

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Education is one of the fundamental pillars in the development of a nation. Quality education is the key to shaping educated and knowledgeable individuals, as well as creating a skilled, productive, and inclusive society (Priscilla & Yudhyarta, 2021). However, issues related to access and the quality of education remain significant challenges in various countries, including Indonesia. Education serves as a strong foundation for economic and social progress, and investments in education have a significant long-term impact on the development of a nation.

As a student committed to expanding my knowledge and contributing to the improvement of education, I recognize that the university experience goes beyond the confines of the classroom. Instead, experiences during the college years can be enriched through participation in internship programs. Internships provide a unique opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired on campus to the real world, develop practical skills, and understand how organizations or institutions operate in practice.

One of the best choices for developing knowledge and skills is by joining the internship program at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) in Kuala Lumpur. KBRI Kuala Lumpur plays a crucial role in facilitating diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Malaysia. The embassy's presence encompasses various aspects, including support for the education of undocumented Indonesian Migrant Workers' (PMI) children in Malaysia.

There are several advantages to participating in an internship program at KBRI Kuala Lumpur. Firstly, KBRI Kuala Lumpur is an entity that has a significant impact on the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia. Through this internship program at KBRI, participants can understand the dynamics of diplomacy and diplomatic work at the international level. Secondly, the internship program at KBRI Kuala Lumpur provides unique access to understanding the role of KBRI in addressing social issues such as the education of PMI children. During this internship program, I will focus on "The

Strategy Of The Indonesian Embassy In Kuala Lumpur In Resolving Education Issues For Undocumented Indonesian Migrant Workers' Children In Malaysia."

In Chapter 6, I will explore various strategies implemented by KBRI Kuala Lumpur and analyse their impact on the access and quality of education for undocumented PMI children in Malaysia. I hope to gain a deep understanding of practical diplomacy, enrich practical skills, and make a valuable contribution to improving the education of PMI children in Malaysia. The internship program at KBRI Kuala Lumpur will provide valuable insights and practical experiences that will enrich my personal and professional development in the future.

1.2. Goals of the Internship

My goal for an internship at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is as follows:

1. Gain a deep understanding of bilateral relations between Indonesia and Malaysia, especially in the context of education.
2. Applying Theory into Practice: I have studied various relevant theories and concepts during my studies in International Relations. However, applying the theory to real situations can be challenging. Through my internship at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, I hope to apply the theoretical knowledge I have acquired to practical situations. I want to see how international relations theories are applied in daily diplomatic practice at the Indonesian Embassy.
3. Mastering Communication and Negotiation Skills: The internship at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur will provide an opportunity to improve my communication and negotiation skills. I plan to learn how to communicate effectively with various parties, including diplomats, government officials, and local communities. I want to learn negotiation techniques and strategies used in carrying out diplomatic duties and understand the importance of public diplomacy in building strong bilateral relations.
4. Building Networks and Connections: Internship at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur will provide the opportunity to build networks and connections

in diplomacy and international relations. I look forward to interacting with experienced diplomats and professionals who can serve as mentors and provide valuable insights for my future career. The network I build during my internship can become valuable social capital and open job or collaboration opportunities in the future.

5. Actively participate in activities related to the student exchange program carried out by the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, such as monitoring, organizing, and evaluating the program.

1.3. Benefits of the Internship

1.3.1. For the Intern

- **Practical Experience:** Getting an internship opportunity at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur will give me valuable practical experience in diplomacy and international relations, where this experience will impact the major I am currently studying, International Relations. I will be able to learn directly about diplomacy, negotiation, and cooperation between two countries.
- **Improve Competence:** I will be able to develop practical communication skills, analytical abilities, and a deeper understanding of current international relations issues. This will provide a strong foundation for my future career in the field of international relations.
- **Professional Networking:** The internship at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur will allow me to interact with experienced professionals and diplomats in the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur's work environment. I will be able to build a valuable professional network in this industry, which will be an asset for my future career.

1.3.2. For the International Relations program at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

- **Increasing Cooperation:** Through my upcoming participation as an intern at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, I will support the Indonesian

Embassy's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between Indonesia and Malaysia. I will contribute to identifying opportunities for cooperation in areas including politics, economics, society, and culture.

- This internship can provide the Indonesian Embassy with access to talented young workers in international relations. I will contribute positively and have new energy to carry out the tasks.
- Build collaboration with partners.
- Increase lecturer competence regarding links and matches with internship partners.
- Make it more accessible to determine graduate profiles and learning outcomes.
- Expanding opportunities for lecturers to conduct research and engage in community service.
- Follow the latest information updates and technology applied by internship partners.
- Provide opportunities for supervisors to see the reality of science and technology development among internship partners.
- As a program that can support the achievement of key performance indicators, especially for students who carry out activities outside campus.

1.3.3. For the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuala Lumpur

- Reputation Improvement: Student involvement in programs at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur will increase my campus' reputation in the field of International Relations. This will prove that our campus provides valuable practical opportunities for its students to develop skills that are relevant to the real world.
- Partnership and Cooperation: An internship at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur will open the door to partnerships and cooperation between my campus and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia. This can lead

to collaboration regarding knowledge exchange, research, and development of relevant study programs.

- Get workers familiar with the partner's work culture to be recruited directly and save on selection, education, or training costs.
- Partners get input or solutions to the problems they face.
- It is expanding synergistic cooperation with universities and study programs that can mutually provide positive input for the development of both parties.