we made over a span of 3 months (July, August, and September). We also got some pre-departure series seminars from the IISMA coordinator, to make us well-informed. We also tried to complete the visa application process together during that time but of course, it's not that simple. Some problems happen during the visa application process, but we also tried to solve them together in the hope that we can arrive in Malaysia together.

There are plenty of valuable lessons as an IISMA awardee at UTM. At the moment, the experience I got exceeded my initial expectations as sometimes it is filled with unique and unexpected moments. There are pleasant and unpleasant moments while undergoing this program, but the most important thing is how we turn them into learning opportunities.

My most memorable moment in IISMA is when my supervisor offered me an opportunity to join as a research volunteer for High-Speed Reacting Flow Laboratory (HiREF). It is an enormous opportunity for me because I never got a research environment back in my home university but I got it abroad, fascinating. It's open a lot of possibilities in the future, I might be continued my study there as a researcher or become a lecturer after I finished my doctorate study.

After regular classes with the locals, the difference in class lectures between here and in Indonesia, especially at my home university, is how the lecturer approach their students. The communication between students and lecturers here is more relaxed. Nevertheless, we still respect each other. For theoretical subjects, I have learned that in solving a numerical problem, I have to base it on the basic theory, and that's what I've learned at my home university. Nevertheless, The lecturer at the UTM enriched me with a problem-solving solution that I'd never seen before, with more complex and different possibilities that I'd never known or thought would be possible.

The most important benefit after back from the IISMA program is confidence. I'm quite satisfied with the opportunities and experiences I got during my time in Malaysia, So I can improve my future career adequately, based on the knowledge and experiences I got. I will contribute to my home country my way, as a mechanical engineer. I thrive to be a promoter or part of a leading group for electric vehicle and nanomaterial application development in Indonesia, It is parallel to the knowledge I got as a research volunteer at HiREF Lab. I even use the topics as my final-year project at my home university.

Studying abroad for me is a life-changing experience. Through this, I was informed about diversity and differences in every aspect and how we turn them into learning opportunities. I am grateful for this experience and never able to regret joining IISMA in my last year in college.