

Study in Malaysia

DXB → KUL • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Malaysia offers international students English-medium education, internationally recognised qualifications and comparatively affordable tuition and living costs. Students can choose from public universities, private institutions and Malaysian campuses of established overseas universities while experiencing a multicultural society in one of Southeast Asia's most connected education destinations.

AT A GLANCE

Quick Facts

TUITION FEES (BACHELOR'S)

**USD 2,500 – 5,000 / year (public),
USD 6,000 – 9,500 / year (private)**

LIVING COST

**RM 1,500 – 3,000 / month
(excluding tuition)**

TEACHING LANGUAGE

English

WORKING WHILE STUDYING

**Up to 20 hours per week, only
during semester breaks or
holidays longer than seven days**

AFTER GRADUATION

**12-month Graduate Pass for
eligible graduates**

WHY MALAYSIA

Why Study in Malaysia?

- ✓ Programmes across public universities, private universities, university colleges and international branch campuses
- ✓ Tuition and living expenses can be lower than in many traditional English-speaking destinations
- ✓ English widely used in higher education, with many programmes taught entirely in English
- ✓ Branch campuses of universities from the United Kingdom and Australia, so students can study towards an overseas qualification while living in Malaysia
- ✓ Foundation, diploma, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes, with transfer and twinning pathways that split a degree between Malaysia and overseas
- ✓ A multilingual, multicultural society that helps international students adapt to life abroad
- ✓ Kuala Lumpur's international transport links and access to the wider Southeast Asian region
- ✓ A 12-month Graduate Pass for eligible graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher

COSTS

Tuition & Living Cost

Tuition depends on the institution, qualification, subject and duration. Education Malaysia currently gives the following broad annual estimates for international bachelor's students:

INSTITUTION TYPE	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL TUITION
Public universities	USD 2,500 – 5,000
Private institutions	USD 6,000 – 9,500

These are general estimates rather than guaranteed prices. International branch campuses, specialist courses and laboratory- or clinic-based programmes may charge more. Medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, aviation and some engineering programmes can be substantially more expensive.

Malaysia applies a 6% Sales and Service Tax (SST) to tuition fees charged to international students from 1 July 2025. Students should confirm whether quotations include SST, registration charges, deposits, laboratory fees and other compulsory costs.

WHAT YOU NEED

Entry Requirements

Foundation and diploma programmes

Applicants normally need:

- ✓ A recognised secondary-school qualification
- ✓ Required grades and subjects
- ✓ English-language evidence where applicable
- ✓ Passport and official academic records

Bachelor's programmes

Applicants normally need:

- ✓ A recognised post-secondary qualification such as A levels, an international foundation, diploma, STPM or an accepted equivalent
- ✓ Required grades and prerequisite subjects
- ✓ Evidence of English proficiency
- ✓ Official certificates, transcripts and passport copy
- ✓ Portfolio, interview or entrance assessment for selected programmes

Master's programmes

Applicants normally need:

- ✓ A recognised bachelor's degree in a relevant field
- ✓ The minimum CGPA specified by the institution
- ✓ English-language evidence
- ✓ CV, statement of purpose or research proposal where required
- ✓ References and professional experience for selected programmes

Doctoral programmes

Applicants normally need a relevant master's qualification, research proposal, suitable academic background and, in many cases, identification of an appropriate supervisor.

Language Requirement

English requirements vary. EMGS accepts specified tests for the Student Pass process, including IELTS, TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, MUET, Cambridge English and other listed qualifications. Submitting the correct English certificate with the VAL application helps avoid delays.

VISA ROUTE

Student Visa Process

International students generally need a valid Student Pass to study in Malaysia. The process is coordinated through EMGS and Malaysia's Immigration Department.

Main stages

- 1 Receive an offer letter from an approved Malaysian institution.
- 2 Prepare the EMGS application, including passport, photograph, offer letter, academic documents, health declaration and accepted English-language evidence.
- 3 Submit the Student Pass/VAL application through the institution or permitted online route and pay the required processing, insurance, medical and immigration charges.
- 4 Wait for the electronic Visa Approval Letter (eVAL/VAL) and any additional approval required by Immigration.
- 5 Obtain a Single Entry Visa (SEV) if required for the applicant's nationality before travelling.
- 6 Complete pre-departure requirements and follow the institution's arrival instructions.
- 7 Travel to Malaysia only after receiving the required approval and entry documents.
- 8 Attend post-arrival medical screening at an approved panel clinic within seven working days of arrival.
- 9 Submit the passport for Student Pass endorsement after successful medical clearance.
- 10 Receive the Student Pass and i-Kad and maintain the attendance and academic progress required for renewal.

Common documents

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| ✓ Passport with the required validity and relevant visa pages | ✓ Health declaration and medical documents where applicable |
| ✓ White-background passport photograph meeting EMGS specifications | ✓ Yellow-fever vaccination evidence for applicants from designated countries |
| ✓ University or college offer letter | ✓ Personal-bond or institution documents where required |
| ✓ Academic certificates and transcripts | ✓ Insurance and payment evidence |
| ✓ English-language test certificate | |

For renewals, EMGS states that students generally need a minimum CGPA of 2.0 and overall attendance of at least 80%, with explanations required where these standards are not met.

Visa and Student Pass requirements vary by nationality, institution, programme and location, including separate requirements for Sarawak.

WHAT TO STUDY

Popular Courses

Popular study areas include:

Business Administration, Management and Entrepreneurship

Accounting, Finance, Economics and Islamic Finance

Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

Cybersecurity, Software Engineering and Information Technology

Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical and Civil Engineering

Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Biotechnology, Biomedical Science and Life Sciences

Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary Arts and Event Management

Architecture, Interior Design and Built Environment

Media, Communication, Animation and Game Development

Logistics, Supply Chain Management and Aviation Management

Education, Psychology and Social Sciences

Foundation and university-transfer programmes

Applicants considering medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering or other regulated professions must confirm programme accreditation and professional recognition in both Malaysia and the country where they intend to work.

WHERE TO STUDY

Popular Universities

The following institutions are widely considered by international applicants. This is not a definitive ranking.

- Universiti Malaya: business, engineering, science, medicine-related fields and social sciences
- Universiti Putra Malaysia: agriculture, life sciences, engineering, business and technology
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia: science, engineering, business, health and social sciences
- Universiti Sains Malaysia: science, technology, engineering, health and sustainability
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia: engineering, architecture, computing and technology
- Taylor's University: hospitality, business, design, computing and health sciences
- UCSI University: medicine-related fields, pharmacy, engineering, business and music
- Sunway University: business, computing, hospitality, psychology and creative industries
- Asia Pacific University: IT, cybersecurity, AI, data science, engineering and business
- Monash University Malaysia: science, engineering, business, medicine-related fields and pharmacy
- University of Nottingham Malaysia: engineering, business, science, education and social sciences
- Heriot-Watt University Malaysia: engineering, business, actuarial science and built environment
- University of Southampton Malaysia: engineering, computer science and business
- Xiamen University Malaysia: business, engineering, computing, communication and science

Students should check that the institution and programme are recognised by the relevant Malaysian authorities and, where applicable, accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and the appropriate professional body.

Ready to study in Malaysia?

From choosing between public universities and branch campuses to your EMGS Student Pass file, our counsellors plan every stage of your Malaysian application.

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Prepared by Edu Consultancy (IEC Management Consultants LLC), August 2026. Fees, requirements and visa rules are indicative and change over time; our counsellors will confirm the latest details for your profile.