

Experience Report Stay Abrod



I went to Indonesia for my fieldwork (3rd semester) for my thesis for my Masters course International Studies in Aquatic Tropical Ecology(ISATEC) in University of Bremen. One needs to apply for research permit for indonesia , which is a very lengthy process in order to be a researcher student for your masters or phd thesis . One needs to create online account in online portal for foreign researcher of RISTEK after which you get login id and passport. Then one needs to upload number of documents. Eg: abstract of your research proposal, health certificate, bank statement, letter of financial support from uni or other partners, invitation letter from indonesian counterpart, invitation letter from Berlin embassy. At first police report from germany , recommendation letter from supervisor in germany and red background photos of specified sizes are required to send to Berlin embassy of Indonesia. It takes about two weeks but might take longer. All the procedure are provided online in RISTEK webpage. Then you get invitation letter from Berlin which also needs to be uploaded online as well. After the committee reviews your documents ,you will be provided with a research notification and embassy notifies you for appointment for visa. Altogether it will take around 2 months to get visa. Upon arrival in Indonesia, one needs to visit RISTEK for getting researcher ID. One also needs to go to police headquarter for travel permit, go to immigration for stay abroad card or KITAS for 6 months period and report to Kasbang office to get research permit letter for your study sites. One needs to bring passport ofcourse and residence permit card and relevant letters from university and institute and you may have to ask for letters from the affiliated institutions from home and abroad as per the situation later.

PROMOS scholarship is a very promising scholarship which fund for our allowance for time abroad as student. I found it very flexible interms of paperwork to be submitted as the species

one maybe sometimes impossible depending on country and context. Also as a DAAD scholar I got allowance for flight and my normal allowance for every month. Also my research institute ZMT had funded some of the projects of our masters cohort.

I would like to advise to bring credit card as I had my biggest problem. I had to take out money for the project as well and with the limit on my debit card it was impossible. After two weeks, I got my stay permit card or KITAS and I was able to open bank account here. Thanks to sparkasse online banking, I could transfer money to my Indonesian account online and money would come within 3 days for normal procedure.

My partner University is Universitas Jenderal Soedirman located in Jl. Suparno Purwokerto. Most of the students use scooters and bicycles as transport and there is mini vans as public transportation which will drop you off right in front of the university gates. But the public transportation is closed by 4 pm and only other option is taxi. There are many gates and many buildings of university and can be confusing in beginning. As the time passes, one can be familiar with the short cuts. There are many small food cafes with traditional Indonesian food and really cheap. You can eat and drink one time with just less than one Euro and our lunch got delivered at lab for free. There are hotspots of internet in university with wifi names varying as per buildings. I could not get username and password as I am only guest student but I use internet on my assistant students devices. Leibniz centre for tropical marine ecology (ZMT) which is a partner institute in this research has a lab and all the literatures I need is kept here. As I am writing this report, there is holidays in University and I cannot explore much about library or other facilities and also the wifi is turned off.

Students here are fan of karaoke and there are many karaoke cafes and entertainment centre. There is a futsal centre as well. Students are quite friendly. I had my research assistants in my field in Berau who are the students from uni and they are helping me here to know the place as well.

The head of the biology department personally picked me up from train station and helped me settle here. He provided me with the cheap student dormitory with attached bathroom and ac here which cost 50 euros a month. It does not have kitchen but there are many cafes outside but I still miss cooking my own recipes sometimes. Some students will be helping me with my identification and learning along with me. I have to present proposal to my supervisor and my assistants and finally present final report. I can totally work in English. Other than this I won't have any exams.

About accommodation there are plenty options like room where you share toilet with others or have personal toilet; with ac or without ac. It's important to have contact in university for dormitory. I do not know about private markets. The hotel rooms are not so expensive. A decent hotel may cost up

to 7 euros and they provide breakfast. There are indomaret chains of grocery stores and different malls. The traditional market „ pasar pagi“ opens just from morning 5 am to 11 am.

The places I was in Berau and Purwokerto were quite safe. But still I wont recommend going out alone at night. Another thing to alert you is the authorities are quite strict about paperwork and they may ask for stamps which I didnt have in my documents from germany. And also check your documents after receiving from Indonesian administration for typos, or documents without no signature or stamp.

Indonesia is full of mystery and so rich in culture and natural resources. The people here are so simple, friendly and smiling. Though you have to make several paperworks, people will help you keep your calm. I have learnt to be simple and more humble from my stay here. When I went to East Kalimantan, there was forest fire and my flight cancelled and had to go through speed motorboat and road way with so many equipments and luggages. This was quite an adventure. Also entering through the dense mangrove forests and catching crabs was really thrilling. Once me and team were caught up in high tide situation and we literally walked in murky water for an hour which made me ill. I will continue with biodiversity assessment of crustaceans and mollusck of aquatic environment for my upcoming career as well and I can explore so many possibilities and get more platform of opportunities from this stay abroad.



Thank you PROMOS!!