

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP (MIS)
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

1. What is the application period for MIS?

The application period of MIS for the academic year 2023/2024 is open from **17th April until 18th May 2023**.

2. Who can apply for MIS?

MIS is offered to graduates with outstanding academic and co-curricular achievement who either:

- intend to pursue full-time postgraduate studies in Malaysia; *or*
- are currently pursuing full-time postgraduate studies in Malaysian public or private universities supported under MIS, with **a minimum of two (2) semesters remaining** before the end of the study period.

For the academic year 2023/2024, MIS is offered to graduates from the following countries:

- ASEAN countries
- Commonwealth countries
- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Azerbaijan
- China
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Hong Kong
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Libya
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- South Korea
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- United Arab Emirates
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen

3. Are all Malaysian universities supported under MIS?

No, only selected Malaysian universities are supported under MIS, including all 20 public universities and 4 private universities as follows:

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 (UMP)
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)
21. Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP)
22. Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)
23. Multimedia University (MMU)
24. INCEIF University (INCEIF)

4. Do I need to apply for the university separately or is the admission to Malaysian university is automatically obtained following the successful application for MIS?

Yes, MIS applicants are required to independently apply for university admission separately from MIS application. Moreover, MIS applicants are considered equivalent to other students seeking for postgraduate programs and as such, must go through the same process in 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 parties are allowed to apply for MIS without yet having secured a place in a Malaysian 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 – failure of which results in MIS offer being withdrawn without notice.

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

MIS is open for postgraduate level studies, which are the **Master's and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees.**

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

No. MIS only covers **full-time** masters and PhD studies.

8. What are the eligibility criteria for MIS?

Applicants must fulfill the following criteria for their applications to be considered further:

- Is **not more than 40 or 45 years old** at the time of application for the master's and PhD levels, respectively.
- Possessing good academic qualifications:
 - Master's applicants: obtaining a **CGPA of 3.0 or 2nd Class Upper (Honours)** or higher at the bachelor's degree level
 - PhD applicants: obtaining a **CGPA of 3.0 or excellent results** at the Masters level in courses related to the intended study program
- Mastering good proficiency in the English language:
 - Obtaining an **IELTS band 6.0** or higher; *or*
 - Obtaining 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.**
- Submitting a written **research proposal** with a **minimum of 1,000 words** that is relevant to the intended field of studies **for Masters by Research and PhD applicants only*

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

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

- Education
- Arts and Humanities
- Social Sciences, Journalism and Information
- Business, Administration and Law
- Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary
- Health and Welfare **not including medicine, nursing and pharmacy*

10. How do I apply for MIS?

Interested graduates can apply for MIS through the online application system at <https://bisiswa.mohe.gov.my/INTER/index.php>. After registering for the system, applicants need to fill out the required information and submit the related documents. This system will be used throughout the application and selection processes, and applicants may be asked to log back in at various

points during the process to receive updates on the application status or to submit documents.

11. What does the selection process involve?

Upon the closing of the online application period, the application documents will be screened. Shortlisted applicants will then 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?

All applications are treated as fresh applications. If your application meets the requirements stated, it will be accepted for consideration.

13. Is there any application fee for MIS?

No, there is no application fee for MIS as the application is fully done online.

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

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

- A certified copy of the passport (with a minimum validity of 6 months);
- 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)
 - 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.
- A certified copy of the English proficiency test result (IELTS / TOEFL) **or** official letter from the previous institution declaring English as the medium of instruction used for the obtained degree(s).
- Letter of Recommendation from two (2) referees;
- Admission Letter to Malaysian universities (if applicants are currently undertaking postgraduate studies *or* if applicants have secured admission to the university);
- Curriculum Vitae; and
- Research Proposal **for Masters by Research and PhD applicants only*

***All of the documents are required to be in English, if they are in any language other than English, you 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 authorised person or agency. You can have your copies of documents certified true by solicitors, commissioner for declarations, government officials, university staff, public notary, or other authorised delegate in your countries 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. They could be your lecturers, supervisors, and immediate superiors, but not your family members, relatives, or close friends.

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

No, MIS does not outline a specific format or template for the letters of recommendation. You may refer for the template online or utilise the templates used by your referees' university/organization/etc.

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

No, 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?

No. All research must be carried out in Malaysia.

21. What will the 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).

22. How will the tuition fees be paid?

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

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

Your tuition fees will be paid directly to the university if an invoice is issued, but your monthly allowance will be held until you return to Malaysia for your studies.

24. How long is the sponsorship of MIS?

The MIS sponsorship is for the entire study period beginning on the date the scholarship is awarded. The maximum period of sponsorship is as follows:

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

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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 their travel to help with financial planning and budgeting throughout their stay in Malaysia.

30. Where can I find more information regarding MIS?

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

31. Who can I refer to if I have 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

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