



THE UNITED STATES – INDONESIA SOCIETY 2017 SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM May 25 – August 3, 2017

The United States-Indonesia Society is dedicated to expanding understanding of Indonesia and of the importance of the United States-Indonesia relationship. As the world's third largest democracy and the fourth most populous country, Indonesia is one of the United States' most important partners on trade and security issues. The archipelago of Indonesia is also one of the most culturally and environmentally diverse places in the world. The combination of a large population, generous resources, and a democratic government means the Muslim majority country is set to become an economic giant within Southeast Asia.

Despite its great importance, most Americans know little about Indonesia. Studies of Indonesia in the U.S. are vibrant but limited to very few academic institutions. The establishment of the U.S. – Indonesia Strategic Partnership in 2015 brought welcome attention to the significance of Indonesia at the policy level, but more attention needs to be paid to what undergirds policy: the people-to-people relationship.

For over 21 years, USINDO through its Summer Studies Program has worked to educate young Americans about Indonesia through in-country language and culture training in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The program has benefitted a total of 226 alumni, many of whom have returned to work, do business, or conduct research in Indonesia. The program is designed to give American students the skills – language, political awareness, cultural sensitivity, knowledge, and networking – they need to forge a relationship with a vibrant country full of opportunity. Students of any major, from environmental studies to music to international relations to Asian studies will find their interests piqued by Indonesia with this program.

Program Details

a. Orientation

The program will begin with a three-day orientation in Yogyakarta, where participants will be introduced to the local committee, their language tutors from ILCIC Sanata Dharma, as well as their host families. The participants will attend various sessions designed to enable them to create a richer and meaningful experience during their stay in Yogyakarta. Highlights of this year's orientation program will be the Cross-Cultural Understanding session which will help students gain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural differences between Indonesian and American Culture, as well as an 'Amazing Race' challenge which will help familiarize students with key places in Yogyakarta in a fun and interactive way. The program ends with the students moving in to each host family.

b. Classes

The language component of USINDO's Summer Studies Program is conducted in partnership with the Indonesian Language and Culture Intensive Course (ILCIC) housed at Sanata Dharma University's Language Center. ILCIC has had extensive experience in conducting Bahasa Indonesia teaching programs for foreign university students and its location in the heart of Yogyakarta allows Summer Studies students to interact directly with Indonesian students and locals in its lively campus atmosphere.

The program typically offers two class levels: beginner and intermediate. However, USINDO also accommodates participants wishing to learn at the advanced level as well. Typical class schedule is held Tuesday – Friday and covers the essentials of Indonesian vocabulary, grammar, and cultural contexts through interactive speaking, reading, writing, and listening exercises. Students also practice twice a week after regular classes with Indonesian tutors who are students in Yogyakarta. Such tutoring provides the opportunity to both the Indonesian and American students to engage at an informal level, to ask questions, and to develop friendships; many Summer Studies alumni have maintained these bonds long after participating in the program.

c. Host Families

Students will live with host families throughout their stay in Indonesia. The host family experience is intended to reinforce language studies during the day, and to give students the real experience of living with an Indonesian family. Indonesians are hospitable, welcoming people. Strong emphasis is placed on the importance of the family unit. By welcoming American students into their homes, host families welcome them to their daily routine and often invite them to participate as family members in significant events such as weddings. Significantly, the experience allows acquaintances and extended family of the host family to have exposure to young, educated Americans interested in Indonesia and willing to engage.

d. Special Lectures/Coffee Talks

Special Lectures will be held on a bi-weekly basis to introduce students to discussions of topics in various fields, including politics, history, culture, religion, and economics with an emphasis on current issues, such as good governance, interfaith relations, economy outlook, and Indonesia contemporary politics. The selection of topics will also take into account the participating students' fields of study and general interests. Speakers may come from prominent leaders in the Indonesian private sector, scholars, non-government sector, and media.

e. Cultural Workshops

Students are able to get firsthand experience of Indonesian culture through various cultural workshops, including: *gamelan* (traditional musical ensemble), *batik* (textile dyeing technique), traditional dancing, and cooking classes focusing on Indonesian cuisine.

f. Volunteering

USINDO first introduced the volunteering component in its 2015 Summer Studies Program, and it has been regarded as an important component that gives students the added value of interacting directly with Indonesians outside of their classroom setting. The students will have the option of choosing their places of volunteering according to

their personal interests and goals, and based on a networking event to match participants with potential host institutions. Students will have the chance to volunteer in a variety of local organizations, ranging from notable retail businesses, local NGOs as well as academic think tanks. The volunteering activity will be done on each Monday of the week.

Students who do not wish to take part in a volunteering activity will have the option of conducting a research project about Indonesia. However, this only applies for Ph.D. or Master's students who already have specific research topic that they are currently working on in relation to Indonesia. Through this research project, students will be required to find their in-country research supervisors, interview 10-15 Indonesian locals as part of their data-gathering process, and submit their research findings at the end of the program.

g. Field Trips

USINDO organizes a variety of field trips to renowned cultural and historical monuments/sites, as well as visits to local organizations in Yogyakarta. These trips are designed to allow the students to learn about and experience firsthand Yogyakarta's unique culture, history, tradition, belief system and natural wonders. Previous field trips have included the famous Merapi Lava Tour, as well as visits to the Imogiri Royal Cemetery, Nglanggeran Beach, Candi Borobudur, and a variety of other famous sites in and around Yogyakarta.

h. Practicum Period

During the last week of June (June 23 – July 2, 2016), an eleven-day mid-term break will be given to accommodate the Eid holiday. During this time, students will have a week break from classes and workshops. Students are allowed to travel **within** Indonesia during this time to conduct research or for leisure. However, students are required to inform the local program coordinator as well as their host families of their travel plans. Students are also responsible for their own travel arrangements and costs during the practicum period.

i. Outreach

Participating students will be required to produce, based on their experience in the program, four short blog articles and photo journals which USINDO will feature on its website. Students will also be required to create short video clips of their experiences during the program which will help future Summer Studies participants have a glimpse of what the program is like. USINDO will also encourage Indonesian tutors, host families, and volunteer host institutions to share on social media, stories based on their involvement in the program.

j. Post-Program Activities

Upon completion of the language classes in Yogyakarta, students will participate in a post-program event in Jakarta or Bandung, held from July 31 – August 2, 2017. This event, held in possible cooperation with the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, Republic of Indonesia, will expose students to a broader perspective of Indonesian culture. They will also have the opportunity to gain knowledge of contemporary issues facing Indonesia while networking with national and local government officials, activists from local civil society organizations, private sectors, and Indonesian university students. USINDO will also organize trips to renowned historical sites within the capital, such as

the Istiqlal Mosque, Jakarta Cathedral, Museum of National History, the National Monument, and many more.

Applicants will be required to participate in all Summer Studies activities, including attendance at classes and taking a final examination. Participants will be required to sign a statement verifying this intention, as well as a release form, upon admission to the program. Participants should be available to depart from the United States with the group.

For stories and articles of our past Summer Studies Fellows, please visit

<https://usindosummerstudies.wordpress.com/>

For photos of the 2016 USINDO Summer Studies Program, please click

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usindo/sets/72157668272372190/>

For photos of the 2015 USINDO Summer Studies Program, please click

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usindo/sets/72157654928881960/>

Eligibility

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and university juniors or seniors, currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree program. They may also be recent graduates (within 6 months) of any accredited U.S. college or university.

Fee

The program covers tuition, cultural activities, field trips, housing and board, airfare, student visas, and health insurance. Each student pays a fee of \$2,000 toward these program costs, and the USINDO Summer Studies Program provides the substantial remainder of these program costs. All incidentals are the responsibility of the student.

Deadlines

Applications and transcripts must be received by USINDO no later than **March 31, 2017**. Applicants will be notified of the decisions at the end of April.

Application Submission

All of the following application documents must be submitted via email to summerstudies@usindo.org.

- Application form: Please submit a completed and signed application form, available [here](#).
- Personal statement: Please submit a one (1) page personal statement describing your academic interests, career goals, interest in Indonesia, and how your participation in this program will enhance those interests and goals, as well as how your career might further the mission of the Society to promote more awareness of Indonesia in the United States.
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume: Please submit a curriculum vitae or resume (not to exceed 10 pages).
- Academic transcript(s): Please submit the latest academic transcript from the educational institution where you are currently enrolled or recently graduated from.
- Letter of recommendation: One (1) recommendation letter is required. Recommenders must submit the letter of recommendation directly to summerstudies@usindo.org. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their applications are submitted on time. Only complete applications will be considered.

Criteria for Selection

Applicants will be judged by the clarity of communication in their personal statements and their demonstrated interest in Indonesia or in learning about Indonesia. A strong academic record is required as well as a demonstrated interest and success in learning languages. Previous foreign travel is desirable but not necessary. Stated career plans will be judged in part on the likelihood that such a career will involve communicating knowledge of Indonesia to a broader audience.

Airfare

USINDO purchases roundtrip air tickets to Yogyakarta for students from any city in the US. Travel arrangements are made by USINDO.

Visa

USINDO will process the student visas at the Embassy of Indonesia in Washington, DC.

Students **MUST** possess a passport that is valid at least until December (of the program year), **AND** must have at least four blank visa pages in their passport.

Health Insurance

USINDO purchases health insurance from and will pay for the premium for each student for 4 months of coverage.

Students will be responsible for any deductible payments.

Contact Information

Questions or inquiries regarding the program can be directed to summerstudies@usindo.org or usindojkt@usindo.org or call 202.232.1400.

The United States-Indonesia Society (USINDO), is the premier bi-national non-governmental organization exclusively focused on deepening United States-Indonesia relations and mutual understanding. Since its establishment in 1994, USINDO has been conducting efforts to enhance Americans' understanding of Indonesia, Indonesians' knowledge of America, deepened people to people relations of the two countries and supported the U.S – Indonesia Strategic Partnership. USINDO implements its mission through open forums and discussions in each country, and through educational and legislative exchange programs and partnerships. In 2015, the U.S. and Indonesian governments acknowledged USINDO's unique role in fostering civil society engagement in the new U.S.-Indonesia Strategic Partnership.
