

## Cross-Cultural and Interreligious Understanding

Thursday, 28 November 2013

Many people have asked me why I chose to do an internship in Indonesia and why at UII. Well, I love travelling, I studied Multilingual Communication in my Bachelor and I would like to study International Relations in my Master. I have been to several countries in Western Europe as well as to the United States, so it was not hard to figure out that this time I wanted to do something totally different. That is why I chose to go to Indonesia, a country I had previously shortly been to for a vacation, but wanted to learn more about. And working at an Islamic university completed the experience of learning many new things, being in situations I had never been in before and thinking about many new topics. During the last couple of weeks, I have been invited to join the Bridging Program "the transition class for first semesters in the International Program" as a guest lecturer to talk about cross-cultural understanding, the importance of being open to everything new and maybe unexpected that passes your way while being abroad. Even though I have been here four months already, there are still situations when I notice differences, but I also realize that I am adapting more and more to all the living and working conditions here. In addition to that, I believe that I am very blessed with all the people that I got to know here in Indonesia and especially at UII, because they helped me a lot in the transition and adaptation process. The system of having a Buddy definitely helps a lot and the longer you stay here, the more people and therefore friends you get. By now, I know what to do around the office, who to ask if I have a question and where to get all the information you need. Plus, when your Indonesian colleagues ask for more German Christmas Music while working, you know that cross-cultural and interreligious understanding are simply part of everyday life here :)