



Mega Nopija, Malaysia

**Moving to and studying in Baden-Württemberg –
A priceless journey!**

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“It’s my seventh year abroad and I’m still appreciating every bit of it”, says Mega from Malaysia with a laugh. She is extremely cheerful and lively, always accentuating the brighter side of any situation. “Living away from home can be very challenging, but I try not to feel horrible when things crumble, believing that there are far worse problems occurring elsewhere.” Ambition and energy radiate from the young woman. Having studied in the United States before coming to Baden-Württemberg, she has always enjoyed multicultural surroundings. Her headscarf raises questions sometimes, but she is always willing to explain her lifestyle. “The fact that I don’t drink nor smoke doesn’t hinder me from hanging out with the others here”, Mega smiles. Her Islamic background appears to be an essential guideline for the graduate student, who rejoices in gazing at the night sky, travelling and exploring the outdoors when she is not busy with school work.

She looks forward to working in an international setting, dealing with issues of post-conflict reconstruction and educational policy. Regarding herself as a citizen of the world, she knows she is privileged. “With access to international education, students in general are fortunate to only have to invest some time working on school assignments to improve their lives, while others without similar opportunity have to work so much harder, energy-wise, to make ends meet.” Having been exposed to illiteracy and poverty in the neighbourhood she grew up in, Mega believes in the importance of tempering academic knowledge with “street smarts”, and that life is ultimately the greatest teacher. She also has her parents to thank for being role models of diligence and forbearance in never allowing their lack of formal education to deter the realization of their ambition.

Having done her internship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, she hopes to employ her theoretical and practical knowledge toward encouraging positive changes within developing communities. While she is at Lake Constance, she strives to brush up on her German, enjoy local cultures and cuisines, and meet people from around the globe while refining her personal and professional aspirations. Moving from one country to another and studying in Baden-Württemberg has been a priceless journey for Mega, leading her toward a better understanding others as well as her own culture and religion, and underscoring the importance of respect and tolerance as the key to effective intercultural communication.

www.study-guide-bw.de



Baden-Württemberg

The German Southwest.