



## Universitas Gadjah Mada

2022-2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
<p>First of all the university of Gadjah Mada was not first on my list. This because this university was a complete new partner university and therefore there were no student experiences whatsoever. That is why I first opted to go to Seoul, Sydney or Singapore. I knew I wanted to go far away from home to experience new cultures and a new way of living. Due to lottery I did not get a place in the first three spots but eventually my eye fell on Yogyakarta Indonesia. Right now looking back on my exchange I am so, so, so happy I got to go to this location instead of the other three options. I do believe every exchange has its own great aspects but I am really enthusiastic about my half year abroad. Would not trade it for the world.</p> <p>So, the start of my application process was kind of rough. After I found out I was selected to go to Yogyakarta everything went quite smooth with both universities. Gadjah Mada soon got hold of my information and contacted me about all the forms I needed to submit for my visa and to enter the university. In the beginning I thought this was very well organised. I got quick responses when questions were asked and everything seemed to go smoothly. A little bit further in the process I found out that you face more Indonesian bureaucracy than in the beginning. I got my visa only a few days before I left for Yogyakarta. Some people in my class did not even receive it on time and they needed to leave the country for a few days when they were in Yogya for a month or so. This was of course really inconvenient and cost quite a lot of money.</p> <p>So make sure you hand in all your information on time and that you receive your visa before you leave! This may cause that you have to book your flight quite late which is also a gamble. However I was part of the first round of exchange students to arrive after covid so this may also be the cause of some extra delays and bureaucratic problems. All in all if you keep good contact with the host university Gadjah Mada, they will help you will almost everything!</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>I think the counselling and support was good at the Utrecht University. Any time I had any questions I received a quick response and I also got enough updates. For me it was really clear what was expected of me which was nice.</p>
academic preparation
<p>I did not engage in any academic preparation. All classes are taught in English and the level of education is a little bit lower compared to the Netherlands.</p>
language preparation
<p>As stated before all classes are taught in English and therefore no other language preparation was necessary. All the teachers and students were advanced English speakers which made it an easy and good communication.</p>
finances
<p>The largest costs that I made during the exchange were the flight ticket and the traveling. Over all is the 'normal' life cheaper compared to the Netherlands. My rent was cheaper, food was cheaper etc. I think that if you save up some money for travel and apart from that you have the same amount of money you would spend on a daily basis in the Netherlands that you will come a very long way.</p>



## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied at the department of International relations and chose four different subjects in the matter. I had classes two days a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Due to covid some of these lessons were held online but near the end of the semester this changed to physical and sometimes hybrid classes. I had a good experience at the university and thought it interesting that during the classes you learn a lot about the Indonesian culture and history even if your classes are not specifically about these topics.

### academic quality of education activities

I do think that the level of education is a bit lower compared to education in the Netherlands. It also quite depends on which courses you take. One course I took was very interactive and used a lot of articles which were very up to date and interesting. Another course was the complete opposite so it really differs per subject. If you put in the work you would do at home as well I do think that it is very doable to pass all your courses.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Gadjah Mada University was very quick to respond if I had any questions. Also the teachers of courses were very open to helping you and answering your questions. However you should keep in mind that there is a big difference in culture between The Netherlands and Indonesia. You could notice this during classes and overall courses as well. For example, I did not receive any marks for my tests and essays until the end of the semester. Therefore you are not up to date if you are passing your classes or not. These small things can be annoying but make sure that you always ask if something is not clear. They are very welcoming to answering any questions.

### transfer of credits

Because I graduate in February I was very clear to my department in Indonesia that my credits needed to be transferred before the end of January. In the beginning they made a bit of a fuss about it but eventually my credits were transferred right on time. This also is an example from what I stated above, make sure that you ask if something is not clear and make sure that you are really clear about what you want and what you need.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

I did get assigned a buddy but I never met my buddy. Furthermore I did not have a big orientation week or anything. This can also be different because when we arrived some classes and a lot of the orientation was still online. I did receive an online orientation where a lot of the workings of the university were explained. Overall I did not miss the orientation because I had already met a lot of people through my accommodation.

### accommodation

I rented a room in a villa off campus in a house with 13 other people, mostly Dutch. Our landlord called Ganda (Yogya living solutions) had a lot of these types of villas where a many of the exchange students lived. My room was very spacious and I had my own bathroom. We had a shared kitchen and swimming pool. I also had my own personal scooter that I rented from the landlord. I paid a monthly rent of 270 euros including my room and the scooter. The house was amazing and especially the fact that all the exchange students lived in these types of houses was a lot of fun. We did a lot of nice activities together and hung out a lot. Due to the housing everyone made friends really easily so I would highly recommend renting a room from this landlord.

### leisure & culture



Because I only had classes two days a week we went on trips mostly in the weekend. Sometimes a local guide organised trips for the whole of the exchange group and we went to an island with almost forty people for three days in the north of java or made a scooter trip to some waterfalls. Other weekends I planned trips with my friends an explored the Island of Java and the region of Yogyakarta or made a trip to Bali. It was so special to be able to travel so much.

The culture in Yogyakarta is really different compared to home. The Islamic culture is very dominant and therefore you should also keep in mind some dress codes or habits that are different. I did have a really good experience with the culture, the people in Yogya are all very friendly and ready to help you. I liked the fact that the surroundings were so different from home and that you are really living in a different type of world.

suggestions/tips

I would also advise to make sure you have some time after study ends to go for traveling or stay a little while. The study period was five months and I decided to travel for two months because I was free of classes after for a while. Many of my friends also travelled or stayed in Yogya at least for a month or so after study ended and we all have really good experiences.

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend going to Yogyakarta. The last half year were one of the best months of my life. I met so many new people and learned so much from living abroad at this destination. I also think that it is a great destination for traveling because the living costs are so low. Of course it is expensive to fly to Indonesia but once you are there, there are so many possibilities to explore new things. I really loved the place where I lived and the friends that I made along the way. We had a close community of friends and experienced amazing things together.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are doubting I would say... GO FOR IT! It is an once in a life time experience that you will never forget!



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
Exchange application process at Utrecht University	My application process at Utrecht University went well. I got an e-mail with a link and through that I could apply to the University. Once that was done it was a lot of waiting before the university in Indonesia responded. The whole time it was unsure if we were accepted or not, because they didn't process our documents very fast. In the end it all was fine and I could apply for my visa. So, expect a lot of waiting once you applied, but besides that you must submit a few documents and they will handle everything with your visa.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University	The contact with the international exchange office was good. Since it was a busy time for them during the applications the responses sometimes took long, overall, they helped me very good. They also contacted me during my stay there to check on me.
Academic preparation	There is no academic preparation needed if you are going to study at this faculty. I didn't prepare anything and that was fine.
Language preparation	I had to do an IETLS test according to the information I got from the UU. But I would check that because I didn't have to submit it anywhere. Besides that, our English is probably better than most of the teachers.
Finances (living costs)	I saved a little bit since I didn't expect very high costs of living here. I saved for my flights and for some travels while being here. Besides that I used DUO at its maximum for the months I was here. You can make living in Indonesia as expensive as you want. Because I wanted to eat import foods, like yogurt, I had more expenses than people who only went out to eat at the local 'warung'. I also spend a lot of money there because everything was so cheap, I wanted to do everything, so for instance I had my nails done every month. But again when you want to live cheap you can. I think you should expect high monthly expenses since everyone from our exchange group was having those, like €900 a month. I should recommend you to save a bigger amount of money than I did (€2000) if you want to travel a lot (since you will have enough time). I still got to travel a lot, I went to the Philippines for two weeks, one week to Lombok and two weeks to Bali. Besides this I did a lot of weekend trips on Java.

<b>Study period abroad /About the host university</b>	
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)	I got to follow six classes. We had to register for those classes, but the most interesting classes were full fast. That resulted in the fact that I also had to follow classes like Australia's foreign policy.
Academic quality of education activities	Do not expect high quality education in Jogja. I had to follow six classes but showing up was enough. The level is not slightly comparable to what we do in Utrecht. For some classes you have to submit a short paper every week (300 words) and for most of my classes I had to write a paper as my final test. But all of this is not much work.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)	If you need contact with the university, you should just contact the people from the faculty through WhatsApp. You will get a link with this WhatsApp group shortly before you go. They will respond most of the time immediately. Before I was in this group, I emailed them. The response was sometimes very fast and other times I had to wait two weeks.
Transfer of credits	



Was done very fast. We could ask for our grades faster if you had to graduate earlier. We did this and I had my grades transferred by the end of January.

## STUDENT LIFE

Welcome/Orientation programme

Our faculty didn't have a welcome programme.

Accommodation

I was in an accommodation with 11 other people, who were all from the Netherlands. We lived in the north of the city; this is where all the exchange students live. I would recommend you live with this landlord. He owns houses for exchange students all over the city, so when you live in one of his houses you will get to meet new people very fast.

Leisure & culture

The culture in Indonesia is very different than in the Netherlands. Jogja is Islamite, so expect things like hearing a mosque at night. There is not so much a party culture over there as there is in Bali. You can't buy alcohol in the supermarket for instance. We bought at the black market and only few restaurants and clubs sold it. When you are outside your house it's not that you have to dress a specific way, I went out in a skirt and small top and that was fine. But you will feel how you should dress when you are there. When you go to a temple you should perhaps wear something more covered. They will not decline you entrance when you get there in a small top, but it's respectful to wear something more covered..

I did a lot of muay thai in my free time. Also a lot of time went to the weekend trips.

Suggestions/tips (need to know)

- For school there are for our faculty no specific rules. I just went with shoulders and knees covered and that was fine. But there are different rules for each faculty, psychology had to wear a collar for example.
- Bring your own sun cream since it's hard to find and when you find it, it has brightener in it and it's expensive.
- I would recommend you bring enough thin long trousers. Since it's handy to wear this on the scooter, and most of the times it will be cloudy in Jogja, so not extreme heat. Also, you will get used to the heat. I only brought one hoodie and regretted it after getting there.
- Do not bring many white clothes, the laundry will not get your clothes clean!!

## CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

Yes I would! It's such an experience to be by yourself on the other side of the world. The exchange community is very big, we were with 120 students (half of them were from the Netherlands). The people who live in Jogja are very sweet and will do anything for you. You get to travel a lot during your study and learn so much about other cultures. You will appreciate what we have in the Netherlands way more. You will have the time of your life and make lots of friends!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have more questions or if you are going and want to know more about for instance housing, contact me!



<b>PREPARATION</b>
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
Write a motivational letter and make a plan regarding the courses that you'd like to follow abroad
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
International exchange office and Student councillor of own department
Academic preparation
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Language preparation
/
Finances (living costs)
Approximately 500 euro's a month

<b>Study period abroad /About the host university</b>
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
The programme is mainly oriented on topics related to Central and North-East Asia. It takes a lot of time to get grounded at the University. A lot of bureaucratic issues regarding like for instance your VISA take place.
Academic quality of education activities
The level of the content is similar to the level of the content in the Netherlands. The amount of work we had to do is also comparable.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
You get a lot of support and help. Via WhatsApp, e-mail and at the service desk at the host university.
Transfer of credits
The transfer of credits went smoothly.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
Welcome/Orientation programme
The orientation programme was extensive and fun. You get to know a lot of people and the arrange a lot of things throughout the semester so you could get to know the city.
Accommodation
I had private accommodation which was excellent. If you start looking in advance, there is a lot to find. I would recommend people to look in the city centre or the north. I stayed at Student Park Hotel which was a great place to stay.
Leisure & culture
It takes some time to adjust in Yogyakarta. But people are friendly, helpful and welcome you with open arms. There is a lot to do. The city is between the ocean and mountains and is full of restaurants, bars, gyms, and recreational places.
Suggestions/tips (need to knows)
Always use cash, arrange your administrative stuff way before the deadline, and be prepared to pay a little bit more for your accommodation (250-300 euro's) so you don't have trouble with landlords, power, water, etc.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

Yes I would. Indonesia is a world that is almost opposite to ours. It is a fun city with a lot of students. The majority of the population is Muslim which is fascinating to be a part of. The university is different from the one you know from back home. It's more primitive and the campus is as big as a small city in the Netherlands.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

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