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**Building Social Bridges**  
by entrepreneurial thinking



# Role models

## Austria





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## Sri Yuliyanti



Either I teach, or I will probably become a minister of education.

## Biographical Data

1993	born in Cirebon/Indonesien, 2 brothers
2011	High School degree in Indonesia
2011	she goes to Germany as an au-pair with poor knowledge of German (A1)
2013	Au-pair stay in Graz, Austria
2019	Matura in Austria
since 2019	studying educational science in Graz

## Arrival in a new country, a new culture

When Yuli left for Germany, she did not know anything about Western Europe. In Indonesia she got to know Western tourists and she enjoyed taking photos together. But that was all. She was alone, when she came to Germany and she did not get any support. Arriving in a new country, a new culture was fraught with doubts and tension. She did not have more than 80 Euros and she had no return ticket. So she was forced to stay and to survive. The family she worked for meant a big support in that situation. They welcomed her with open arms and made her feel at home.

In 2013 Yuli came to Austria. Austria became a second home for her.

From everything she experienced in this period of her life, she learned the following:

*„Whatever you want to do, do it and don't be afraid.“*

## What supports and what hinders integration?

The main problem of integration is the language. The barriers caused by the lack of language skills are still a challenge for her. She had learnt some German in Indonesia (A1 level) but this knowledge helped her. It was a foundation to build on.

Working as an au-pair was a great opportunity to integrate. Being in everyday contact with the family she worked for helped her to orientate herself in Germany and later on in Austria. There was always somebody you could ask. Sharing everyday life makes it possible to learn the language more quickly, to get cultural insights and to get to know the habits and rules of the hosting country. It was an advantage for her that she really likes to work with children.

Of course she also faced a lot of problems, too. She had no official support. Financially, she was on her own. She already had got a place to study medicine in Halle but she could not take the chance because she could not afford to live in her own apartment in Halle.

In Austria she also faced difficulties. Her high school certificate was not recognized. So she decided to study at the „Abendgymnasium“ in Graz in order to obtain the Austrian „Matura“.

## **Friendships and supportive contacts**

The families she worked for helped her a lot in re-orientating herself in the hosting society and to get in contact with new people and to make friends.

Beside the families and the social network connected to the families, the „Abendgymnasium“ in Graz was very important for Yuli. It is a state school for adults who can attend to take the „Matura“. There are no school fees. Yuli attended the school for four years and made a lot of friends there. She found people who made her feel at home. Today the „Abendgymnasium“ is still a place for her where she finds support and information.

From today`s point of view Yuli wants to say the following:

*„I have not thought that I would get this far. I am proud to have overcome all the obstacles and to have done what I thought was right. “*

## **Future**

Presently, Yuli is studying educational science. She loves children and is very interested in working with children pedagogically. Her objective for the future is to work in the field of education as a freelancer.

On one of the 1700 islands in Indonesia she wants to open a hotel with a restaurant and a special reference to Austrian culture.

Her great dream is to found an orphanage in her home country.

Yuli is very optimistic, she believes in her competences and she does not give up quickly.

## Tips

- Make your dream come true!
- Find out what you want and do it!
- Learn the language!
- Find out about your host country and deal with the expectations of the host country.

Watch full self-portrait of Yuli:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBmuYX8w1qw>

<https://buildingsocialbridges.eu>



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