

ANGGARANI FATMAWATI

Country of origin: Indonesia
Programme: Master Transportation Sciences,
specialisation Traffic Safety
ICP scholarship student
Graduated: 2019



Anggarani Fatmawati graduated in 2019 with a master's degree in Transportation Sciences, after which she returned to her native Indonesia. Anggarani is currently working at the Ministry of Transportation of Indonesia, where she works on developing policy regarding land traffic management, particularly in the Greater Jakarta Area. We took a few moments of her time to ask her a few questions about how her master's degree and the Hasselt experience in general has impacted her life.

What was your initial idea about the master's in Transportation Sciences?

Since my background is in urban planning, I was more familiar with courses which were focused more towards transport planning and engineering. However, having gained an ICP scholarship to do the Master of Transportation Sciences specializing in traffic safety, I realized how vital a part of transportation sciences, traffic safety is. This was also a big help for me personally since there aren't a lot of people in Indonesia focusing on traffic safety, so this is a great asset for me from an employment perspective.

My enrollment in the program directly affected my actions at a personal level as well. It changed my personal habits and view on transportation, since we are not very cognizant of traffic safety rules in Indonesia.

Coming from a developing country was also an advantage because I was able to correlate some of the case studies discussed in some of the courses with my personal experiences. I was able to contribute positively in problem-solving the cases.

Why did you choose the master of Transportation Sciences?

I have always been interested in transportation since my bachelor's degree, so when I decided to continue for a master degree, I looked for a degree in transportation. The curriculum of this program, got me really interested because it is multidisciplinary, and lots of the courses were related to the behavior of people in the context of transportation since I like to observe the way people are behaving around me. Besides that, the scholarship offered by VLIR-UOS under the ICP scheme also attracted me.

What courses do you think are key to this curriculum?

Well the curriculum has changed since I graduated in 2019. A lot of courses have been combined into a single course. During my study, the behavioral courses were my favorite and in my personal thought, these were the basis to understand the root of the problems in traffic safety. It was also interesting to know that traffic safety is not just about vehicles or the road, but in most of the cases the people/road users (and the interaction between those three aspects) play a significant role in the accident occurrence. Moreover, the internship program also gave me an opportunity to directly implement what I had learned, as well as to gain some insights from the professionals in the project that I joined.

How did the international experience of the program help you?

It was a huge help in learning about different perspectives, especially since we visited different countries and cities during the program and the students were also coming from various countries. I was able to learn about the latest trends and issues in transportation in the international arena, particularly from the courses like study visit and road safety in the South, along with some activities organized by IMOB such as conferences and summer schools. It was not topical knowledge only; I was able to experience the systems first-hand and to discuss and try to solve transportation problems with people from different backgrounds.

What do you think of the Hasselt experience?

It was a great experience overall, but a lot of it was unexpected. For example, I had to take a course on social psychology, which was unexpected. But after graduating I realized, when planning a city, it brought new insights about the psychology of people living in the city. So, it changed my perspective from when I entered the program after my bachelors. The internship also played a big role in helping me implement my newly acquired skillset on real-world problems. My degree specialty at Hasselt was traffic safety but my internship project was more related to transportation planning, so it helped me learn about the transportation side of things as well.

Did your degree from Hasselt help improve your career prospects or what would you to say someone choosing this field as a career?

Personally, it is a great opportunity because not many people are familiar with traffic safety and its skillset, especially in the South. The diversity in the courses helped me to broaden my view that transportation is not just about managing traffic or planning public transportation, but it is wider than that. Thus, I think it is important to know where you want to work and what you want to focus on.

Say something about Hasselt...

The thing I miss the most is the cycling. Every place is reachable by bike. There are so many interesting places on the bikeways like the city center. Coming from Jakarta, initially I found it to be small, quiet and calm. But it grew on me with the lovely bike routes and I really enjoyed the outdoors.

To all the students interested in this program, I would like to say: make the best of your limited time at the university. Participate in all the activities that you can, because being at Hasselt is a unique experience and it's over very soon. So, make sure to go all in.



Figure 1 Fellow Transportation Students



Figure 2 Study Visit to Madrid 2018