

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Malaysia



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GLOSSARY¹

HEI: Higher Education Institution

iKad: Your identification card in Malaysia (containing your name, passport number, institution name, the length of validity of your Student Pass, and your photograph)

MOHE: The Ministry of Higher Education in Malaysia (the higher education sector is under the jurisdiction of the MOHE)

SEV: Single Entry Visa

VAL: Visa Approval Letter

¹ Mention any terms that are specific to this country, or terms that may have a different definition in this country

SECTION 1

1.1. INTRODUCTION²

GENERAL INFORMATION

The following are some general facts about Malaysia:

Official Language	Malay According to the Telegraph , as of 2017, at least half of the Malaysian population can speak English.
Official Religion	Islam. The Malaysian community shows tolerance towards other religions too however.
Number of Universities	Malaysia has a total number of 64 universities (as of 2018): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 20 Public Universities- 37 Private Universities- 7 Foreign Universities

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO MALAYSIA³

There are multiple reasons for Malaysia being considered an attractive country to study in, and they include the following. Malaysia is often considered to be 'mini-Asia', with a majority of the population being Malay, Indian and Chinese. Otherwise there are over 29 ethnic groups within the country. In this way you will be exposed to a variety of races, cultures and social atmospheres. Additionally, compared to other countries such as the UK and US, Malaysian education and living costs are much cheaper. In fact, there are many international universities, mainly from the UK and Australia, that have campuses in Malaysia, so you can potentially study with lower costs at a university in Malaysia and get the UK/Australia/etc degree. Most of these international universities are situated in the EduCity development in Johor, at the southernmost tip of Peninsular Malaysia.

Job Prospects⁴

Unfortunately, job prospects in Malaysia are limited. Government policies posit that Malaysian citizens should be given preference for job vacancies. So if employers want to hire international students, they have to prove to the government that there are no Malaysian citizens who are eligible for the job. This tends to discourage employers from considering international students. Note that this is the case for students while they are studying or even after they graduate. Nonetheless, if you are exceptional candidate then your chances may be better.

² General information about the country, specific to Pakistan, Number of international students studying there,

³ Specific benefits of studying in this country, how is it better than other places?

⁴ Why should one apply to the UK? What are job prospects like after you complete your degree -- in your home country, and country of study, and maybe even in other countries?

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Higher education in Malaysia is referred to as 'Tertiary' education. Within this Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees can be pursued in Malaysia.

Types of Institutions

1. **Public universities:** These are institutions funded by the state. Note that not all public university programs are open to international students.
 - a. As of 2019, there were 5 public universities that were awarded the title of '**research universities**'. They receive more funding and are given more autonomy than normal universities. They are also able to collaborate with foreign universities and the industry for research purposes.
 - b. Another type of public universities are **Focused Universities**, which have both undergraduate and graduate level courses in areas such as education, management, technical studies and defense.
 - c. Lastly there are **Comprehensive Universities**, which enroll a larger number of undergraduate students than Focused Universities.
2. **Private university:** These institutions are not funded by the state
 - a. **Universities:** These are Malaysian private universities
 - b. **Foreign university branch campuses:** These are foreign universities that have branches/campuses in Malaysia.
3. **University Colleges:** These offer Bachelor's degrees and Diplomas. They are smaller than universities and they offer a limited number of programs in specialized fields.
4. **Polytechnics:** These provide trainings for diplomas (elaborated in the 'Postgraduate' section, under the 'Non-degree Programs' subsection).
5. **Community Colleges:** These offer professional training -- these lead to Diplomas or Certificates (non-degrees). For these make sure the program/course is titled 'formal' if you decide to pursue these.
6. **Vocational Colleges**

Note: if an institution is called University College, it means that the institution is at the tertiary level and provides training for degrees, but has not yet attained the status of a 'University'.

When choosing universities or educational institutions, keep in mind that:

1. The higher education institutions need to be approved by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia.
2. Courses offered by the institutions need to be approved of by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, and should also be endorsed by the [Malaysian Qualification Agency](#).
3. For universities to be eligible to accept international students, they need to be approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs, [Immigration Department](#).

Choosing a Program/University:

When considering which program/university to apply to, you should consider the following:

- Type of Higher Education Institution: There are a variety of higher education institutions set up in Malaysia, as mentioned in the previous section. When choosing programs, you should decide on which kind you would prefer to study in.
- Type of qualification: You can either go to a Malaysian institution and get a Malaysian degree, or you can go to a foreign university branch campuses and earn foreign qualifications (such as UK, US, Australia and more).

Also consider the following things:

- If you know the field/subject you want to pursue then you should look for institutions that offer this. Then you should shortlist institutions based on the kind of resources they have (faculty expertise, library resources, lab facilities if relevant etc.).
- If you face financial constraints, you should look for programs that offer scholarships (see the relevant sections on Scholarships below for more information on this). Note that the availability of scholarship shouldn't be the main deciding factor, but just one thing you keep in mind when choosing amongst programs. If you are going to invest in higher education abroad, you should look for a balance between cost and quality. A low quality program (i.e. one with limited resources or inexperienced faculty etc.) that has lower costs may negatively affect your study experience and job prospects.
- You should try to choose programs that are recognized in Pakistan (if you plan on working here post-graduation). To find out which universities are recognized, you should contact relevant professors or alumni from Malaysian universities who came back to Pakistan. They will have a better idea about the kind of universities that are well known and accepted in Pakistan. If you study from an unrecognized university, it could negatively affect your job prospects.
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[This](#) resource is useful when searching for institutions.

Malaysian Qualification Framework

Extracted from [MQF](#)

MQF Level	Minimum Graduating Credit	Academic Sector	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector
8	No credit rating 80	PhD by Research Doctoral Degree by Mixed Mode & Coursework	
7	No credit rating	Master's by Research	

	40 30 20	Master's by Mixed Mode & Coursework Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate	
6	120 66 36	Bachelor's degree Graduate Diploma Graduate Certificate	
5	40	Advanced Diploma	5
4	90	Diploma	4
3	60	Certificate	3
2	30	Certificate	2
1	15	Certificate	1

Note:

- For an overview on the kind of skills/knowledge each of these degrees/programs/levels should lead to, please refer to pages 31-37 of [this document](#)
- Certificates and Diplomas are non-degree programs, explained in the 'Postgraduate' section, under the sub-section labelled 'Non-Degree Programs'.
- TVET sector: These are programs that are offered by public universities, private universities, polytechnic, community colleges and vocational colleges. The purpose of these programs is to develop the "knowledge and cognitive skills, functional and work skills and specific 10 industry-appropriate competencies" ([MQF](#)). Such programs tend to be practice-oriented.
- Academic Sector: This is defined by [MQF](#) as "qualifications which include general education or discipline-oriented programmes from level 1 to 8 for the purposes of advancement to higher education, career, and professional practice and employment opportunities in various sectors".
- To understand the definition of each MQF level, please refer to pages 22-27 in [this document](#).

COMMON PROBLEMS WHEN SWITCHING SCHOOLING SYSTEMS⁵

Afaq Nasir (studied a BA in Finance, Management and Accounting from the University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus) comments that one of the issues that some Pakistani students faced when switching

⁵ This should include information on subject specialization. Are people expected to come in with specialized backgrounds in the field they are applying for? Are people limited to certain fields in the next tier of education or not?

to the Malaysian schooling system, is that it is often difficult to understand the English accent of the teachers. However they say that this is not a major issue and shouldn't discourage students from applying here. It just means that you may need to do some independent work to catch up on things you may not have completely understood in the class.

1.2. APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Application Components

The following are a list of documents that are often required when applying to Malaysian universities:

- Application Form
- Completion certificate of your Bachelor's degree
 - Completion certificate of Master's degree is additionally required for PhD programs
 - All documents must be translated into English. Some universities may require you to send the original and translated documents.
- Transcripts
- Passport Pages
 - Usually, all pages of your passport are required.
- Passport sized, coloured photograph
- English Proficiency Tests (TOEFL, IELTS)
- Research Proposal
- References

Note that this is by no means an exhaustive list; it is important to consult the admission requirements page of every university you apply to.

Also note, if you are applying to a UK/US institution with a campus in Malaysia, then you may be able to use our US/UK field-specific tip sheets.

Application Cycle

Check university admission pages to find out relevant deadlines.

Application Process and Timeline

When applying to a university in Malaysia, you apply directly through the university-specific admission pages. Make sure to follow the admission guidelines presented on the page.

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

How applications to Malaysia are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for Malaysia compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

TRANSLATABILITY KEY	Are they required? How important are they compared to the US/UK?
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	Sometimes required
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	Required
STANDARDIZED TESTS	Not usually required - you should check university-specific requirements
TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)	Required
INTERVIEWS	Sometimes required
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTS	English language proficiency tests are usually required (similar to the UK and US). IELTS and TOEFL are the most common of these.
FINAL COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are applying to a UK/US-based university, then you may be able to use the UK/US field-specific tip sheets. 	

SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES⁶

Usually Bachelor's degrees take 3-4 years to complete, however this can vary depending on the institution and/or field/program (for example, medical degrees usually take 5-6 years to complete). A degree that takes 4 years to complete is usually an Honors degree.

The following degree options are available in Malaysia:

- **Bachelor of Arts (BA):** usually awarded in the areas of social sciences, linguistics, cultural sciences, informatics.
- **Bachelor of Science (BSc):** usually awarded in the areas of natural sciences, engineering, mathematics and informatics.

There are also subjects which are offered both as a BA or BSc -- these include psychology, business, geography, architecture, accounting, economics. In such cases, both degrees are similar in that most of the course work is usually similar for BA and BSc degrees. The difference is that for BA degrees, you can minor in or choose electives (additional courses) in the liberal arts (such as philosophy, writing, language etc.), whereas BSc degrees usually require students to take up scientific courses to complete the curriculum (e.g. maths, science, statistics, research methods etc.).

Other degrees include:

- **Bachelors of Engineering (BEng):** specialized degree for engineering
- **Bachelor of Law (LLB):** specialized degree for law.
- **Medical degrees (MBBS):** specialized degree for medicine,

Note that a Bachelor's degree can also be termed as 'first degree' or 'ordinary degree'.

Some variations of a Bachelor's degree include:

- Major: Bachelor's of A -- This type of degree has a single major and so a majority of the course content will cover that major. For example, Bachelor of Economics means that the majority of the program covers Economics.
- Major with specialization: Bachelor's of A (B) -- This type of degree has a single major (A), which again the major component of the program. But, in addition to this, there is a small portion of the program that focuses on a specialization (B) within the field A. For example, Bachelor of Economics (International Trade). This means that the major studied is Economics, and the student has specialized in International Trade.
- Double Major: Bachelor of A **and** B -- Here you have 2 majors (A and B) and so the course content is equally divided (50-50) between A and B. This means that 50% of your program's courses are from field A, and the remaining 50% are from field B. For example, Bachelor in Economics and Business. Such courses may take longer to complete.

⁶ How many tiers are there? Identify differences in costs, criteria for admission, quality of education, duration and structure of program post-educational opportunities and career prospects. How does one choose one tier over another?

- Major with a Minor: Bachelor's of A **with** B -- In this case a student has completed a major in Field A and has also completed a minor in another field, B. For example, Bachelor of Economics with Finance. The major will still constitute a majority of the course load but then a small portion of your course load will be from the minor.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE⁷

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN⁸

To be eligible for admission into an undergraduate program in Malaysia, you need to have a National Higher School Certificate or a school qualification that is equivalent to the one offered in Malaysian schools. What is considered equivalent to the Malaysian system can differ depending on the university.

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels) OR International Baccalaureate

If you are completing your A Levels or International Baccalaureate, you are typically eligible to apply directly for an undergraduate degree in Malaysia. You will be subject to university-specific and program-specific requirements, such as how many subjects you have to take at what level, and what grades you need to get. Make sure to view these requirements very clearly on the relevant university websites.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

A number of Malaysian universities accept the HSSC as equivalent of the Turkish Secondary School system, granted that you have passed. Depending on the university or program, your grade in the HSSC may need to be as high as 85%.

English Language Requirement

To be accepted into most undergraduate programs in Malaysia, you have to prove your fluency in English. If you have done A Levels or IB, you will typically not need to do this, although there may be exceptions, so make sure to check with your desired university. If you have done HSSC, you may have to do IELTS or TOEFL before applying. The required scores in these tests are typically given on specific university websites.

⁷ What education system most closely follows this specific country's education system?

⁸ British, Pakistani, American, etc? Which one is the best to choose for this country compared to the rest? How can you get in with a different schooling system?

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP⁹

FEES

The fees at Malaysian universities depends on the following factors:

- Whether the university is a local one or an international campus
- What program you are going for

Local universities typically expect you to pay up to **\$4,000 per year (as of 2018)** for an undergraduate degree. International campuses expect you to pay more, and the fees here can go up to **\$10,000 per year (as of 2018)**.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Most scholarship opportunities are provided by the institution you plan to study at. You can use [this link](#) to browse through such scholarship options (note that this may not be an exhaustive list).

Note that your chances of getting a scholarship are likely to be dependent on your academic standing.

⁹ Mention all scholarships available to Pakistani Students, include information on general finance + living expenses/travel cost

SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES

Master's degrees can be:

- Research-based
- Mixed-mode (coursework and research)
- Coursework/taught

They can be in the form of:

- Master's of Science (MSc)
- Master's of Arts (MA)
- Master's of Engineering (MEng)
- Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Law (LLM)

Otherwise doctoral studies can take the form of any of the following:

- PhD by Research
- Doctoral Degree by Mixed Mode & Coursework

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S¹⁰

You will need to have an undergraduate degree from a recognized institution to be eligible for a Master's admission. Depending on the university or program, you may have to have done your undergraduate degree in a relevant field.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

Typically, you will need to have completed a Master's degree in a relevant field to apply for a PhD in Malaysian universities. You may be exempt from this and may be able to apply straight after an undergraduate degree if you have a certain GPA or grade level in your first degree, or if the university you are applying to doesn't have this as a strict requirement. In some universities, for example, you can go straight for a PhD if you achieved a 3.7 GPA or higher in your undergraduate degree. Make sure to check these requirements on your specific university website when applying.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS (CERTIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMAS)¹¹

NOTE: The training provided by these non-degree diplomas and certificates is based on the Malaysian context and so may not be applicable to Pakistan or other countries, if you plan on working elsewhere. In this way, before considering pursuing such non-degree programs, you should make sure to find out if they are accepted in the country you are planning on working in.

¹⁰ British, Pakistani, American, etc? Which one is the best to choose for this country compared to the rest? How can you get in with a different schooling system?

¹¹ What are the requirements for someone who is interested in applying for a non-degree program? Do they need prior degrees, or a certain amount of professional experience? Any other relevant information that should be shared with applicants?

1. **Certificates:** these pursued by students who wish to develop certain skills or knowledge. There is a greater focus on practical training, as opposed to academic training for certificates. These usually take less time to complete, as compared to diplomas -- certificates can be attained after several weeks or several months.
 - a. Level 1 Certificate: This is a preparatory level learning, where students are taught the basic and fundamental concepts of a subject or field. It is sort of a stepping stone for future work or study in that subject/field. This training will prepare you to perform “unsophisticated” and “highly routine” tasks, and understanding their consequences, as defined by the [MQF](#)
 - b. Level 2 Certificates: This is also a preparatory level learned -- here students are taught factual information and basic principles of a subject or field of study. The training outcome is that students will be capable of future learning in this subject/field or working on a limited number of routine tasks, solving problems and taking on basic responsibility in a job environment, related to that subject or field.
 - c. Level 3 Certificates: The learning for these involves understanding the main basic facts, theories and principles prominent in a subject or field of study. For TVET qualifications, students should be able to perform certain technical tasks, should know some technical knowledge and have developed some technical skills, relevant to the subject or field of study. As compared to the previous levels, this certificate level trains students to be able to take on more complex tasks and responsibilities, in a more independent manner.
2. **Diplomas:** Polytechnics, universities and accredited private providers usually offer diplomas. Diplomas generally aim to increase your understanding of a particular field or area, in terms of principles, theories, concepts, facts and ideas. As compared to certificates, they have more in depth learning. In this way, students are trained to take on higher level positions in the work environment for that field/subject (sometimes more than one subject/field is taught through the diploma). Students should be able to work in a semi-professional post.
 - a. Polytechnics provide diplomas within the fields of Engineering, Computing, Architecture, Business, Language or Science. They aim at training semi professionals so that they are prepared for the job market. Programs that offer diplomas may have a duration of 2-3 years depending on the program.
3. **Advanced Diploma:** These usually take one year to complete, and it is pursued by students who want to gain specialized knowledge in a subject/field/discipline. Such programs also develop critical, analytical, creative thinking, specialised technical or professional practice and leadership skills. It trains students to take on a good amount of responsibility and to work in a variety of contexts (even those that are unpredictable). Students who complete this degree can work in higher managerial, technical/vocational or professional field positions or can pursue higher level study.

- 4. Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma:** These programs develop technical skills, to the requirements of Level 6 learning (please refer to the table in the 'Introduction' section, under the 'Overview of the Education System' subsection. The curriculum and training of these programs was specialized to particular contexts within the professional work environment. After completing either of these degrees, students can pursue Bachelor's degrees or go for the job market. The main reason why students would go for these over Bachelor's degrees is that these have a shorter duration. They are usually pursued by students who want to continue their professional development, change their field of training or expertise or need this as a part of their entry qualification to a higher level of study.

 - a. Note that the graduate certificate has fewer credits than the graduate diploma -- this implies that the graduate certificate can be completed in a shorter time, as compared to the diploma. You should consider time constraints when deciding amongst the two (alongside other things such as course content, structure etc.).
- 5. Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma:** These programs add to the knowledge/skills learned during the Bachelor's degree. They enhance your academic/professional/technical skills, to help you progress further in your career or studies. They can be pursued if you want to continue your development in a particular field/subject, or if you want to change your field/subject. The learning outcomes should be at least to the level of a Master's degree.

 - a. Note that the postgraduate certificate has fewer credits than the postgraduate diploma -- this implies that the graduate certificate can be completed in a shorter time (usually one semester), as compared to the diploma (usually 9-12 months). You should consider time constraints when deciding amongst the two (alongside other things such as course content, structure etc.).

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP¹²

FEES

In public universities, the tuition fees depend on the type of program you are going for. Typically, MBA programs are more expensive than other programs. Tuition fees can range from **\$6,250 - \$9,000 (as of 2018)** per year. The same course on an international campus can cost up to **\$15,000 - \$20,000 (as of 2018)** per year.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Most scholarship opportunities are provided by the institution you plan to study at. You can use [this link](#) to browse through such scholarship options (note that this may not be an exhaustive list).

Other sources of funding:

- You may be able to take up assistantships in the university or other jobs that pay income -- note that the income earned from such jobs will not be enough to finance all your studies/living in Malaysia. Earnings from jobs can be a source of funding for small expenditures.

¹² Mention all scholarships available to Pakistani Students, include information on general finance + living expenses/travel cost

SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

4.1. APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA¹³

All international students who wish to study in Malaysia (for whatever purpose, and whatever length of study) are required to have a Study Pass or a Student Visa (both terms refer to the same thing). You will need to apply for this visa through the Department of Immigration Malaysia. (In many cases, your higher education institution manages the visa process for you -- their rules or processes should be given to you once you are accepted).

Along with the Student Pass, you will most likely need:

- A letter of admission/acceptance from your HEI,
- Proof of health,
- And any other documents that may be needed for immigration, as specified by the embassy -- to enter Malaysia.

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY¹⁴

A visa application typically takes around 1 week for processing. For details on the process and for a general timeline, please refer to [this link](#).

A visa application can be made through your HEI as well. You should ideally give your HEI at least one month to facilitate your application.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST¹⁵

Your Student Pass application is likely going to cost you a total of the following:

Note that these figures were last updated in May 2019

- MYR 1,060 (approximately USD 255) -- this is non-refundable and is the application processing fee.
- MYR 579 (approximately USD 579) for subsequent document processing, which is refundable if your application gets rejected.

You can calculate your visa application fee using [this tool](#).

Personal Bond

The immigration department requires all HEIs to sign a personal bond on behalf of the student, binding the university to a specific sum. The university will expect you to lodge the specified amount for this purpose. The money will be returned to you at the end of your study -- on the condition that you have not violated any immigration law during your stay in Malaysia.

¹³ What are the different kinds of student visas? Which one should you apply for?

¹⁴ The earliest you can apply for a visa; how long it takes for the decision to arrive, and any other relevant information

¹⁵ General cost, try to add a link here in case of changing information (and date it); if there are any extra costs that will be incurred when applying, mention those too

The personal bond form can be submitted after you have arrived in Malaysia.

Medical Screening

As an international student, you will be required to undergo a medical screening while you are still in Pakistan. You will need to submit this pre-arrival medical examination report to your institution, along with all your other relevant documents.

You may be required to attend another medical screening, after your arrival in Malaysia (possibly within seven days of your arrival).

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN MALAYSIA

For the duration of your study/but sometimes you need to get your Student Pass renewed as well.

APPLYING¹⁶

This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.

You can apply for your student visa through two ways:

- **Apply online**
New students, who have received offer letters from Public Universities and Private Higher Education Institutions will have the option to apply for their student visa directly through the Education Malaysia website.

- **Apply through your institution**
Once you submit the payment and all required documents to the institution, they will begin the process of applying for your Visa Approval Letter (VAL).

To get a VAL (Visa Approval Letter) from Immigration Malaysia, you will need to do the following:

1. Get an Offer Letter from your HEI,
2. Submit all relevant documents,
3. Apply for a SEV (Single Entry Visa) at the Malaysian Embassy in Pakistan,

OTHER INFORMATION

iKad

You will receive an iKad after you receive your Student Pass. The iKad will act as your identification card in Malaysia, and will contain the following: your passport number, your nationality, the name of your

¹⁶ Visa application process (specify when this section was last updated and provide a relevant link as well): online application, day of visit + documents required, after submission, collecting your documents

institution, duration of the pass and your photograph. You can apply for this at the time you are making a VAL application. Note that there is no substitute identification document for the iKad, so when you get it, you must take extra care and avoid misplacing it.

How to avoid problems when applying for a visa?

- If you have any difficulty in obtaining your Student Visa, you should contact your HEI's International Student Office. They might be able to help you obtain a Student Pass or advise you on how to apply for a Student Pass after you have entered the country on an ordinary travel visa.

VISAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDENTS¹⁷

Students who have gained admission into a Malaysian HEI are allowed to bring their immediate family members, i.e. their children and spouse, to live with them in Malaysia. Family members are given a Social Visit Pass, and can stay in the country for your duration of study.

They will need to provide the relevant forms, a verification letter from the HEI, proof of their relationship with you, and any other documents specified by the embassy.

Working in Malaysia

Working while studying

If you are enrolled in a higher education institute, whether it is undergraduate or graduate-level, then you are allowed to work during any holidays that last longer than 7 days (semester breaks included), for a maximum of 20 hours per week (i.e. part time work). However, the following clauses exist:

- You must get the permission of the educational institute you are studying in.
- You must also get the approval of the Department of Immigration.
- You are allowed to work in the following jobs:
 - Mini Markets
 - Restaurants and Cafes
 - Hotels
 - Petrol Stations
- You are **not** allowed to work in the following jobs:
 - Cashiers
 - Within a hotel: as a singer, musician, masseur or Guest Relation Officers
 - Any job considered immoral
- When you start working, the educational institute you are studying in will be required to submit your class attendance and performance to the Department of Immigration every 3 months.

¹⁷ How easy it is for spouses/children to get visas? How long does it take? Is it generally an option that Pakistanis opt for?

When applying for the job, you will have to apply through the educational institute you are studying in; then you must go with a representative of the educational institute to the Department of Immigration of Malaysia and submit your application.

Note that part-time work for students is of minimal pay and should not be used as a means of financial support for courses or living expenses.

Working in Malaysia after graduation

After you finish studying, in order to work in Malaysia, you must obtain an Employment Pass. An Employment pass is a work permit allowing foreign citizens to take up contractual employment.

The following are different types of Employment Passes:

Employment Pass (Category I)	In order to be eligible you must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum salary of RM 10,000 per month• An employment contract for up to 5 years
Employment Pass (Category II)	In order to be eligible you must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum salary between RM5,000 to RM9,999 per month• An employment contract for up to 2 years
Employment Pass (Category III)	In order to be eligible you must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum salary between RM3,000 to RM4,999 per month• An employment contract for up to 12 months (must not exceed this)

Visit the [Online Guidebook](#) (Immigration Department of Malaysia) for more information on Employment Passes. Relevant forms can be downloaded from [this link](#).

Note:

- The company you have a potential contract with must be registered with the Expatriate Service Division (ESD).
- The company initiates the process of applying for the pass, you can not do it independently.

4.2. ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS¹⁸

There are various accommodation options that you can opt for as an international student living in Malaysia. These include:

- Residential accommodation (on-campus accommodation)
- Rented Bedrooms (in an apartment or a house)
- Studio apartments/condominiums
- 3-4 bedroom apartments/condominiums
- Non-serviced bedroom apartments

You can find more information on each of these options in the table below.

Note: The figures in the table below were last updated in December 2018

Accommodation Type	Details
Residential Accommodation	<p>This is the on-campus accommodation that is offered to you by your HEI. The rates for this type of accommodation will vary--but most HEIs will offer affordable options (ranging between RM600 (US\$144) and RM3000 (US\$732) per semester).</p> <p>Rooms will be furnished (bed, cupboard, desk and chair) and you can choose between single and double occupancy. Bathrooms will usually be shared.</p>
Rented Bedroom	<p>If you want to rent a bedroom in an apartment or a house (in Kuala Lumpur or Selangor), it will cost approximately RM350 (US\$85) per month.</p> <p>Rooms can be partially or fully furnished (this varies from place to place). The room will usually include a shared bathroom. If you wish to rent a room with a private bathroom, it will be more expensive. Some places may allow you to use the kitchen as well (confirm this with your agent).</p>
Studio Apartment/Condominium	<p>These are more expensive and will cost at least RM1500 (US\$351).</p> <p>They are usually partially or fully furnished, and usually have other facilities too (such as swimming pools, gymnasiums etc.).</p>
Bedroom	<p>These are typically 3-4 bedroom apartments, ranging from</p>

¹⁸ Try to find accommodation options for both undergraduate and graduate study. If there is no major distinction, then look for general options. Use interview to get more information as well

Apartment/Condominium	RM1500 (US\$351) and RM2500 (US\$602). These may be unfurnished or furnished, and will usually offer other services like swimming pools, gymnasiums etc.
Non-Serviced Apartments	These are typically 3-4 bedroom apartments in family neighbours, and the starting price is approximately RM550 (US\$132). These can be furnished or unfurnished.

*Rates are given for Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. Rates in other states tend to be lower.

Cities ranked according to cost of living cost

Kuala Lumpur and Selangor are more expensive than other states.

Other

- Hot water is not a standard feature in HEIs or other Malaysian housing options. If you require this facility, you should check to make sure that your rental accommodation has a water heater.
- Some rented areas might not have a washing machine -- so you can either send your laundry to a neighbourhood laundromat, or you can wash your clothes by hand.
- It is advised to boil tap water before consuming it.
- Most HEIs will have their own medical facilities that students can use (in most cases, the cost of treatment will already be included in overall student fees). Otherwise, there are 1-2 private clinics in most neighbourhoods.

4.3. BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees.

These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

Taking all these into account you will need \$450 per month or \$5,400 per year if you want to live comfortably. You can cut these costs considerably if you spend less on accommodation, entertainment, and other costs.

SECTION 5: CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. The contributors to this tip-sheet include the following people:¹⁹

- Afaq Nasir, BA Finance, Management and Accounting from the University of Nottingham (Malaysia Campus)

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile.²⁰

[International guide book](#), [Working part-time](#), [Expatriate Division Services](#), [Employment pass category II](#), [University Colleges](#), [Where to study](#), [MQF](#), [New students](#), [Where to enrol](#), [Accommodation](#), [iKad](#), [Required documents](#), [New students](#), [scholarships](#), [Master's study in Malaysia](#), [Study in Malaysia](#), [Education](#), [The Malaysian higher education system](#), [Required documents](#), [Application fee](#), and [Cost of studying and living in Malaysia](#).

¹⁹ Include: Name, current position, university affiliation (the university where they studied in the program, based on which they are giving tips). If the person chooses to remain anonymous, we should still get their permission to include the other pieces of information (e.g. 'Anonymous contributor')

²⁰ Only add links that are absolutely necessary for a candidate to read here.