

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP (MIS)
ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

1. When is the application period for MIS?

The application period for MIS (Academic Year 2024/2025) is from **31 May until 30 June 2024**.

2. Who can apply for MIS?

MIS is offered to applicants with outstanding academic and co-curricular achievement to:

- pursue full-time postgraduate studies in Malaysia; or
- resume current full-time postgraduate studies in Malaysian public or private universities listed under MIS, with **a minimum of two (2) semesters remaining** before the end of the study period.

For the academic year of 2024/2025, MIS is offered to applicants from the following countries:

- **ASEAN** countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)
- **Commonwealth** countries (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association regions of Africa, Asia, Australia, British Islands & Mediterranean, Canada, Caribbean, Americas & The Atlantic, India and the Pacific)
- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Australia
- Azerbaijan
- China
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Hong Kong
- Iran
- Iraq
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Nepal
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Russian Federation
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- South Korea
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Timor-Leste
- Tunisia
- Turkiye

- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Libya
- Maldives
- Morocco
- Turkmenistan
- United Arab Emirates
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen

3. Are all Malaysia universities listed under MIS?

Only selected Malaysia universities; as listed:

20 Public Universities

1. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
2. Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
3. Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
4. Universiti Malaya (UM)
5. Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)
6. Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM/IIUM)
7. Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)
8. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
9. Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM)
10. Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM)
11. Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
12. Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)
13. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)
14. Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)
15. Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA)
16. Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
17. Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP)
18. Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UNISZA)
19. Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM)
20. Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)

4 Private Universities

1. Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP)
2. Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)
3. Multimedia University (MMU)
4. INCEIF University (INCEIF)

4. Do I have to apply for the university in Malaysia separately or the admission to the university is automatically obtained through the successful application of MIS?

MIS applicants are required to **apply for university admission separately from MIS application**. MIS applicants are considered equivalent to other students who are seeking postgraduate programs and must go through the same process applying for postgraduate placement in a university.

5. Do I need to apply to the university and obtain the admission letter first before applying for MIS?

Interested applicants are allowed to apply for MIS without having secured a place in a Malaysia public or private university. However, upon being awarded MIS, awardees are required to gain admission into a university within 90 days of MIS offer letter issuance – a failure of doing so will lead to MIS offer being withdrawn without notice.

6. What is the level of study available under MIS?

MIS is opened for postgraduate studies; **Master's and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees.**

7. Is MIS available for part-time postgraduate studies?

MIS only covers **full-time** Masters and PhD studies.

8. Who is eligible for MIS?

Applicants must fulfill the following criteria:

- i. **not more than 40 or 45 years old** at the time of application for the master's and PhD levels, respectively;
- ii. Possess good academic qualifications:
 - Master's applicants: obtain a **CGPA of 3.0 or Second Class Upper (Honours)** or higher at the Bachelor's degree level
 - PhD applicants: obtain a **CGPA of 3.0 or excellent results** at Master's degree level in courses related to the intended study program
- iii. Master good English language proficiency:
 - Obtain an **IELTS band 6.0** or higher; *or*
 - Obtain a **total score of 550** or higher in the **TOEFL paper-based test**;
or
 - Has obtained **previous degree(s) with English as the medium of instruction.**
- iv. Submit a written **research proposal** with a **minimum of 1,000 words** that is relevant to the intended field of study (*for Master's by Research and PhD applicants only*).

9. What are the areas of study covered under MIS?

Applicants can apply for any accredited course/programme offered by the universities. However, priority is given to course/programme in the following areas of study:

- i. Education
- ii. Arts and Humanities
- iii. Social Sciences, Journalism and Information
- iv. Business, Administration and Law
- v. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics
- vi. Information and Communication Technologies
- vii. Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
- viii. Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary
- ix. Health and Welfare (not including medicine, nursing and pharmacy)

10. How do I apply for MIS?

Interested applicants can apply for MIS through the online application system at <https://biasiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/index.php>. Applicants also need to fill out the required information and submit the relevant documents.

The system will be used throughout the application, including for the selection processes; including to receive latest updates on the application status or to submit documents.

11. How is the selection process?

Upon the closing of the online application period, the application documents will be screened. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an online interview session.

12. I applied for MIS last year but was not successful. If I reapply for this year offer, will my application be considered?

Yes, all applications will be screened and processed if application meets all requirements.

13. Is there any application fee for MIS?

Application for MIS is free.

14. What are the documents needed to apply for MIS?

Applicants are required to submit the following documents through the online application system (scanned and saved in PDF format):

- i. A certified copy of the passport (with a minimum validity of 6 months);
- ii. A certified copy of the academic transcript(s);
 - Transcripts of undergraduate studies (in addition to the Master's degree transcript for PhD applicants);
 - Reflect the record of all the courses taken throughout the previous study programme(s); and
 - Must be submitted together with **a certified official document issued by the applicant's alma mater describing the institution's grade system** if the applicant's transcript does not include information on CGPA, marks or score percentile.
- iii. A certified copy of the English proficiency test result (IELTS / TOEFL) **or** official letter from the previous institution verifying English as the medium of instruction used for the obtained degree(s).
- iv. Letter of Recommendation from two (2) referees;
- v. Admission Letter to a Malaysia university (if applicants are currently undertaking postgraduate studies *or* if applicants have secured admission to the university);
- vi. Curriculum Vitae; and
- vii. Research Proposal *for Master's by Research and PhD applicants only*
All documents should be in English, if the documents are in any language other than English, applicants are required to provide certified translated copies of the documents.

15. What is a certified copy of a document and where can I get one?

A certified copy is a copy or a duplicate of an original document that is validated as a true copy by an authorized person or agency i.e. solicitors, commissioner for declarations, government officials, university staff, public notary, or other authorized delegate in the origin country or in Malaysia.

16. Who can be the referees for my letters of recommendation?

The referees for your letters of recommendation should be those who have the authority to provide information and comment on your performance in either the academic or professional setting and your potential and suitability to be awarded this scholarship i.e. former lecturer, supervisor, and immediate superior.

17. Is there any format or template for the letters of recommendation?

MIS does not outline a specific format or template for the letters of recommendation. Applicants may refer for the template online or any templates used by applicant referees from university/organization/etc.

18. Is there any format or template for the research proposal?

MIS does not outline a specific format or template for the research proposal. However, applicants are expected to write a well-formatted research proposal according to the format generally used in academia.

19. Can my research be about other country(s), or must it be focused on Malaysia?

Your research must be about or related to Malaysia.

20. Can I carry out my research outside of Malaysia?

All research must be carried out in Malaysia.

21. How long is the MIS sponsorship?

The MIS sponsorship is for from the date the scholarship is being awarded. The maximum period of sponsorship is as below:

- i. Master's degree: maximum of **24 months**
- ii. Doctorate degree: maximum of **36 months**

22. What will successful applicants obtain from the sponsorship of MIS?

Successful applicants will have their **tuition fees** covered and will receive a **monthly living allowance** of RM1,500.00 per month throughout the whole study period or sponsorship duration (whichever comes first).

23. How will the tuition fees be paid?

The tuition fees will be paid directly to the university upon the issuance of an invoice by the university to MOHE at every semester.

24. How will the living allowance be paid?

The monthly living allowance will be paid directly to your Malaysian bank account **every four months (in October, February and June)**, depending on your submission of the most recent progress report which proves satisfactory results/progress to MOHE. Failure to submit your progress report on time will result in the withholding of your allowance until the report is eventually provided.

25. Can the living allowance be paid to a bank account in my home country?

No, the living allowance will only be paid into a local Malaysian bank account. Your allowance will be withheld until you open a Malaysian bank account and submit your bank account information to MOHE.

26. Do I need to open an account from a specific Malaysian bank, or can I use any bank?

It is preferred for MIS scholars to open an account with Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad to facilitate the payment process. However, if you encounter difficulties in opening an account with Bank Islam, you may open an account with another bank, subject to a written request submitted to MOHE and subsequent permission.

27. Will my tuition fees and monthly allowance be paid if I study online in my home country?

Tuition fees will be paid directly to the university if an invoice is issued, but monthly allowance will be held until the student return to Malaysia to resume studies.

28. Will I still receive the remaining monthly allowance if I complete my studies before the maximum sponsorship period of MIS?

No, you will not receive the remaining monthly allowance as the MIS sponsorship period ends following the maximum sponsorship period or with the conclusion of study (whichever comes first). The monthly allowance will be paid only after recipients have submitted their most recent progress reports, which show their active student status.

29. Can I request a sponsorship extension if I am unable to complete my studies during the sponsorship period?

No, MIS does not allow for sponsorship extensions beyond the maximum sponsorship period. However, students may apply for a study extension from the university, and if the extension falls within the MIS sponsorship period, they will be eligible for MIS benefits. Furthermore, students may also apply for study deferment from the university, where MIS sponsorship will be halted during the deferment period and resumed following the resumption of study.

30. Will MIS cover the fees or provide allowances for thesis or paper publication?

No. MIS does not cover the fees nor provide allowances for thesis or paper publication.

31. Upon completion of study would I be contractually bounded to work in Malaysia or with the Government of Malaysia?

No, scholars awarded with MIS are not contractually bound by any bond or commitment with the Government of Malaysia after finishing their studies but are encouraged to contribute back by working in Malaysia or sharing the knowledge, skills and expertise gained in projects benefiting Malaysia and the Malaysian people.

32. What is the travel arrangement for successful applicants from their home countries to Malaysia?

Successful applicants are expected to arrange their own travel and lodging upon arrival in Malaysia, as these expenses are not covered by MIS. Applicants are also encouraged to research the current cost of living in Malaysia before travel to assist applicants' financial planning and expenditure throughout their stay in Malaysia.

33. Where can I find more information regarding MIS?

Information regarding MIS can be accessed via <https://biasiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/index.php>.

34. Who can I refer to if I have any enquiries regarding my application?

For further enquiries regarding MIS, please contact:

Scholarship Division

Ministry of Higher
Education Level 2, No 2,
Tower 2, Jalan P5/6,
Precinct 5, 62200
PUTRAJAYA
MALAYSIA

Phone: +603-8888 1616 (Hotline) / +603-8870 6323 / +603-8870 6346
(9.00 am – 4.30 pm Malaysian time / Monday - Friday)

E-mail: international@mohe.gov.my

For any technical assistance regarding the MIS online application system, please submit an e-mail with screenshot(s) of the issue to: international@mohe.gov.my