# 事例 5 マレーシア

# A Case of University of Malaya

## Zoraida Mustafa

# 1. University background

Name of university	University of Malaya			
Year of establishment	University of Malaya has its roots in Singapore with			
	establishment King Edward VII College of Medicine in			
	1905. In 1949 University		·	
	amalgamation of King Ed		_	
	and Raffles College in Singapore. University of Malaya			
	Kuala Lumpur was estab	lish	ed in 1962.	
Number of faculty or	12 Faculties			
colleges	3 Centers			
	2 Academies			
Levels of degree offered	Bachelor, Master, Doctor			
Number of students	Local students	Ва	achelor	13,617
		Рс	stgraduate	5,826
	International students	Ва	achelor	865
		Po	stgraduate	2,098
	Total 22,406			22,406
Number of international	Bachelor		865	·
students	Postgraduate students		2,098	
	Total		2,963	
International office	International Corporate and Relation Office			
Students exchange	International Students Center			
program				
Module taught in a	Foreign Language Classes (Arabic, Chinese, Dutch,			
foreign language	Korean, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Russian,			
	Tamil, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese)			
	*Japanese University Preparatory Program (Japanese)			
	*Academy of Islamic Studies (Arabic)			
	*Courses that taught in noted language in other subjects.			

Source: http://www.um.edu.my

#### 2. Academic System

University of Malaya had been using term system for the academic calendar since its establishment and recently converted to semester system (among the last public university to follow the system due to internal pro and cons discussions). Certain courses such as medicine and surgery (Faculty of Medicine) still practice term system. Faculty of Law, for instance, is adapting the term into the semester system. This is due to the examination contents and the nature of law studies that require a continued series of lecture before the assessment test could be conducted. Below is the general academic calendar for University of Malaya, for 2009/2010 academic year. There are 14 weeks of lecture in both semesters.

Academic Calendar 2009/2010 (GENERAL)

$1^{ m ST}$ SEMESTER				
Orientation Week	1 week	28.06.2009 - 05.07.2009		
Lectures	6 weeks	06.07.2009 - 16.08.2009		
Mid-sem break	1 weeks	17.08.2009 - 23.08.2009		
Lecture	4 weeks	24.08.2009 - 18.09.2009		
Special break	1 week*	19.09.2009 - 27.09.2009		
Lecture	4 weeks**	28.09.2009 - 25.10.2009		
Revision week	1 week	26.10.2009 - 01.11.2009		
1st sem final examination	3 weeks	02.11.2009 - 22.11.2009		
1st sem break	5 weeks***	23.11.2009 - 27.12.2009		
Total week	26 weeks			
$2^{ m ND}$ SEMESTER				
Lectures	7 weeks	28.02.2009 - 12.02.2010		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mid-sem break	1 week+	13.02.2010 - 21.02.2010		
Lecture	7 weeks	22.02.2010 - 11.04.2010		
Revision week	1 week	12.04.2010 - 18.04.2010		
Examination	3 weeks	19.04.2010 - 09.05.2010		
Total week	19 weeks			
ANNUAL BREAK/SPECIAL SEMESTER				
Breaks	8 weeks	10.05.2010 - 04.07.2010		
	Or			
Lectures and examinations	7 weeks	10.05.2010 - 27.06.2010		

- \* Islam Festives Holiday (20 & 21 September 2009)
- \*\* Deepavali (Hindhu) Festive (17 October 2009)
- \*\*\* Islam Festive (27 November 2009)
  Christmas (25 December 2009)
- + Chinese New Year (14 & 15 February 2010)

Source: http://www.um.edu.my

Most undergraduate programs require a range of duration between 3 to 4 years for completion according to courses offered by the faculty. A medical course for instance, usually requires 4 to 5 years for completion. As for master's degree program, the duration range between 1 to 2 years. The duration for doctoral course is 3 to 4 years.

At present, the minimum credits requirement for graduation is 100 to 130 (for undergraduate courses). However, Malaysia Qualification Agency [MQA] has drawn a new outline named MQF (Malaysia Qualification Framework). According to this new outline, each public/national university in Malaysia is required to standardize their student's quality and assure their products qualify the international job market. As a result, the University of Malaya is revising their curriculum and syllabus for the upcoming academic year (2010/2011). The new credits requirement in the university courses will be increased to 121 to 146. On the other hand, credit requirement for master's program remain at a range of 36 to 42 with respect to offered course in that particular faculty.

The new MQF guidelines put the university on demand to produce competent graduates who are able to stream in international job market. Therefore, most of the programs have been revised to cater the needs. Table 1 showed the structure of undergraduate program and the average amount of credits required for university core course in compare to department courses towards graduation.

Course	Course Category	Credit Hours
Component		
University	Islamic Civilization and Asian Civilization (TITAS)	)
Courses	Course	
	Ethnic Relations Course	
	Information Technology Course	15%
	Co-Curriculum Course	
	External Faculty Electives (ELF) Courses	
	Basics Entrepreneurship Culture Course	
		)
Faculty	Core Courses	7
Course	Compulsory Courses	<b>►</b> 85%
	Elective Courses	J
	Total Credit Hours	100%

Table 1: First Degree Studies Program Structure

On the contrary, postgraduate candidates are not entitled to attend university courses (i.e. core course). The compulsory subjects and electives are different according to the faculty and the nature of study field. The graduation credits requirement also differs according to courses and faculties. For instance, the requirement for MBA program in arts and humanities studies or social sciences fields are normally lesser than professional courses such as engineering, business, or medicine. Below are a few examples of course requirement.

Type of Courses	Credit Hours	Percentage
Core Courses	30	59%
Elective Courses	15	29%
Research Project	6	12%
Total	51	100%

Table 2: Program Structure for MBA (Master of Business Administration)

Source: http://fba.um.edu.my/

Type of Courses	Credit Hours	Percentage
Core Courses	18	50%
Elective Courses	12	33%
Research Paper	6	17%
Total	36	100%

Table 3: Program Structure for Master of Engineering (Safety, Health & Environment)

Source: http://engine.um.edu.my/

Faculty of Education practiced their course in a full coursework degree or coursework + dissertation degree, and next table indicates the structure.

Type of Courses	Credit Hours	Percentage
Faculty Core Courses	6	17%
Compulsory Courses	6	17%
Elective Courses	6	17%
Dissertation	18	50%
Total	36	100%

Table 4: Master of Education (Coursework + Dissertation) Degree

Type of Courses	Credit Hours	Percentage
Faculty Core Courses	6	17%
Compulsory Courses	6	17%
Elective Courses	21	58%
Research Project	3	8%
Total	36	100%

Table 5: Master of Education (Full Coursework) Degree

c.f. Buku Panduan Ijazah Tinggi, Fakulti Pendidikan

The doctor of philosophy course is a full research course and candidates are subject to attend courses under the supervisor direction. Normally a student is required to fulfill 130 contact hours to complete a PhD course. However, after university new Vice Chancellor (since December 2008), the requirement for postgraduate has been upgraded to a total of accumulated credit and publications.

Next is the additional requirement for postgraduate candidates.

Publications	a) Master's candidates have to show proof of submission of at least 1 paper for publication in any ISI journal before the Committee of the Examiners meeting; and b) Doctor of Philosophy candidates have to show proof of submission of at least 2 papers for publication in any ISI journal before the Committee of the Examiners meeting
Seminar Presentation and Candidature Defense	Master: (i) one seminar presentation during the minimum period of candidature (i.e. the first 2 semesters) (ii) a candidature defense session on the third semester Doctor of philosophy: (i) one seminar presentation during the minimum period of candidature (i.e. the first 4 semesters) (ii) a candidature defense session on the fifth semester of candidature (iii) one seminar presentation before the submission of thesis
Paper Presentation in National/International Conferences by Master Candidates	a) Masters candidates are required to present papers on their research once in a national/international conference b) All PhD candidates are encouraged to present papers on their research in national/international conferences
Research Methodology Course	All postgraduates are required to follow at 3 credit hours of Research Methodology Course (according to the needs of the program)

Most of the courses offer 3 credits in one semester. However, professional courses which have industrial training or clinical placement would range from 1 to 6 credits. Table 6 shows core course subjects and the credits for Bachelor of Engineering (Telecommunications) -2009/2010 Academic Session's candidates.

UNIVERSITY'S COMPULSORY COURSES				
GXEX 1401	Information Skills 1			
GXEX 1413	Introduction to Malaysia 2			
GXEX 1411	Ethnic Relation	2		
GXEX 1412 Fundamentals of Entrepreneursh		2		
GAEA 1412	Culture	4		
	English 1	3		
	English 2	3		
	Non-faculty Elective Course	2		
	Co-curriculum	2		
Sub-Total		17		
Credit Hour		11		

Table 6: Courses Credit

c.f. Propectus for Undergraduate, Bachelor of Engineering (Telecommunications) 2009/2010

According to the new MQF, University of Malaya new curriculum is designed to be more "student-centered learning" whereby student's group project or time spent for homework/assignment is also considered as student-teacher contact hours. For undergraduate course, the ratio of student's workload and class hours varies in courses and faculty. Course credit calculation is also different according to the nature of studies. A postgraduate course is more student-centered, where students are required to do research project and presentations at the national or international level. In that case, a professor (with senate permission) could set his course credit as 3, whereby 1 for presentation and 2 for classroom assessment. These credits allocation must follow the latest MQF guidelines. However the Faculty of Engineering of the university is following the Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC) at present.

Credit transfer is allowed between the organizations who had signed MoU/MoA (Memorandum of Understanding/ Memorandum of Agreement) with University of Malaya. Kindly refer <a href="http://www.ippp.um.edu.my">http://www.ippp.um.edu.my</a> for national and international organizations associated details.

An out-bound exchange student can accumulate the minimum of 9 credits in one semester and the maximum of 15 credits (for graduation). However, before attending any university courses, student must make an application through the faculty and the faculty needs to justify that the course has at least 75% of contents overlapping (\* this is the case if University of Malaya students attending exchange program in other universities). Student is allowed to transfer no more than 1/3 of the graduation requirement credits. At present, University of Malaya does not have any scheme of accepting foreign credits for classes or modules that is not offered in the university (i.e. University of Malaya).

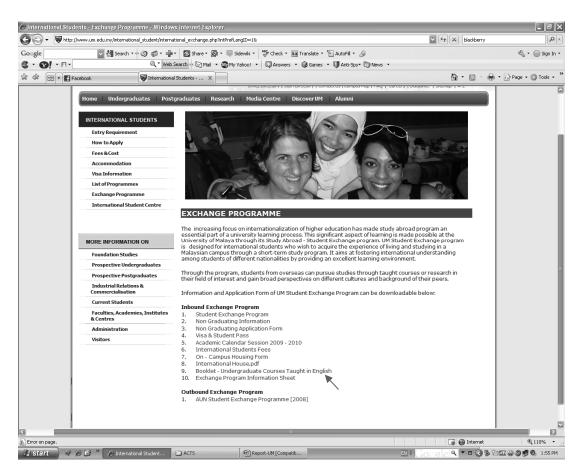
The credit transfer practice in the university is meant between University of Malaya and other foreign universities. Though, credit transfer among different faculties or field of disciplines in the university itself is not an issue, as long as students accomplish their elective courses for graduation.

Number of credit for each class/ module is stated in each faculty academic prospectus. Students can also view the offered courses and credits ONLINE, before applying for any exchange program. The homepage is administered by International Students Centre and inserting all the information regarding to the group. For instance, they listed name of courses whether they are taught in English or other languages. To view the courses and credits ONLINE, please follow the next steps.

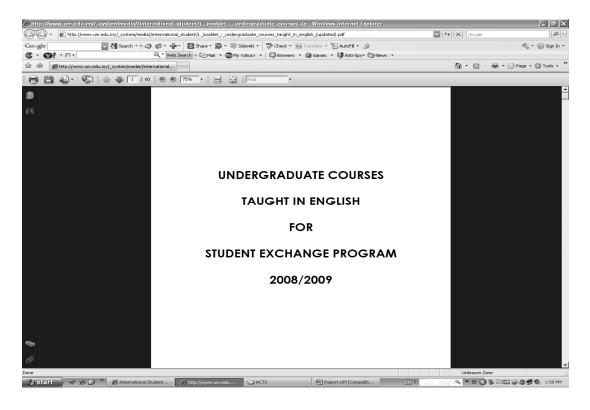
### STEP 1

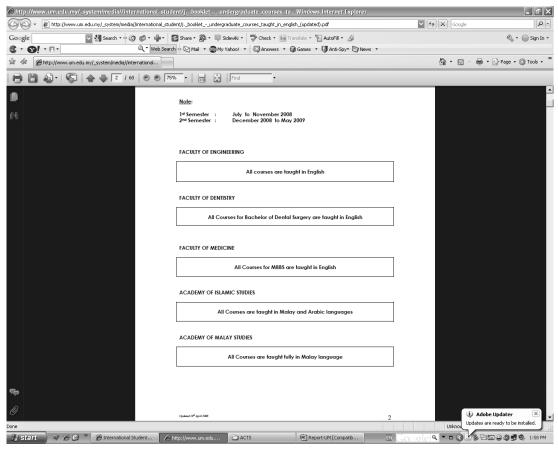
Click on

http://www.um.edu.my/international\_student/international\_exchange.php?intPrefLangID =1&

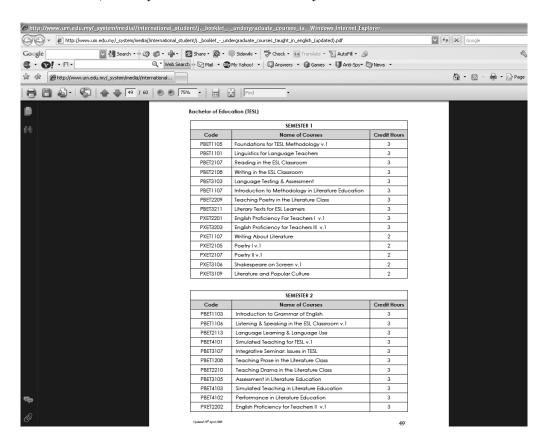


## STEP 2 Click on Booklet - Undergraduate Course Taught in English A PDF file of courses according to faculty will appear.

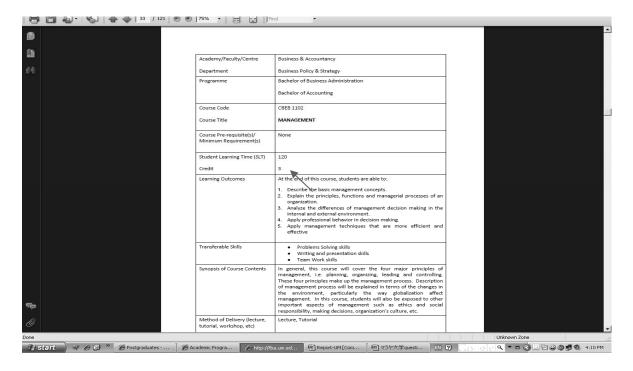




For instance, Faculty of Education showed they offered the course for 2 semesters.



Students can also view the syllabus of the course from faculty homepage. However, some faculties do not provide their prospectus ONLINE. A course credit is also indicated in the syllabus. Below is the example of syllabus downloaded from the Faculty of Business and Accountancy's homepage.



All registered students should receive their academic records of the coursework. The university students can access the *Student Portal* website and view their records. It also has a printable format for reference. The access will require a username and password.



Recently University of Malaya has introduced online system for course registration and evaluation. This will enable students to view their records from anywhere at any convenient time. However, for in-coming exchange students from abroad, there is no specific official transcript for their academic records. The university will issue a letter to describe attended courses, course code and grade of assessment and will send the letter directly to the home universities of the students.

#### 3. Academic Grading System

Examination Section of the University of Malaya keeps all the original score of the grade student obtained. Under the new semester system, former points scale has been changed to percentages. Table 7 showed the grading marks.

Points	Grade	Grade Point	Definition
80-100	A	4.0	Distinction
75-79	A-	3.7	Distinction
70-74	B+	3.3	Good
65-69	В	3.0	Good
60-64	В-	2.7	Good
55-59	C+	2.3	Passed
50-54	$\mathbf{C}$	2.0	Passed
45-49	C-	1.7	Conditional Passed
40-44	D+	1.3	Conditional Passed
35-39	D	1.0	Conditional Passed
00-34	F	0.0	Failed

Table 7: University of Malaya Grading System

University passed point is 2.0 with a C. However, faculty has the privilege to decrease the point to 1.0 (D) upon the senate (university's board members) permission.

Generally the university is practicing "Absolute Assessment", where every student is evaluated based on his/her personal examination performances. However, the assessment will be more summative under the new curriculum in the upcoming 2010/2011 syllabus to meet the accountability demands drawn by MQA.

Under the new MQF guidelines, professors must state their learning outcomes of their classes/ modules in the syllabus. This will affect student's evaluation since the assessment is getting more summative. The core course for undergraduate program for instance, requires a student to have soft skills, social skills as well as entrepreneurship knowledge to enhance independency after graduation. Student's performance and ability in demonstrating what they have learned in the courses will be counted for evaluation. This phenomenon also put university into a new agenda to increase the academic staff. University of Malaya is working out to balance the professor – student ratio to 1:8 to enhance a conducive learning environment.

Professors and lecturers are given 2 week time after the final university's examination to submit the hard copies of results to Examination Section (*Bahagian Peperiksaan*). The length varies considerably on the number of students sitting the examination. However, a warning will be given to any professors or lecturers who fail to do so, and so far there is no case of punishment happened in this university.

The grading system for courses credit has no difference between undergraduate and postgraduate.

The university also introduces GPA system and it does influence student's study plan (i.e. furthering studies) and employment. Table XX indicates calculation of GPA in one semester that a student could accumulate.

Course	Grade	Grade Point	Credit Hour	Credit Hour x Grade Point
K1	A	4.0	4	$4 \times 4.0 = 16.0$
K2	C+	2.3	3	$3 \times 2.3 = 6.9$
К3	F	0.0	3	$3 \times 0.0 = 0.0$
K4	С	20.	3	$3 \times 2.0 = 6.0$
Total			13	GPA = 28.9
				13
				= 2.22

Table 8: GPA Calculation

At present, University of Malaya has signed 152 MoU/MoA with international universities, and have joint PhD program between Faculty of Engineering with Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom. The main objective of these mutual understanding between the universities is to collaborate in research as well as having exchange programs.

The university has a student exchange program for their students to go to other universities that had the MoU/ MoA or vice versa. Students can access to the <a href="http://www.um.edu.my/undergraduates/exchange\_prog">http://www.um.edu.my/undergraduates/exchange\_prog</a> for more information regarding exchange program. As for international students who are interested in coming to University of Malaya the information is available at International Student's link <a href="http://www.um.edu.my/international\_student">http://www.um.edu.my/international\_student</a>

As for the credit transfer, it is noted in the former that is allowed only between the organizations who had signed MoU/MoA (Memorandum of Understanding/ Memorandum of Agreement) with University of Malaya.

Grading system details is explained in the student portal webpage. Students can also gain the information from the syllabus. Kindly refer above samples.

#### 4. International Curriculum, International Education Program

Currently the Institute of Asia Europe Studies is offering 4 international master and doctor programs. They are;

i.ASEAN Studies (IMAS)ii.Information Management (IMIM)iii.Regional Integration (IMRI)iv.Small-and-Medium Enterprises (IMSMEs)

The courses are taught 100% in English. 80% of the professors lecturing in this program are foreigners and 20% are local professors. 2/3 of the students are international students and 1/3 of the students are locals. 1/3 of the international students are Europeans and 1/3 are Asians.

The information regarding these courses is available at the institute's homepage (http://aei.um.edu.my). Brochures are available at the International Student's Center, University of Malaya.

#### Conclusion

In recent years, almost all public universities in Malaysia are competing with each other to internationalize their institutions, whether by increasing the number of international academic staff, international student, or number of papers published in ISI (International Scientific Index) listed journals. Eventually, these will put the university name in higher rank in Time Higher Education (THES) ranking system. Looking into the scenario after Malaysia's independency, the public universities were directed to use "Bahasa Malaysia" (Malay) as the medium of instruction. The language unification was another national agenda to unite Malaysians (Malay, Chinese, Indian and indigenous people) through one national language. Since then, university's lectures, meetings and all other documentations were done in Malay. It has been a common issue when public universities graduates were always criticized for their poor English command. Hence, when MQA instructed all public universities to prepare their graduates to meet international accountabilities, competency in universal language (i.e. English) is becoming an important agenda. As a result, University of Malaya is undergoing a massive revision regarding the medium of instruction for academic purposes as well as administrative works. Most of University of Malaya administrators see the importance of English as the medium of instruction and also as a tool to train students for international labor market. However, the university is also well-known to have a group of famous nationalist who are not pleased with the idea. Therefore currently, the university is recruiting their staff to be bilingual rather than competent in either language. Hence, Malay will still stand as the national language and English is the medium of instruction for academic purposes. As interview participants stated, this is still a long debatable journey for the University of Malaya.

#### References

University of Malaya Homepage
http://um.edu.my
Prospectus for Undergraduate Bachelor of Engineering (Telecommunication)
http://electrical.eng.um.edu.my
Buku Panduan Program Ijazah Tinggi, Fakulti Pendidikan Universiti Malaya
Kaedah-Kaedah Universiti Malaya (Pengajian Ijazah Pertama)
Peraturan-Peraturan Universiti Malaya (Pengajian Ijazah Pertama)