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To begin with, it has always been at the top of my list of things to do. **Even though I am aware that moving to a foreign country is not an easy task**, the other advantages I know will result from pursuing an education abroad frequently outweigh my doubts.

Why I Want to Study Abroad? The reasons are.

1. I'll have access to a better form of education
2. I get to experience a whole new and different country
3. I get to develop a deep sense of appreciation for my country
4. I can learn a different language
5. I can find attractive employment opportunities
6. I'll get to meet new friends
7. I'll be more responsible
8. I'll have the opportunity to create a better future
9. I'll be more open-minded about life in general
10. I'll learn to not take the simple things for granted

When I got to Surabaya, **I was shocked to discover that it was hotter than Jakarta**. I boarded another flight for my destination, ITS. I was picked up by the university as soon as I stepped off the plane. I was completely without a phone. I boarded a vehicle with a member of the international office team and volunteer students thirty minutes later.

I registered when we got to the college. I was given my card and directed to my dorm. I used my phone to connect to the internet and called other classmates I had spoken to on Facebook. They took me to a grocery store or market where the staff from the international office purchased me a ton of things I needed and took me to a restaurant for my first supper in Surabaya.

I cleaned up my room when they drove me back to my apartment from campus. walked around the flat and got a little lost, but I had a map.

The first thing that struck me as impressive about it was its infrastructure and cleanliness, which, in my opinion, reflects the people's standards of living and their worries for education. **How do we maintain a clean, green environment?**

I am aware that ITS is taking a **significant step toward maintaining a clean and green environment** by increasing the number of trees and green space. Waste management best practices must be promoted and, if necessary, rewarded. Vehicle gas emissions should be monitored, and environmentally friendly fuel alternatives should be promoted. It is important to discourage and penalize deforestation. If necessary, a different region must be prepared for forestation. It was decided that all non-biodegradable materials, like plastic, should be banned from use. People are made aware of the value of a healthy, clean environment. Programs that promote awareness are helpful in this.

The following day, **I met several other international students and the IO team.** I purchased a sim card while we were at the market. I met a lot of individuals throughout orientation the following days, which was wonderful. A few days later, the first day of class.

The option of studying abroad has grown in popularity as the world becomes more connected. International students seeking a top-notch education, cultural encounters, and contact with a diverse student body frequently choose Indonesia as their destination. However, there are difficulties associated with studying abroad in Indonesia. In this conversation, I'll talk about the difficulties I had while pursuing my ITS education in Indonesia and how I navigated them.

Cultural Conflict

The culture shock I experienced in Indonesia was one of the biggest problems I faced. The feeling of bewilderment people has when exposed to a new and strange culture is known as culture shock. It may result in despair, worry, and feelings of loneliness. International students, who might be living away from their family and support system for the first time, may experience culture shock that is even more severe.

I take measures to acclimatize themselves to the new culture to cope with culture shock. Participating in cultural events and activities on campus is one method to achieve this. Joining one of the clubs or societies at ITS institution was a great way to make friends and learn more about the host culture. These organizations focus on cultural interests.

Language Issues

Language barriers in the ITS are another difficulty I must deal with. Many international students may not be native speakers of Bahasa Indonesia, and even those who may have trouble understanding the regional dialect or slang.

I take language classes to help me overcome linguistic hurdles. Bahasa Indonesia language classes are offered by ITS University, and I also connect with language learners on social media.

Challenges with finance

I must deal with living expenditures, currency changes, and the cost of studying abroad in Surabaya. Their financial resources are further constrained by the obstacles they must overcome to work in Indonesia.

I'm helped by the KNB scholarship and other types of financial aid to deal with financial difficulties. In addition to exploring internal scholarship opportunities, several colleges also provide grants expressly for international students.



Homesickness

International students who are living away from their families and support systems for the first time frequently experience homesickness. It might be difficult to acclimate to a new setting, and I also long for the comfort of my native land.

I use phone conversations, video chats, and social media to stay in touch with my loved ones and friends to help me cope with homesickness. Additionally, I communicate with other international students who might be going through similar things. The university of ITS provides therapy for mental health issues, including homesickness.

Community Isolation

I also initially feel socially isolated while I get used to new surroundings. I struggle to establish friends because I feel distant from my classmates and alone.

I engage in extracurricular activities, clubs, and groups to combat social isolation. I maintain connections with both domestic and international students. The social events and cultural activities that ITS University offers are also a great way to meet new people.

Educational Disparities

Academic differences presented another difficulty for me in the ITS. I had trouble adjusting to the new teaching styles and coursework since the academic structure in the ITS was different from what I was used to.

I go to orientation sessions and look for academic help programs to get over academic obstacles. ITS University provides study groups, tutoring, and writing centers as examples of academic support services.

Visa limitations

Indonesian visa regulations, which are difficult to understand and navigate, have an impact on international students. Students' visas might need to be renewed on a frequent basis, and any infraction of visa regulations can have serious repercussions, including deportation.

I collaborate closely with the international office of the ITS university to navigate visa restrictions. These offices are set up to offer advice on the prerequisites, extensions, and renewals of visas. I also keep in mind the terms of their visa, such as the time and work restrictions, and ensure that I abide by them.

Discrimination

Unfortunately, I experience prejudice in the ITS as well because of my race or ethnicity. Discrimination can take many various forms, such as being excluded from social events or receiving unjust treatment in the workplace or in the classroom.

I ask my boss, Dr. Dieky Adzkiya, for assistance in addressing prejudice. I also get along with the students. Any instances of discrimination must be reported, and ITS University has policies and procedures in place to deal with such problems.

Health Concerns

A challenge for international students studying abroad can be health-related issues. In Indonesia, I confront different health risks and difficulties than I did back home, including the possibility of contracting new diseases, a different environment and set of weather patterns, and alterations to my eating and exercise routines.

Indonesia has a healthcare, insurance, and risk management system to address health issues. Numerous universities have health facilities and services that can offer medical attention, counseling, and support for mental health. While they are studying in the ITS, I also put a priority on their physical and mental health. I make efforts to have a healthy lifestyle, which includes eating a balanced diet, exercising frequently, and using mindfulness and relaxation techniques to manage stress.

While my experiences as a Master's have been diverse, research has unquestionably been the most important and rewarding component of my master's education. **Committing myself to the world of scientific research has instilled an investigative mindset and a passion for**

the scientific process and an appreciation for the results of medical research. Research has proven to be a fantastic supplement to my master's coursework, allowing me to strengthen my conceptual understanding of the material taught in my science classes and leading to an improvement in my academic performance as I became more involved in research outside of the classroom. Participating in research and the consequent interactions with my peers and advisors continues to provide me with a toolbox of hard and soft skills that has paid dividends in my coursework and professional relationships.

I first began my research as a freshman in the lab of Dr. Dieky Adzkiya Gardner in the ITS University, Department of Mathematics, investigating the COVID-19 forecast.

My first piece of advice for international students studying in the ITS is to **make sure you are familiar with the culture and customs of the country**. It is important to understand how things work in Indonesia, such as the education system, laws, and social norms. Doing research before your arrival will help you feel more comfortable and prepared for your new environment.

Second, I would recommend **making connections with local students and faculty members at your university**. Getting to know people who already live in the ITS will give you a better understanding of culture and can provide you with valuable resources and support throughout your studies.

Finally, **take advantage of all that the ITS has to offer!** Whether it's exploring different cities or trying out new activities, make sure to take time away from studying to experience everything that makes this country unique. There are so many great opportunities available for international students in the ITS - make sure to take advantage of them!

I've had an incredible time at the ITS, and **I can't wait to see what else this year has in store**. I continually look for methods to step beyond my comfort zone so that I can learn and complete everything I had planned.

In the city of Surabaya, it seems like you are on **vacation every day** and visiting a picturesque location nearby.

The most important lesson I've learned from studying abroad is to **give myself time to observe and acknowledge the things that are happening swiftly around me**. My experiences and city acclimatization are only a process that improves daily.

My suggestion to upcoming students is to **not let the difficulty of a situation overwhelm you and prevent you from completing the task you have come here to complete!** And who knows, you might develop a love for the place, cherish the experiences you have made, and decide to make ITS your second home.

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