



PERHIMPUNAN PELAJAR
INDONESIA DI JERMAN
INDONESIAN STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION IN GERMANY
VEREINIGUNG INDONESISCHER
STUDENTEN IN DEUTSCHLAND e.V.

REGISTERGERICHT:
AMTSGERICHT BONN
REGISTERJAHR: 1963
REGISTERNUMMER: VR2912

OPEN LETTER: 474/IV/KET/PTN-PPIJ/202223/07082023

EXPRESSION OF REGRET

**On the Plan to Enforce Tuition Fee for non-EU International Students in
Bavarian Universities**

August 8th, 2023

Dear Minister-President of Bavaria, **Dr. Markus Söder MdL**

Dear Bavarian State Minister for Science and Arts, **Markus Blume MdL**

Dear President of Technical University of Munich, **Prof. Dr. Thomas F. Hofmann**

We, *Vereinigung Indonesischer Studenten e.V.* (Indonesian Students Association in Germany), are writing this open letter to express our concern and regret regarding the new regulation that imposes tuition fees for non-EU students, scheduled to be implemented in the summer semester of 2024. One of our members, who is a student at TUM, received this information during this semester's General Student Assembly.

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude for the warm welcome and continuous support from Bavarian government and Technical University of Munich (TUM) throughout our academic journey. Many Indonesian students have chosen Bavaria as their academic destination due to its outstanding reputation for providing quality education, promoting diversity, and embracing international students.¹ These numbers tend to increase every year and correspond to the increasing number of alumni becoming Indonesian diaspora which are building careers in companies in Bavaria in various knowledge-based sectors.

However, the introduction of tuition fees for non-EU students poses significant challenges to this collaborative environment and may hinder future academic and cultural exchanges as well as economic cooperation. It will discourage many talented Indonesian students from pursuing their dreams of studying at TUM, one of Europe's leading universities, as well as bright and long-term

¹ According to the latest *TUM in Zahlen* report, there are more than 300 Indonesian students studying at TUM and more than 90 students are first semester students.

career. The financial burden imposed by this new regulation could render education in Bavaria unaffordable for students from modest backgrounds, especially reckoning the fact the majority of Indonesian students self-finance themselves for their study in Germany. On the other hand, one of TUM's Ten Guidelines for Excellent Study and Teaching is "Internationality," which emphasizes TUM's attraction to students worldwide and encourages and supports study stays at distinguished universities abroad. It is our contention that the decision to impose tuition fees would run counter to these principles and potentially undermine the international richness and diversity that TUM and Bavaria have worked hard to cultivate. We urge you to consider the broader positive implications of welcoming students from diverse backgrounds, both academically and economically, and the potential for further enriching Bavaria's educational and professional landscape.

Through this open letter, we therefore kindly request you to reconsider the decision to impose tuition fees to non-EU students and seek alternative measures to address the financial challenges faced by the higher education sector. We firmly believe that maintaining a robust support system for international students, including scholarships and financial aid programs, will enable Bavaria to continue attracting the brightest minds from around the world and foster a truly inclusive and diverse academic community, which in the long-term perspective will support and further develop its own advanced economic ecosystem. Taking into consideration the case of massive "Fachkräftemangel" in manufacturing, research and development, advanced producer service, and other knowledge-based sectors in Bavaria², we believe that Bavaria could only profit from the existence of Indonesian students who will in the most case pursue a long-term career of related branches in Bavaria.

We sincerely hope that you will consider our concerns and work towards creating an environment that nurtures the aspirations and potential of all students, regardless of their country of origin. The collaboration between Indonesia and Germany holds immense potential for fostering academic, cultural, and economic ties. Together, we can continue building bridges of understanding and contribute to a brighter future for both nations.

Thank you for your attention.

² According to some newspaper, the possible number of vacant jobs due to worker shortage in 2035 would be around 1,3 million in Bavaria alone. Surveys conducted nowadays on some thousand of Bavarian companies make the case of difficulties of filling vacancies and expose worries of future economic growth.

Yours sincerely,

**President of Indonesian
Students Association in
Germany**



Dimas Fakhri Arsaputra (M.Sc.
Mathematics Student at TU
Berlin & Internationales
Parlaments Stipendium
Awardee 2023)

**Vice President of Indonesian
Students Association in
Germany**



Agnia Dewi Larasati (M.Sc.
Electrical Engineering Student
at TUM)

**Deputy Head of Research,
Education and Strategic
Studies of Indonesian
Students Association in
Germany**



Geraldus K. Martimbang (M.A.
Architecture and M.Sc.
Urbanism Student at TUM)