



## Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

### Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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Angaben zum Auslandsaufenthalt	
Studiengang an der WiSo:	International Business Studies
Gastuniversität:	Universitas Indonesia
Gastland:	Indonesien
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Faculty of Management and Economics
Aufenthaltszeitraum (Semester und Jahr):	Winter Semester 2023
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?*	( <b>Nicht</b> zutreffendes löschen) JA

\*Veröffentlichung unter: <http://ib.wiso.fau.de/outgo/partneruniversitaeten/>

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### **Themenbereiche:**

1. Bewerbung und Auswahlverfahren an der FAU
2. Bewerbung / Anmeldung an der Gastuniversität
3. Vorbereitung auf das Auslandsstudium
4. Anreise / Visum
5. Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten (Wohnheim, privat)
6. Einschreibung an der Gastuniversität
7. Fachliche und administrative Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office, Fachstudienberater, Buddy-Programme, studentische Initiativen, etc.)
8. Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan an der Gastuniversität
9. Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)
10. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)
11. Freizeitangebote
12. Stadt (Sehenswürdigkeiten, Feste, Museen, etc.)
13. Alltag (Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobben)
14. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)
15. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links
16. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)
17. Sonstiges

***Vielen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung!***



## My Experience at Universitas Indonesia: Adventures in Jakarta

I want to preface this report by stating that despite the title, Universitas Indonesia, is NOT in Jakarta but in the neighbouring city of Depok. But all the fun happens in Jakarta :)

The application process of applying to an overseas university is, as would be expected, a bit more complicated than the Erasmus application as each university has its own procedures and there is no standardized application as used by Erasmus partnership universities. Therefore, I cannot stress enough but to have PATIENCE with the application process and do not get discouraged when your Erasmus friends are miles ahead of you in the exchange journey. Your journey will just take a little bit longer but you will get there in time, I promise! Please also be aware that Universitas Indonesia (UI) is a new partnership and I, including a friend from the same program, were the first students from FAU to attend UI, and therefore, our experience is coming from this perspective.

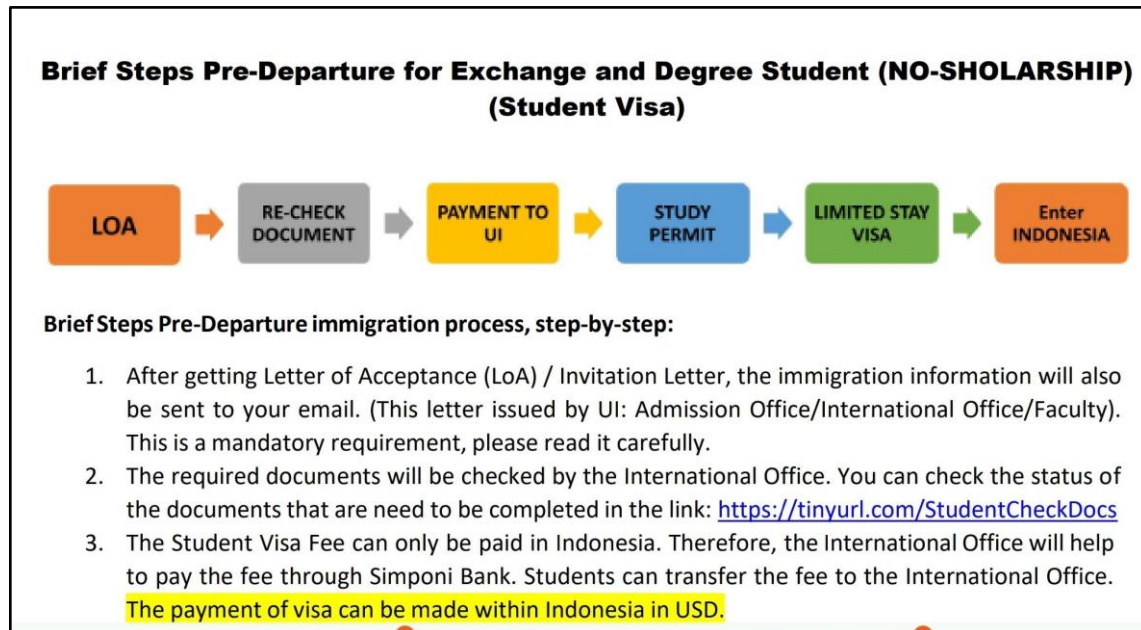
### Applying to UI:

To begin this report, I will start with the first steps of the application process and my personal experience. As you are aware, you are allowed to apply to 5 universities. I choose to apply to 5 overseas universities located in the following cities: Hanoi, Bangkok, Mumbai, Taipei, and Depok. After your application is processed (go to the IO homepage for the required documents such as the reference letter template, letter of motivation etc.) the IO will nominate you for one of your choices - do keep in mind that you may not get chosen for any of your choices but do not worry as you can choose from the remaining slots at a later date and the options there are still quite good!

Once you receive the nomination, which will be sent in a letter format per email, you must sign and accept it for the process to begin. You will then have to apply at UI and submit their required documents such as a letter of motivation, transcript, financial statement etc. If you are eligible for the UI Shine Scholarship worth about 1200 euros you can apply for this scholarship in your application too. Once you submit the documents please be patient for their reply! I received a nomination from Ms. Kuka on March 20, 2023, and I received an acceptance by UI on June 05, 2023! The UI arrival dates for exchange students were from August 06-07. Giving you only 2 months to buy a ticket and prepare for UI. This was the experience of all the exchange students, so please be patient! Your email will come. Please check your spam inbox just in case. Once you receive your acceptance letter by UI the next stage will follow: visa forms, photos, administrative forms, course registration... It will feel overwhelming but you will receive help throughout the process, however, at times the IO at UI might be overwhelmed themselves and unable to answer your questions when needed about form inquiries for example, therefore, I would advise you to submit the documents anyways and if the IO has any issues with the way you filled them out they will let you know and tell you how you can correct them, if you get no reply, then just wait patiently for the next email with the next steps. The keyword here is: patience. Do keep in mind the Learning Agreements (LA) once you are accepted. For your peace, I will let you know that my friend and I submitted some of our learning agreements on later dates as we did not get access to the course registration website until mid-August, however, we did fill out some LAs as some of the courses that we wanted that were posted on UI's IO website (from the previous semester) were also available that semester (however, they might not always be available or are not in English, which is why you might have to submit new LAs once the course website is made available and the official course list is posted).

The

next stage of the application process once you receive your letter of acceptance (LOA) will entail of the following procedure (keep in mind that things could change, this was the procedure for 2023):



This is just an example of the process, you will be informed throughout the whole process, and you can reach out to their international office and your faculty for help and more information. The following image below is a brief glimpse of how the procedure for after arriving in Indonesia will go. The International Office (IO) at UI will send you all the necessary information and document requirements ahead of time so please be patient and keep checking your email and spam too, and do stay in touch with any other student going to UI from FAU so you can compare notes throughout the procedure. Once my friend received an important email but I didn't so it was a good thing we were in constant communication. It is also a good idea to get the contact information of the students leaving to UI before you so you can stay in touch and ask questions. My friend and I created a Whatsapp group with a student who was leaving in the next semester and we have been answering his questions and giving him advice throughout his exchange process which has given him a lot of peace, so I highly recommend you do this upon the initial exchange session organized by the IO at FAU.

### Steps After Arrival for Limited Stay Visa / VITAS User (For students)



#### Post-arrival immigration process, step-by-step:

1. Upon arrival, you must make sure that the stamp you get in your passport is correct.
2. Come to the UI International Office to get the recommendation letter to get a domicile certificate. Please note that the domicile certificate is processed by first getting a residence letter from your residence's management (dorm's management office or apartment), the RT & RW (neighbourhood), and finally the *Kelurahan* (Urban village) office.
3. After obtaining the final domicile certificate from the *Kelurahan* office, return to the International Office to return the domicile letter. **Please make sure you also bring your original passport, 1pc of 10.000 stamps, and 2pcs of 3x4 sized photos.** Later on, we will help

#### Preparing for Indonesia:

Please educate yourself on the country and culture ahead of time. I cannot stress this enough as it will save you from disappointment and frustration. This lack of preparation affected a lot of students' experience as many were in culture shock as they had imagined Bali and not the reality of living near a mega city in a conservative environment.

The island of Java is predominantly muslim and is in no way like Bali. If you are a woman, please be prepared for the culture shock of living in a conservative muslim society. There is no way around this, if you come prepared with this knowledge then you will have a much easier time accepting this and living in a conservative city like Depok. This was a shock to many of the girls that were doing their exchange and many were having a hard time coping and adjusting to this new reality.

Do visit Facebook groups, forums, blogs etc. for things to bring to Indonesia that you cannot find there. There are some items that you may not even think of that will not be available once arriving in Indonesia. For example, if you are a woman and use tampons, bring those as they are not available there. If you take certain medications, especially medications such as antidepressants, ADD meds, bring enough to sustain you for the exchange semester as it can be quite the hassle to get them. Otherwise, you will have to get these items in countries like Singapore or places like Bali. There are many blogs out there on this topic so you must do your research ahead of time.

If you have health problems with your lungs please talk to your doctor before deciding on UI. Unfortunately, Jakarta has one of the worst air qualities in the world, and if you have health issues like chronic asthma, UI is probably not a good idea. This is another shock you will have to prepare for and is something that you should not take lightly. Jakarta is not for everybody. If you are looking for an easy stay, UI is not for you. However, if you are looking to experience a new way of life, new culture, and if you can keep an open mind and temper your expectations, it can be a unique and rewarding experience! And you will have lots of fun despite this! But you must have an adventurous heart and leave what you know at the door.

#### Actual Life at UI and Beyond:



As for life at UI, once the registration and Visa issues get sorted - you will have a lot of help with this from the IO and with the Buddy they will partner you up with - so I will not get into detail over this topic as it is quite long and not necessary, as you will receive the required help for it.

Finding a home is not an issue at Depok, UI will give you several apartment listings to choose from. I recommend you take the apartment Taman Melati or Mares. These two apartments are where the majority of students stay, and it is very easy to sign a contract at both. If I had to choose between the two I would pick Taman Melati as there are more facilities available, coworking spaces, a gym, and it is right beside the train station which is your access key to enjoying the city. The train ride from UI station to a point in the city of Jakarta ranges from 15 to 40 minutes depending on your destination. Mares is about a 10-15 minute walk to the train station.

To focus on uni life at UI, I will start with the courses.

You can take a maximum of 5 courses, if you want to do more than this number you have to discuss this with your faculty for a special permission. There are a variety of courses and they are flexible to changing but they usually stay more or less the same as what is posted on the IO homepage with a few extra options here and there. So please check there. You will be able to register for these courses a few weeks prior to the start of the semester so please be patient and await the instructions. Your buddy will offer you assistance with this and the instructions they provide you are quite simple and easy to follow. As of today (February 2024), a 2 credit course is equivalent to 4 ects which is rounded to 5 ects. A 3 credit course is equivalent to 6 ects. Therefore, in order to receive the 20 ects needed by FAU you just need to take 3 courses worth 3 ects each which will be worth 18 ects in total and which will be rounded to 20 ects. Or you must do four 2 credit courses. I recommend you do the 3 courses worth 18 ects in total, and then you can even do courses that you have maybe fallen behind on or do a course just for fun or only do 3 courses from Tuesday-Wednesday (this is just an example of a possible schedule you could have) and have the rest of the week free to do whatever you want!

As for the actual classes, as a business student all my classes took place at the Management and Economics faculty, and I could just walk to this building, about 25 minutes from Mares, or take a motorbike from my home.

What might take some time getting used to is the assignments/homework aspect to these courses which account for 10-15% of your grade, and can be required of you to do at any random date, sometimes only with a few hours notice, however, the assignments are usually quite easy to do with the exception of some but you will get more time for these assignments usually. You can also talk to your instructor if the assignments are overwhelming or overlapping with other assignments and they will give you an extension. There are also midterms in addition to the final exam and/or assignment. As the course structure is quite different to the one at WiSo it might feel overwhelming at the beginning so you must organize yourself early on so that you can keep up with the demands. In my courses I always had a study/assignment group and we supported each other throughout the semester and this was of great help, and I highly recommend you become well acquainted with your classmates, especially your Indonesian



classmates, as they are aware of the academic requirements and expectations at UI, and can be a great resource for you.

As mentioned earlier, Depok is a quite conservative city, therefore, you should not expect to have the same experience you would have at an Erasmus university. Nightlife is highly discouraged at UI, and therefore, they do not organize any events in this area, therefore, it is up to you to find what is happening in the city. There are many helpful social media sites such as Instagram or TikTok that will give you the ins and outs of things to do, so please follow those! Some of the local students may be able to help you with this, it really depends who you meet. Your experience at UI is what you make of it and you will have to exert much more effort on your end to make the most of it, because UI will not provide you with this. This is one con I must unfortunately add to this report. I personally was able to deal with it because I have traveled a lot prior to this exchange and I have lived in other places before, and I have been a foreigner a few times in my life, so I have the know how of how to make it in foreign lands, however, for those who do not have much experience, this aspect can be quite hard, and

a few students really struggled with this reality. You really must be a proactive individual to make the most of it, because once you know your way around, you will have a lot of fun! :)

Another important thing to consider is the 2-3 absence rule depending on the ects. If the course is 2 credits then 2 absences are allowed, if the course is 3 credits then 3 absences are allowed. Please keep this in mind when planning trips, make sure to plan ahead of time for when you wish to be absent.

Unfortunately, the language course was offered too late and by the time it was offered most of us already had our courses registered and therefore, we were not able to take this course without it affecting our schedule. I hope the IO will fix this issue in the future and will offer students this course at a much earlier time. I believe they tried to fix this issue by offering an additional class on Saturday, however, the majority of us did not choose this as the weekends were used for travel, and therefore, this option was quite inconvenient.

### The Campus

The campus itself is quite lovely! The image below is by the library and a great place to relax and grab a bite.



The campus is huge and is filled with lots of canteens that sell very good and inexpensive food, there is a big main library, and various spaces to study. There are many clubs you can join but you have to inform yourself of this and ask the IO, your buddy, and classmates for help in this regard. There are printer services located inside and outside the campus. There are also various shops around the campus for daily needs. If you have friends and family visiting I recommend the campus restaurant “Gubug Makan Mang Engking UI Depok” if you want something more elevated in a beautiful setting. There are also a few sporting facilities and a swimming pool, so you really must explore the campus to make the most of it!

#### Finances:

You can apply for the UI Shine Scholarship during your application that is about 1200 euros but this scholarship is not guaranteed, but it is a possibility. Of course there is also the FAU WiSo Travel stipendium that you can apply for too, I personally received 900 euros which helped with costs to go back home. If eligible you can also apply for Bäfög, they have their own separate Indonesia website for this. There are also a few scholarships you can apply to that you can research online.

Life in Depok is quite affordable when compared to a city like Paris, but do not underestimate the costs, as Depok/Jakarta can be quite expensive depending on where you go. You really need to speak to the locals for advice as they can direct you to local prices, otherwise you can easily end up spending a lot of money, as some places are as expensive as Germany, if not, even more in some cases. For example grocery stores can be quite expensive, so you have to know where to shop, I personally shopped a lot at the grocery store “Farmers Market” located at Margo City Mall, as did many of the students, but these prices were often German prices if not even more, we were told that locals shop at other markets but we were never really given a tour of where to go so we all felt shopping at the grocery store was the most comfortable and convenient. I really recommend you ask your buddy or a local friend to give you a tour of where to go in



Depok for your needs and everyday life as UI will unfortunately not do this. This is something I feel like UI could do a lot better as navigating Depok as a foreigner is not the easiest, especially as a lot of the locals do not speak English. Furthermore, you are not allowed to be employed as part of the student visa obligation. If you are found to be working your student visa could be confiscated.

Your costs will vary depending on where you shop and what your needs are. Your first month will be the most expensive as you will be exploring and not knowing where to shop. In the first month our buddies brought us to quite expensive stores to buy the basics for our apartments for example, and after I got to know the city more, I knew that there were other shops where I could get the same things for a lot less. This is expected so just prepare for that. The cost of an apartment with utilities and WiFi varies depending where you stay and how much you consume but is around 200-250 euros. The apartments at Taman Melati are more costly, and costs can be around 330-380 euros, but you also get a lot more for the cost so I would say it is worth it, however, if you do not care for these extra services, such as a gym, then Mares is fine but you will have to search for services for yourself.

#### Daily life:

As I mentioned earlier, your exchange at UI is what you make of it. You really need to inform yourself and be active in order to have the most enriching and fun experience. Things are not handed to you here, as they tend to be in Erasmus partner universities. You will be navigating a very different culture, so you really need to have an open mind and be very proactive in building a life for yourself in your exchange semester, otherwise, there is a high chance you will not enjoy your time there, as this was a complaint of many students there.

Therefore, be proactive as soon as you get accepted. Read blogs, watch vlogs, join Facebook groups, follow instagram pages, look at several socials that offer meetups and activities. Once you are at the uni, get to know the students, if there is no active person, then you might have to take charge and create events for you and your friends to do as there really is none of this there. There were only 3 events at the beginning, and 2 of them were informative events that

ended in the early afternoon. One of the events was a trip to another city but this was in mid-September, almost 1,5 months after the students arrived. Therefore, I really emphasize on you taking charge of your life there to make the most of it. Go to Jakarta and explore every corner! Take a trip to Bogor while you wait for your visa (you might have to wait 3-4 weeks before you can travel outside of Jakarta until your visa is processed). But that doesn't mean you have to waste time as many students unfortunately did. Visit neighbouring cities, visit one of the islands in Jakarta, and get to know the hidden gems of the city and join the events offered in the city. The more you do this, the more fun you will have, and the easier it will come for you to call Indonesia home.

After that, the whole of Asia is open for you! The airport in Jakarta has great and inexpensive connections to Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea...you can have your pick!

Finally, please visit Cafe Cali! It is a must! It was my favourite rooftop bar - and there are tons in Jakarta! Despite some downs, real downs, in my exchange, especially in the beginning, once I took control over my experience and I became active in my fun, that is when I started to enjoy my time at UI, and now I can say that I even miss it! Furthermore, do download the following

apps:

Gojek, Grab, and Tokopedia. They will be your everything when you are there! From motorbike rides to food - they have everything! Do take advantage of the laundry services too, you can Whatsapp Laundry Cafe at +62 877-9774-0441 for their quick and affordable services. A massage is also a must! You will not be able to get a massage that is that great for that price anywhere else in the world probably. If you want a burger go to Ask for Patty (best burgers in my opinion). If you want the best chocolate chip cookies ever go to one of the Dough Lab locations. If you want a fancy, traditional, and delicious Indonesian food experience go to Kaum. If you want to party, go to LIME Lightbar or the Cocktail Club. If you want an amazing drink with great company go to Carrots Bar and tell them I said hi! Ask for Rae or Brian! :) If you want comedy nights in English (this is extremely rare) follow the Instagram page "Batavia Jokers" and also tell them I say hi! If you want to do random things join the Kemi group, just download the app. And if you find yourself in Kuala Lumpur (which is also a MUST) please do yourself a favour and visit XO-KL (it reads as a club on Google maps but right beside the club they have a food stand - and it is life altering!) for the best junk food of your life! It is KL's best kept secret in my opinion! So I repeat, be active and take control over your experience!

It is not an easy place to stay if you compare other universities and cities, but it can be a rewarding experience and a place for you to really grow and challenge yourself. Do not be too hard on yourself if at the beginning you are struggling, I have spoken to many expats and this is a very common experience. I myself experienced this, but keep an open mind and heart, positivity, and create the life you want to have during this semester. It will make all the difference and Indonesia really will have a special place in your heart after all is said and done, and you will be wishing you were back there as soon as you land. I promise you that! If you have any questions you can reach out to me :)



Cafe Cali at night! Their desserts are amazing too!