

IISMA Application

University of Queensland (1st Preference) & University of Melbourne (2nd Preference)

Note: 150 – 350 words

Discuss your academic and non-academic achievements, including the process and skills involved in your previous or current degree program!

I was a shy kid, but I let my passion speak for me. I was always known for being creative in any opportunity I had for most of my life. My family and friends were in disbelief when I told them I had decided to pursue business for my undergraduate studies instead of the arts. However, I realized I could still channel my inner creativity through class projects and extracurricular activities.

In university, I promised myself that I would take the challenge to go out of my comfort zone. I started my second year by taking two leadership roles. As the Team Leader in AIESEC, I led a project to support artists in Yogyakarta amidst the pandemic through online art workshops. Additionally, as the Head of Branding in 180 Degrees Consulting UGM, I built branding guidelines for the first 180DC branch in Indonesia. These opportunities also helped me land a position as the first Strategy & Planning intern in GrabFood, managing city expansion projects for the app.

At the same time, my thrill for competitions began when my team was selected as the Top 7 National Finalists of L'Oréal Brandstorm 2021, a well-known innovation competition, with the possibility of representing Indonesia in France. We created an app to reinvent the beauty shopping experience through a virtual beauty world and pitched it to L'Oréal executives. This nerve-wracking journey has sharpened my presentation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills as a first-timer. Furthermore, aside from maintaining a 3.76 GPA, I also received a scholarship for two online exchange courses where I worked in a multinational team and achieved second place for a business pitch.

A culmination of these experiences typically involves extensive hours of brainstorming, market research, designing mockups, calculating projections, and practicing a presentation. Despite the ups and downs, it had built the resilience and perseverance I needed to pursue my career and give back to the community. I realize that I still have room to grow, and I will always be open to new opportunities.

Please outline your plans to engage with local and international communities during IISMA program using clear examples!

I plan to join the University of Queensland Indonesian Association (UQISA) or Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia Victoria to actively participate in cross-cultural activities, introducing Indonesian games, cuisines, arts, and culture abroad. During my time in AIESEC, I led the team in hosting painting workshops and have regularly participated in several pottery workshops in Jakarta. With my passion for the arts, I would love to provide the same entertaining experience through cultural events by teaching the local and international community to paint batik patterns and molding traditional Indonesian vases with hand-built pottery. Moreover, the

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University of Queensland has a Handcraft & Art Club, and the University of Melbourne has a Drawing and Painting Club where we can collaborate to execute such events.

Volunteering is also a big part of the two universities in Australia. As a former Project Analyst of 180 Degrees Consulting UGM, the same organization exists in both universities. This organization provides training and consultancy services in the social impact space, and I am well familiar with the process of research, analysis, deck-making, and presenting to clients. I would be excited to participate in one of the consulting projects as an analyst in the respective universities. Being involved in competitions and representing my country abroad would be one of my goals as a competitive person.

Finally, as a Muslim, joining the UQ Muslim Student Association (UQMSA) and the University of Melbourne Islamic Society (UMIS) would be a great learning opportunity for me to be exposed to the Muslim lifestyle in Australia. I am looking forward to the guide on halal cuisine, participating in events, and sharing tips on maintaining faith in the city.

Discuss a time when you faced difficult challenge or hurdle during your study and how you navigated through it!

One of the most difficult academic obstacles I faced was my adaptation to Universitas Gadjah Mada during my first year. I went to a project-based school for thirteen years, where our learning method mainly consisted of practical learning instead of paper-pencil tests. I struggled with textbook-based learning because it did not give me the freedom to explore my creativity as I always had. I was not used to heavy readings and pop quizzes every week.

However, one of my biggest strengths is my high willingness to learn. I started the semester by making a schedule and setting weekly goals on which chapters to summarize or what practice tests I needed to get done. Before class started, I would get ahead of the materials to ease myself into adapting to the professor's fast pace. As a visual learner, taking color-coded annotations and drawing illustrations helped me visualize and remember the essential concepts. Then, I would join tutoring sessions and discuss materials with my friends. Eventually, I started to get used to the learning pattern and achieved higher grades throughout the semester.

Despite that, I still believe I grasped concepts better through practical learning—projects and presentations were a better fit for me than depending solely on textbook materials. Thus, I continued to seek learning opportunities and practical experiences outside class to compensate for the lack of hands-on activities on campus. Being active in extracurriculars certainly helped me understand class materials and apply theoretical concepts learned in class. By the end of my sixth semester, I had increased my GPA to 3.76/4.00.

Explain your health condition (i.e., dental and oral treatment/medical treatment/covid-19 medication/mental health therapy/counseling)!

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I am fortunate enough to have access to physical and mental health. I go to the dentist for regular checkups every six months. I was last hospitalized sixteen years ago due to malnutrition but have eaten more since then. I have never undergone major surgeries, am not on any heavy medical treatment, and have never contracted COVID-19. However, the pandemic did take a toll on my mental health.

My mental health was at its best state during my first year of university when I moved to Jogja. I met new people and explored things I would have never done before in my hometown. Since the pandemic hit, I have stayed home strictly for the past two years and felt the immense fear of missing out. Eventually, I went to several counseling sessions and recently immersed myself in creative hobbies such as painting and pottery. I went out with friends again, and there has been significant progress in my mental health ever since.

By finally studying something I have always found joy in, such as design and psychology at the University of Queensland, I firmly believe that IISMA would provide me the opportunity to view life from a more exciting perspective. The new people, new environment, and going outside my comfort zone channel my adrenaline into something positive.