

UK-Malaysia University Consortium (UK-MUC)

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Aim and objectives of UK-MUC

Aim: To promote mutual understanding on a global scale by expanding international higher education in terms of teaching, research and knowledge exchange between the UK and Malaysia.

Objectives

1. To build a mechanism to increase commitment and strategic partnerships to address shared priorities between universities in the UK and Malaysia.
2. To support the advancement of quality teaching, learning, research and university systems through people development with shared expertise between the UK and Malaysia.
3. To identify and facilitate innovative UK-Malaysia collaborative programmes and knowledge exchange in higher education for mutual benefit and HE internationalisation.

Members of UK-MUC

UK

**Liverpool John Moores University (Consortium Secretariat) -
Project Board**

Cardiff University - Project Board

University of East Anglia - Project Board

University of Suffolk - Project Board

University of Nottingham - Project Board

University of Surrey

Cardiff Metropolitan University

University of York

University of Glasgow

Coventry University

Scotland's Rural College

University of Bournemouth

University of Central Lancashire

University of Gloucestershire

Kings College London

University of Portsmouth

Malaysia

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) - Project Board

Universiti Malaya (UM) - Project Board

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) - Project Board

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) - Project Board

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM)

MARA University of Technology (UiTM)

National Defence University of Malaysia (UPNM)

Northern University of Malaysia (UUM)

Putra University of Malaysia (UPM)

Sultan Idris Education University (UPSI)

Sultan Zainal Abidin University (UniSZA)

Technical University of Malaysia (UTEM)

Tun Hussein Onn University of Malaysia (UTHM)

University of Malaysia, Kelantan (UMK)

University of Malaysia, Pahang (UMP)

University of Malaysia, Perlis (UNIMAP)

University of Malaysia, Sabah (UMS)

University of Malaysia, Terengganu (UMT)

University of Technology Malaysia (UTM)

Private universities, UK branch campuses, research and industry organisations and agencies may be considered as associate members and invited to consortium activities as agreed by the Project Board.

Benefits of UK-MUC partners

- Providing opportunities for its own students to experience an international dimension during their studies.
- Further developing the range of potential joint research opportunities.
- Increasing the number of staff who undertake international opportunities that enhance the student experience.
- Increasing international collaboration and enterprise activity with partnering institutions worldwide.
- Recruitment and learning in areas of mutual interests.

Activities and outputs (tentative)

1. Build a mechanism to increase commitment and strategic partnerships to address shared priorities between universities in the UK and Malaysia.

- Strategic partnerships in teaching and learning, research and innovation as well as staff/student mobility and employability.
- Strategy for resource-sharing - training resources, digital resources, etc.
- University-industry partnerships – sharing of best practice activities.
- Curriculum development and teaching innovation – Best practices in curriculum development, innovative delivery, blended learning, application-driven materials, interactive materials, knowledge retention and digitalisation of module delivery.
- Transnational education (e.g. joint bachelors and Masters).
- Opportunities for inclusion and widening participation in higher education.

Activities and outputs

2. Support the advancement of quality teaching, learning, research and university systems through people development with shared expertise between the UK and Malaysia.

- PhD programmes – Location-based PhD programmes and joint PhD programmes.
- Bachelors and Masters programmes – between collaborative institutions, mutually accepted modules for student exchanges, joint degree programmes.
- Networks – clusters to formulate networks in areas of mutual interest, funding to support their operations from sources such as EU.
- Sharing of the Consortium's collective experience, expertise and good practice methods in terms of teaching, learning, research, and university systems.
- Training programmes for early career researchers and new researchers/ staff members.

Objective 3 “to identify and facilitate innovative UK-Malaysia collaborative programmes and knowledge exchange”

- Knowledge exchange in higher education between the two countries in terms of complementary inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary expertise.
- Internationalisation through the mobility of students and staff, joint teaching and research programmes (e.g. dual PhD programmes), joint curriculum development in the chosen subject areas, and the shared delivery of taught modules in degree programmes.
- Staff and student exchange – Agreements between the UK and Malaysian institutions.
- Employability training.

Partnerships and value for money

- **Shift 1: Holistic, entrepreneurial and balanced graduates**
Effective inclusion and widening participation strategies shared.
- **Shift 2: Talent excellence**
Joint degree programmes; training modules/ workshops; staff and student mobility.
- **Shift 3: Nation of lifelong learners**
- **Shift 4: Quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates**
- **Shift 5: Financial sustainability**
Enabling joint research activities, research dissemination, joint publications and funding applications.
- **Shift 7: Innovation ecosystem**
Public sector-focused innovation ecosystem.
- **Shift 8: Globalised online learning**
Increase knowledge sharing for enhanced and innovative digital delivery.

How to maximise opportunities

1. Prioritised areas to be identified in the consortium.
2. Each institution's active participation.
3. Individual tasks to be led by each individual institution.
4. Working together between two or more UK and Malaysian institutions.
5. Measurable, tangible outcomes (e.g. agreements, staff/student exchanges, workshops, etc.).

Risks and challenges

Risks

Risk 1: COVID-19 on international travel restrictions.

Other risks: Ineffective project management, applicability of the generated outcomes, conflicts of interest between the project partners.

Challenges

- Work as a team.
- Commitment of each partner.
- Organisation of events.

Risk register to ensure any existing and new risks are addressed on a regular basis

Resources (high level planning)

| | | |
|--|--|------|
| Admin costs | Delivery of the project | 49% |
| Travel costs | Trips to Malaysia with the deliverables | 34% |
| Online platform | Website and digital platform | 3% |
| Cost of meetings, training events, workshops, public engagement events and seminars | Meetings, workshops, public engagement events and seminars | 6% |
| Attendance at conferences or other events in Malaysia | Attendance of the events | 4% |
| Consultancy fees from academia and industry | Expert input | 4% |
| | £100k | 100% |

Themed workshops (subject to finalisation)

12 workshops with thematic areas. LJMU will take the lead on the first three on research, teaching and learning, and mobility and internationalisation led by myself, Russell English and Julia Wang. Each board member institution will take the lead of a workshop with a specific theme.

First six months from March to Aug 2022

Workshop Research collaboration between UK and Malaysian universities (**LJMU**)

Workshop teaching and learning collaboration (**led by LJMU**)

Workshop mobility collaboration (**led by LJMU**)

Second six months from Sept 2022 to Feb 2023

Workshop on Research Networks (**Led by UM**).

Workshop on Strategy for resource-sharing - (**led by Cardiff**)

Workshop on collaborative Bachelors and Masters programmes (**Led by Suffolk**)

Third six months from March to Aug 2023

Workshop on Teaching methods, delivery and digitalisation (**led by UNIMAS**)

Workshop on employability training (**led by UKM**)

Workshop on research impact and IPR (**led by USM**)

Last six months from Sept 2023 to Feb/March 2024

Workshop on curriculum development and teaching innovation (**led by East Anglia**)

Workshop on partnership-based Doctoral Training (**led by Nottingham**).

Final project meeting (**All**)

UK-MUC website

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/uk-malaysia-university-consortium>

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UK Malaysia University Consortium

UK Malaysia University Consortium

The aim of the UK Malaysia University Consortium (UK-MUC) is to promote mutual understanding on a global scale by expanding international higher education in terms of teaching, research and knowledge exchange between the UK and Malaysia.

Objectives of the UK-MUC:

- Build a mechanism to increase commitment and strategic partnerships to address shared priorities between universities in the UK and Malaysia
- support the advancement of quality teaching, learning, research and university systems through people development with shared expertise between the UK and Malaysia
- identify and facilitate innovative UK-Malaysia collaborative programmes and knowledge exchange in higher education for mutual benefit and HE internationalisation

Members

Activities

Publications

Events

Contacts

Collaborative research opportunities

Collaborative teaching and learning opportunities

Knowledge exchange



Collaborative teaching and learning opportunities



Collaborative research opportunities



publications



Knowledge exchange

About us

Under the Going Global Partnerships Programme, the British Council in Malaysia is launching the UK-Malaysia University Consortium which is designed to be a flagship initiative that promotes strategic engagement and bilateral cooperation in higher education between its partner universities in the UK and in Malaysia.

Through cooperation between the British Council and the Department of Higher Education Malaysia, the Consortium will lay a foundation for creating long term collaborations, shared priorities and complementary expertise between the UK and Malaysia in Higher Education (HE). This is aligned with [the Malaysian Higher Education Blueprint 2015-2025](#) and [the UK International Education Strategy](#).

The Consortium will also reinforce the global perceptions of both countries as centres of higher education excellence, and enable the HE sectors in the UK and Malaysia to contribute shared resources and expertise to overcome some of the world's major issues. By strengthening the standing of both countries as international education pioneers, the UK and Malaysia will be poised to attract top academic talent in the future.



Importance of providing a platform for collaboration in teaching, research and knowledge exchange

A case study in formulation of a research network in 2016

In 2016, an collaborative opportunity with Malaysian universities became available at EU.

However, it was difficult for LJMU to find appropriate Malaysia partners in design and operation of maritime engineering systems since there was no platform such as UK-MUC to help do so.

Opportunity almost missed but fortunately in the last minutes the UKM and UTM contacts were suggested indirectly.

The project RESET (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/730888>, €1,417,500) was funded with UKM and UTM each receiving €162k.

From a collaborative research viewpoint, there are opportunities continuously becoming available from sources such

Turing

EU

Global Challenges Research Fund

Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering, etc.

Charities such as Leverhulme Trust and Nuffield Trust

UKRI

International organisations such as WHO and WLO.

Government agencies.

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Research collaboration is not about funding – there are more to offer – training, impact, complementary resources sharing, etc.

Transnational Education (TNE)

(Dr Russell English)

- The identification and subsequent development of mutually beneficial Transnational Education (TNE) programmes (UG, PGT, PhD) is within the scope of this project
- Malaysia is the second largest host country for UK TNE
- Main types of TNE are franchise, dual awards, branch campus
- **Franchise** most established (37 UK Universities, 55 Malaysian HE providers)
 - most partnerships originally started as franchise arrangements
 - develop into dual awards as some partners gain degree awarding powers
- **Dual awards** popular for students, perceived as offering enhanced employability opportunities
 - enhanced by mobility, exchange, shared delivery

Academic TNE partnerships

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| franchise | validated | dual award (UG, PGT, PhD) | joint award |
| distance taught | supported distance learning | articulation / progression arrangements (eg. 2+1, MSc) | student exchange (credit transfer) |
| | | | |

- Received UK-MUC ‘interest templates’ **specifically relating to TNE** show:
 - wide range of interest in TNE (main interests in bold in table)
 - interest in credit transfer / student exchange
 - COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)
 - transnational hybrid classrooms
 - open and distance learning courses

LJMU TNE partnerships

| Country | Discipline | Type |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Malaysia | - civil engineering, built environment - business, computing | articulation / franchise / validated |
| China | - engineering | articulation / franchise / dual |
| Sri Lanka | - engineering, civil / built, biomedical, international relations | articulation / franchise / validated |
| Gulf countries (UAE, Qatar, Bahrain) | - engineering, civil / built, computing, big data, business, education, management | franchise, validated |
| India (online) | - artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, data science, computing, MBA | franchise, articulation |
| Africa (online) | - education, management, health, IR, law, nursing, psychology, engineering | franchise |
| Spain | - acting, dance, music | validated |

Other partnerships in Myanmar, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Malta, Cyprus, Ireland, Germany.
Total international TNE ~ 8500 students (2021/22).

Dual PhDs : Malaysia, Thailand, China, France (Engineering and Technology, Art and Design).

LJMU areas of interest in TNE

General

- Franchise / Validated / Dual : UG/PGT programmes.
- Articulations / Progression arrangements (UG/PGT)
- Credit transfer / student exchange
- Dual PhD programmes
- Embedding COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) into the curriculum.

Specific

- FinTech, financial inclusion, artificial intelligence (ethics and legal implications); sustainability; entrepreneurship.
- high quality international partnerships with AACSB accredited universities.
- franchised / validated programmes in Climate Change and Sustainability, Biotechnology, Natural Product Discovery and Sport Science.
- Dual PhD programmes in psychology and engineering

TNE

Looking Forward

- collect outstanding ‘interest templates’ from consortium members
- identify common interests relating to TNE for consortium members
- facilitate initial discussions between potential partners relating to TNE
- share best practice via consortium experience
- provide necessary support where appropriate

Student Mobility

(Dr Julia Wang)

Strategies in UK HEIs

- 83% of the universities include outward mobility in their institution's strategic plan and 46% have a dedicated outward student mobility strategy
- 65% of universities have an outward mobility target
- 50% of universities, the growth area in mobility is short-term programmes
- 90% of universities reported that their budget for outward mobility had either increased or stayed the same

Student Mobility

Programmes

- Semester/Year long study abroad
- Short term programmes
- Work placements
- Volunteering

Resourcing

- Management of mobility programmes
- Funding

Student Mobility

Looking Forward

- offering more short-term outward mobility opportunities;
- increasing the number of widening participation students going abroad;
- introduction of more postgraduate and STEM mobility programmes; and
- diversifying funding sources

Implementation of the project as Secretariat

1. Project implementation, strategic planning and administrative activities under this Consortium,
2. Liaise with the Project Board and Consortium members and identify priority thematic areas for collaborative partnerships on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.
3. Dedicate resources to undertake the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and reporting of all Consortium activities as agreed with the Project Board.
4. Provide a high level budget plan for the Consortium project's implementation to the Project Board for approval, within the agreed timelines.

What is next?

1. First Consortium Meeting and launch.
2. What, where, how in collaboration – prioritised areas.
Realistic and tangible activities and deliverables.
3. **Contribution and designated role of each institution.**
4. Management board and meetings (on-line and face to face monthly).
5. Monitoring and evaluation of the project.

LJMU's team as Secretariat

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Thank you for your attention.