

The Implementation of Student Exchange Program on Students' Learning Experience at Universitas Jember

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Abstract. The purpose of this research is to explore the impact of the Independent Student Exchange Program (Program Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka—PMM) on enhancing students' learning experiences at Universitas Jember. This study used a descriptive qualitative study design with interviews and documentation to explore the impact of the student exchange program on student English skills and soft skills during and following the student exchange program. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven students from PMM batch 3 (2023) at Universitas Jember. The interview results demonstrated highly positive responses that the exchange program significantly enhances students' learning experiences by fostering intercultural competence and improving academic engagement. These findings suggest that such programs not only enrich students' educational journeys but also contribute to their personal development and global awareness, which is beneficial for educators and policymakers aiming to optimize student exchange initiatives.

Keywords: Learning Experience, Student Exchange Program, Cultural Adaptation, Academic Challenges, Personal Growth