



Australian High Commission
Malaysia

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia Launches *Australia Awards – Malaysia Semester Program* to Support Future Leaders

Kuala Lumpur, 4 August 2026 – The Australian High Commission in Malaysia is proud to launch the *Australia Awards – Malaysia Semester Program*, a pilot initiative that will provide financial support for more Malaysian students enrolled at an Australian transnational education institution in Malaysia to study in Australia. This program will allow undergraduate and postgraduate students in Malaysia to study in Australia for up to two semesters during their degrees.

Participating universities currently include Curtin University Malaysia, Monash University Malaysia and University of Wollongong Malaysia. All Australian universities with a branch campus in Malaysia have been invited to participate in the pilot. There are four Australian universities with a branch campus in Malaysia: Monash University Malaysia; Curtin University Malaysia; University of Wollongong Malaysia; and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus.

Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Her Excellency Ms Danielle Heinecke said, “Education is a cornerstone of the Australia-Malaysia relationship and a key pillar of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The launch of this pilot program demonstrates Australia’s commitment to strengthening people-to-people links by creating even more opportunities for Malaysian students to study in Australia, build international networks and develop the skills to become future leaders.”

The *Australia Awards – Malaysia Semester Program* adds a new element to Australia’s longstanding education cooperation with Malaysia. By enabling more young Malaysians to travel, study and live in Australia, it will help to build Malaysian students’ international experience while also contributing to Australia’s broader efforts to build Asia Literacy and deepen regional engagement through educational exchange. This new initiative also delivers on recommendations outlined in *Invested: Australia’s Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*. Students must study in an area aligned with Australia’s priority cooperation themes with Malaysia, such as climate, energy and sustainability, digital economy, AI and cyber security or advanced manufacturing and engineering, among others.

The ***Australia Awards*** program is a prestigious scholarship that provides emerging leaders across the Indo-Pacific with opportunities to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. The *Australia Awards – Malaysia Semester Program* pilots a new approach that builds on existing transnational education mobility pathways to support more students to study in Australia. Recipients of these scholarships will become part of the 500,000-strong and growing community of Australian alumni based in Malaysia.

The program is designed to assist students who may otherwise face financial constraints to undertake study in Australia. It involves a merit-based selection process that encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply, including with regard to gender, accessibility needs, cultural and linguistic groups and those who live in rural or lower socioeconomic areas.

Ms Heinecke added, “We believe financial circumstances should not be a barrier to education. In line with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, Australia is committed to supporting Malaysian youth from all social-economic backgrounds taking up educational opportunities in Australia. This pilot program will serve as a platform to support high-performing students, including those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, to access the benefits of an Australian study experience.”

Commencing in July 2026, the program will cover students’ international travel, accommodation and living expenses; university administration, coordination and support costs; and English-language testing, visas, overseas student health cover and related insurance. Applications are currently open to Malaysian citizens or permanent residents enrolled and currently undertaking studies at the Malaysian branch campuses of Curtin University, Monash University and University of Wollongong.

Eligible students must fulfil the following criteria:

- demonstrate academic merit and readiness for study in Australia
- meet visa, health and insurance requirements for study in Australia
- demonstrate proficiency in English language skills
- are assessed by the relevant educational institution as requiring financial support

Interested students are encouraged to contact their university for further details on eligibility and applications. For more information on the *Australia Awards – Malaysia Semester Program*, please visit <https://malaysia.highcommission.gov.au/klpr/AustraliaAwardsMalaysiaSemesterProgram.html>.

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Media imagery can be downloaded here: [Link](#)

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