

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Conclusion

To summarize the study, I have concluded all the events that I experienced both academically and culturally to be aspects that transformed me to the student I am today. This conclusion is intended to tie together, integrate and synthesize the various points made in the findings and discussions. It also reflects the introductory research question of how the academic and cultural experiences during my study abroad in Czech Republic during IISMA program transform me as a student. This research question is then broken down into two: my academic experiences and my cultural experiences.

Based on the previous studies, I took one from Wilson, Meredith Fant. (2014), where in the study, the researcher found that during the study abroad experience, students have experienced an increase in self-confidence, appreciation of diversity, self-reflection, and career development and learning. Through my academic and cultural experiences, I have come to the conclusion that they contribute to the transformation. Through my overall academic experiences, I became a student enriched with knowledge of European studies, improved my interpersonal skills and boosted my confidence. The events that I went through also faced me with challenges that I had to tackle. Furthermore, through my overall cultural experiences, I became the student enriched with multicultural awareness and gained global connection from all over Europe. I engaged myself with locals, learned their culture and language, tasted their food, experienced their customs and arts. Now, I am aware of the different cultures from different parts of the world.

My study is based on data from the analysis of artifacts, documents, and reflective notes. Therefore, what I present here is the upmost truth, without any sort of data manipulation. This way, I maintain my originality, credibility and trustworthiness of this study. These analyzed data is presented as proof of real experience that I had when I studied abroad during my IISMA student exchange program in Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic.

5.2 Recommendations

This study is my contribution to future learners who are planning to study abroad. I hope through this study, students can get more insights about studying abroad, especially about the IISMA program. I also expect this study to further push motivation to students to pursue scholarships abroad. This study contributes to the knowledge of academic and cultural challenges faced by other students who are planning to study abroad, and also my own personal experiences and challenges.

According to Baecher (2021), studying abroad is the opportunity to build intercultural competence and improves students' capacity to be submerged in various cultural backgrounds. From my findings of this study, I experienced events that led me to acquire both academic and cultural experiences. These events helped transform me into the student I am today. I took the example of my experience teaching Bahasa Indonesia daily conversation class. In my perspective, my academic experience of teaching in front of students is more likely to be easier because I am studying English Education, where I practiced teaching demos. Unlike most of my friends, they found the experience to be unfamiliar because they never had the experience of teaching before. It was challenging to me, because I never taught foreigners before. Therefore, I am grateful to have teaching experiences from my time learning in the English Education department. Thus, I recommend for future students who are planning to study abroad to immerse themselves in the whole experience of studying abroad. I recommend future students to acquire as much knowledge of academic and cultural experience.

Moreover, based on the findings of this study, I experienced the event of receiving the kindness of strangers when I asked for help. I took the example of getting ISIC, where I met with a kind stranger named Roma from Romania. I was beyond grateful to have met her. From this event, I recommend students to ask for be social and ask for help when needed.

Last but not least, based on the event of meeting strangers from Rome, I recommend to make as much global connections as possible. From this event, I had the wonderful opportunity to make international friendships from different parts of the world.

From my experience of study abroad, I learnt and acquired academic and cultural experiences and challenges that are necessary for future jobs. One of them are multicultural

awareness and literacy. Therefore, overall, students can learn so many things from the opportunity both academically and culturally, in which further supports the necessary skills required for the next generation jobs of the 21st century.

Based on my findings of the research, I have transformed into the student I am today enriched with academic knowledge from my time studying abroad and based on my cultural experiences, I also have multicultural awareness by making many global connections. For future research purposes, I recommend that the next researches should be about transformations to people through different aspects, other than academic and cultural. Perhaps the lifelong impacts of studying abroad. These recommendations are all based on the findings of this study.

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