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# GUIDE STUDIES

Your Guide to Smarter Study Abroad Success



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# SMARTER STUDY ABROAD

## COURSES AND COURSE SELECTION

In most countries, the course offering provided in English is limited – not only in Asia but also in Europe. Studying abroad in Malaysia is great as most of the courses are offered in English. Many lecturers have also completed their degrees abroad, so they have a good level of English.

You should prepare your study plan carefully. The courses that are marked on the UNIKL Application Form are the ones that will be sent to the faculties for approval. Courses that will not be organized can be replaced by some other courses. At UNIKL it's quite easy to make changes to your initial course choices if you wish during the registration weeks.

Please note that changes in the course offering are quite usual. Some courses might not be organized so you may need to discuss with your home university coordinator what you should do if the courses of your choice aren't organized. Normally it's quite easy to make changes to the learning agreements and the coordinators are used to it. Course changes are common in all study abroad programs – both self-organized or via partnerships or networks (e.g. Erasmus). This is especially the case with universities with no tailored module for exchange students, such as UNIKL.



In the destination you normally need to get signatures for your study plan from each faculty you wish to study in. That's why it's normally recommended to take courses only from one faculty. Getting the signatures is somewhat time-consuming but please once again respect the local culture and customs. In the beginning you get a lot of information and would like to get everything sorted out at once but it normally takes a few days to get everything organized. This is the case in all study abroad programs around the world so try not to get frustrated.

You can find extra course information on the faculty and departmental websites, but AE is of course happy to help you find the relevant information. We recommend you choose courses fitting your study background.

Course descriptions can be found in the faculty guidebooks on AE website or on the faculty's home pages. You can read about transferring credits on the AE website. Class schedules and detailed information of the courses will be handed out at the orientation and during the first classes. If there's any more information you may need, please contact AE. It's Important that you discuss your study plan in your home university before leaving abroad.

Former AE students in Malaysia have been happy about the wide course offering and the academic level of the courses. Of course, teaching methods might be different from home, but this is also a way to learn to more about the culture. Also, as UNIKL is a large public university, there are some issues with bureaucracy that affect the processes and sometimes slows them down.

UNIKL reserves the right to changes in the dates and the course offering. As everywhere in the world, course changes are possible. AE updates the latest available information about courses in the study programs on its website. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information published on AE's website.

## **CLASS SCHEDULES**

Lectures generally last either 2 or 3 hours, depending on how many credits are offered for the course.

## **ATTENDANCE**

As in most universities all over the world, class attendance is required in Malaysia. The class attendance is 80 %. Perfect and punctual attendance is expected. Being

late frequently is unacceptable; students who come late will be considered absent. If you know that you will be absent from a class, you should make arrangements with your lecturer in advance. University studies give you beneficial daily routines, which however leave lots of time for free-time activities.

Students of certain faculties have mandatory site visits/homestay programmes. These visits are especially arranged for students, to give them an opportunity to visit places which tourists do not have an opportunity of visiting. Usually, you need to pay a small cost for the homestay programmes.

## OTHER STUDENT AND INTERNALIZATION

Besides the AE students there are international degree students from numerous countries attending the classes. Most of them come from other Asian countries but also from Middle East and Western countries. The number of exchange students is steadily growing and this semester, approximately 40 international students will start their studies via Asia Exchange.

Internationalization is one of the key objectives of both UNIKL and AE. We are currently expanding our services to include more students from different countries. We appreciate you spreading the word about Asia Exchange.

It's mainly down to yourself how much you interact with different nationalities. AE encourages you to get to know international students from different countries and local students who will help you get more insight into the local culture and customs.

Therefore, it's only a positive thing that there are not so many European and Western students. This allows you to immerse yourself in the culture and most of the time the study abroad experience is the best when you're not constantly surrounded by other Westerners. You will learn a lot from other cultures. KL is quite Western compared to other Asian cities so it's easy to meet with other Westerners if you so wish (e.g. Couch Surfing or MeetUp.com).

## TIPS FROM FORMER ASIA EXCHANGE STUDENTS

### **Learn how to do things independently and be responsible.**

Maybe you were used to having everything done for you. Now is the best time to start learning how to do laundry, cooking, or doing the dishes otherwise you will have a rough time learning this once you are away. A lot of things that may come



your way while studying abroad, but it is also important to behave responsibly. Try not to get in any situation that might get you in trouble.

### **Don't miss a chance to make new friends.**

Try not to skip the orientation week as this is the best time to meet other new students and build friendships. Join a few clubs and find the international student network and get to know other students. This will help you socialize and have a good network of friends while studying abroad.

### **Learn the language.**

Since you will be living and moving to a country where you don't speak the first language, it would be a great opportunity to learn the local language. This will help you interact with local students and make lectures and seminars even easier to understand. Learning a new language is an advantage to be more impressive to your future employers.

### **Say yes and try something new.**

Studying abroad is a unique opportunity to discover different cultures and experience a new destination. There may be language barriers, differences in teaching styles that might be a challenge to settle in. The trick is to say yes and throw yourself into it! Take part in everything the school has to offer, but also whenever you can experience the new city, field trips, or excursions.

### **Do it!**

Your time abroad is a rewarding experience familiarize yourself with the city and the university. Get organized before leaving and it is important to consider having yourself covered with health insurance, budget planning, accommodation arrangements, weather, and airport pick-up. Immerse yourself in a lot of new experiences by saying yes to as many new things as you can, you'll take home a different set of skills you have not imagined





# YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences  
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

*Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student*

