Age: 21
Hometown and Country: Jakarta, Indonesia
Home University: University of Indonesia
Study Program: International Business Administration

Campus location
My home university recommended the Netherlands as a top destination for business students and VU Amsterdam offered the widest variety of courses. The university is also located in the heart of the city's business district, "Zuidas," which was a great combination with my studies.

First Impressions
Since this was my first time in Europe, everything was new for me. The city's beautiful architecture is evidence of its rich history. The bike culture is also a very attractive part of Dutch culture. Being able to reach everything by bike makes the city accessible and cozy. Although be warned: it takes some time to learn how to blend in with the other bikers and not stick out as a newbie!

Study load
Studying at VU Amsterdam is more difficult than at my home university because of the credit differences between Indonesia and The Netherlands. But the lecturers here are approachable and they explain the subject material well. I don't have to worry if I don't understand everything in lectures because the material is usually uploaded online.

Making friends
Joining the Semester in Amsterdam programme is one of the most rewarding decisions I made. Studying at VU Amsterdam is a great way to meet international students because the university has a very diverse student body. The Buddy Program also helps me meet people. It organizes events which bring together international students and Dutch students. Finally, living at university accommodation with a shared kitchen also helps me learn about other cultures. My floor-mates and I sometimes have dinner together. It's a great way to taste dishes from around the world.

Free time
It's always interesting to just take a walk downtown, looking for new restaurants or cafés. Sometimes when I miss home I go to an Indonesian restaurant to taste my favorite dishes. Taking a walk to just enjoy the lovely canal views or explore the beautiful parks is always fun.