

**MY ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES DURING STUDY ABROAD OF  
INDONESIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY AWARDS (IISMA) IN  
CZECH REPUBLIC: A NARRATIVE INQUIRY**

**A THESIS**



**By**

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**June 2022**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadya x.' with a stylized, looping initial.

Nadya Samantha Sudargo  
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Praise to be the Almighty God because of His grace I can finish this thesis entitle “**My Academic and Cultural Experiences During Study Abroad of Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA) in Czech Republic: A Narrative Inquiry**” on time.

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4. My parents and my siblings who always support me to finish this thesis, through their support, I am able to achieve success and acquire higher education.

Surabaya, 24 June 2022



Nadya Samantha Sudargo



# **MY ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES DURING STUDY ABROAD OF INDONESIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY AWARDS (IISMA) IN CZECH REPUBLIC: A NARRATIVE INQUIRY**

## **ABSTRACT**

As a student, it has always been my dream to study abroad. When my lecturers shared information about student exchange programs such as IISMA, I was ecstatic to register. I wanted to experience the feeling of studying abroad, gaining the knowledge and cultural awareness from different countries of the world. Therefore, in this study, I would like to present my contribution to students who are planning to study abroad. My experience of studying abroad in Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic transformed me as a student. The transformations are based on two aspects: academic and cultural. The research question of this study is “How do the academic and cultural experiences during my study abroad in Czech Republic during IISMA program transform me as a student?”

This study is a narrative inquiry and autoethnography because I become the researcher as well as the participant. The data were collected through artifacts, documents, reconstructed narratives and reflective notes. The various data sources that I collected maintain the trustworthiness of the study. This is the data triangulation to maintain the credibility and originality of the study by presenting analyzed data as proof to my real experience.

The findings of the study show that my experiences of studying abroad transformed me academically and culturally. There is a significant difference of positive changes regarding my hard skills and soft skills. I improved my interpersonal skills as well. Based on previous studies done by McLeod, M., et. al., (2009), they have proven that most students who studied abroad acquire successful experiences led to feelings of increased self-confidence. As a student who experienced an opportunity to study abroad, I strongly agree on the statement that I encountered events where I had my skills challenged, my limits pushed to the most, and yet, I tackled all the challenges gracefully. Through these academic and cultural experiences and challenges, I had the best self-discovery and through this opportunity is where I truly learn and grow as an individual.

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