

## *Imma Autobiography*

My complete name is Fauziyyah Imma Rahmatillaili. I come from Madiun, a historical city in East Java, and was born on August 21, 1984. After completing my study from Islamic kindergarten to Islamic Senior High School in Madiun, I then pursued my study at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University of Jakarta majoring in English Literature at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities and graduated on July 17, 2006 with honors.

During my study at the university, I was active in some English study clubs, one of which was named “*Kafe Bahasa*” at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities. This club helped me, and also the members, to improve their proficiency in foreign languages, especially in English and in Arabic. There were many programmes which could be chosen in this club, such as English courses, G with P (Growing with Poetry), WISH (Weekly Islamic Studies Hours), fortnight drill, Kafe Bahasa 21 (improving foreign languages through movies), etc. My interaction with Islamic Studies began when I became the one responsible for the WISH programme. I and the members gathered to discuss any recent matters related to Islam either in English or in Arabic in turn once a week.

In order to get a lot of experience in the busiest and biggest city, Jakarta, I also spent my spare time teaching on some English courses, and did a little business until I graduated from the university. Luckily, soon after my graduation, the secretary of the English Literature department contacted me and asked me to join the prestigious national programme conducted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) named *program pembibitan alumni PTAI se-Indonesia* (an upgrading programme for the alumni of Islamic Higher Institutions). Fortunately, I was accepted and joined the training programme for six months in Malang, East Java. The subjects followed were Arabic, English and Islamic Studies. Thus, through this programme, I had contact with Islamic Studies for a second time. Thanks to this programme, I was given information on how to get a scholarship for the MA Islamic Studies programme of Leiden University in the Netherlands. Soon I applied for the scholarship and fortunately I was accepted.

Now I am in the second semester at Leiden University and I like studying here. Although I only had a basic level of Islamic Studies before coming here, I am highly motivated to keep studying. I hope I can continue to study here until the end of the programme, so that after returning to Indonesia I can apply what I have learned here and share it with others.

Leiden, February 15, 2008