



LIVING IN MALAYSIA

The ILC Student Guide to Life, Culture & Daily Living

LEARN • LIVE • CONNECT

Inter-Link Language Centre

www.interlink.edu.my

Welcome to Malaysia

A confident beginning to your Malaysian experience

Malaysia combines modern cities, tropical beauty, multicultural communities and a welcoming student environment.

For international students, a new country brings excitement and questions about accommodation, money, transportation, culture, rules and support.

This guide is designed for local and international students, parents, agents and partner institutions. It explains what to prepare, what to expect and where to ask for help.

IMPORTANT

Immigration, transport, healthcare and government requirements may change. Always follow the latest instructions from ILC Student Affairs and the relevant Malaysian authorities.

Inside: culture • arrival • accommodation • budgeting • safety • student life

Your Experience Begins with ILC

Support before arrival, during study and beyond the classroom

At ILC, education extends beyond the classroom. Malaysia is a place to practise English in daily life, develop independence, make international friends and understand new cultures.

ILC Student Affairs can assist with

-  Pre-arrival preparation and guidance
-  Coordination with EMGS
-  Airport reception and arrival assistance
-  Transport from the airport to accommodation
-  Accommodation guidance
-  Post-arrival medical-screening guidance
-  Student Pass and immigration information
-  Student welfare and cultural adjustment
-  Everyday living guidance and service referrals

STUDENT AFFAIRS

**We are here
when you need
guidance.**

Email

**studentaffairs@
interlink.edu.my**

Telephone

+603 2022 4840

WhatsApp

+6011 6302 4840

Students remain responsible for Malaysian law, immigration conditions, accommodation rules and ILC policies.

Your Guide at a Glance

Designed for preparation, arrival and confident daily living

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Malaysia at a Glance

A modern Southeast Asian nation with a rich cultural heritage

Malaysia has two geographical regions separated by the South China Sea: Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia, comprising Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo.

CAPITAL**Kuala Lumpur****ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL****Putrajaya****POPULATION****Approx. 34.4 million (2026)****CURRENCY****Malaysian Ringgit • MYR / RM****TIME ZONE****Malaysia Time • UTC +8****LANGUAGE****Bahasa Malaysia; English widely used****GOVERNMENT****Federal constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy****DRIVING****Left-hand side****ELECTRICITY****220-240V • 50Hz • Type G plug****MEASUREMENT****Metric system**

13 states • 3 federal territories: Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan

One Country, Many Experiences

Cities, heritage, islands, rainforests and highlands



Kuala Lumpur

Capital, education, business, shopping and urban transport.



Putrajaya

Federal administration, landscaped spaces and modern architecture.



Selangor

Residential, commercial and educational communities surrounding KL.



Penang

George Town heritage, celebrated food, arts and multicultural identity.



Melaka

Historic city shaped by Malay, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch and British influences.



Johor Bahru

Major southern city near Singapore.



Sabah & Sarawak

Indigenous cultures, mountains, rainforests, wildlife and natural attractions.

Travel note

Sabah and Sarawak maintain immigration controls. Carry valid identification and immigration documents.

Why Students Choose Malaysia

Affordability, connection and everyday opportunities to communicate

Malaysia helps students study internationally while enjoying a practical, connected lifestyle.

- **Multicultural society**
- **English widely used**
- **Modern infrastructure**
- **Affordable local food**
- **Diverse education**
- **International flights**
- **Religious diversity**
- **Many housing choices**
- **Travel opportunities**
- **Language practice daily**

Everyday activities such as ordering food, travelling, shopping and making friends can become valuable English practice.



Kuala Lumpur & ILC

Study in the heart of Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, commonly called KL, is Malaysia's capital and a centre for business, tourism, education and international activity. Modern skyscrapers and malls sit alongside traditional markets, places of worship, parks and museums.

ILC is located in the Kuala Lumpur city area, close to major landmarks, restaurants, accommodation and transport connections. The Petronas Twin Towers and KLCC area are nearby.

Expect busy peak-hour roads and trains.
Allow extra travel time during heavy rain and major events.
Central rentals can cost more, but services are convenient.

Unity Through Diversity

Every community adds to a shared Malaysian identity

Malaysia includes Malay, Chinese, Indian, Indigenous and internationally connected communities, each with its own traditions, foods, languages, clothing, celebrations and beliefs.

Respect

Parents, elders and teachers

Hospitality

Warmth toward guests

Harmony

Consideration for others

Community

Cooperation and belonging

Faith

Respect for religious practice

Courtesy

Polite, calm communication

Sabah and Sarawak are home to many Indigenous communities, including Kadazan-Dusun, Bajau, Murut, Iban, Bidayuh, Melanau and Orang Ulu peoples. Peninsular Malaysia is home to Orang Asli communities.

Observe first. Ask politely. Avoid assuming everyone follows the same customs.

A Multilingual Society

Bahasa Malaysia is national; English is widely used

Mandarin, Cantonese, Tamil and many Chinese, Indian and Indigenous languages are also spoken. Malaysians may mix several languages in casual conversation. This is normal.

BAHASA MALAYSIA	ENGLISH
Selamat datang	Welcome
Selamat pagi	Good morning
Apa khabar?	How are you?
Terima kasih	Thank you
Sama-sama	You're welcome
Tolong	Please / help
Maaf	Sorry / excuse me
Berapa harganya?	How much is it?
Di mana...?	Where is...?
Saya tidak faham	I do not understand
Boleh cakap Bahasa Inggeris?	Can you speak English?
Saya perlukan bantuan	I need help

Speak clearly, politely and patiently. Speaking louder does not make communication easier.



Faith, Festivals & 2026 Dates

Islam is the religion of the Federation. Malaysia is also home to Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Taoist and other faith communities.

1 Jan	New Year's Day (KL)	1 Jun	King's Official Birthday
1 Feb	Federal Territory Day / Thaipusam (KL)	17 Jun	Awal Muharram
17-18 Feb	Chinese New Year	25 Aug	Maulidur Rasul
7 Mar	Nuzul Al-Quran (KL)	31 Aug	National Day
21-22 Mar*	Hari Raya Aidilfitri	16 Sep	Malaysia Day
1 May	Labour Day	8 Nov*	Deepavali
27 May*	Hari Raya Aidiladha	25 Dec	Christmas
31 May	Wesak Day		

* Subject to official change. State holidays vary. Always follow the ILC academic calendar before booking travel.

Everyday Respect Matters

Simple habits help build positive relationships

Malaysians are generally understanding of visitors. When uncertain, observe others and ask politely.

DO

- ✓ Greet people politely.
- ✓ Use titles until invited to use a first name.
- ✓ Dress neatly for class and appointments.
- ✓ Remove shoes when requested.
- ✓ Ask before photographing people.
- ✓ Use the right hand, or both hands, to give or receive.
- ✓ Respect queues and personal space.
- ✓ Keep your voice moderate.
- ✓ Respect religions, cultures and national symbols.

AVOID

- ✗ Touching someone's head without permission.
- ✗ Pointing directly at people.
- ✗ Jokes about race, religion or nationality.
- ✗ Publicly insulting or embarrassing someone.
- ✗ Entering restricted religious areas.
- ✗ Wearing shoes where removal is required.
- ✗ Photographing restricted facilities.
- ✗ Public displays of anger or aggression.

Choose modest clothing for mosques, temples, government offices and conservative communities.

Warm, Humid & Tropical

Plan for sunshine, air-conditioning and sudden rain

23°C-33°C

Common Kuala Lumpur temperature range

High humidity • regular rainfall • strong UV

MONSOON RHYTHM

Northeast: Nov-Mar
Southwest: late May-Sep
Thunderstorms remain possible year-round.

Pack smart

-  Lightweight breathable clothing
-  Modest formal and religious clothing
-  Comfortable walking shoes
-  Umbrella or raincoat
-  Sunscreen and reusable water bottle
-  Medication and prescriptions
-  Type G electrical adaptor
-  Light sweater for air-conditioned rooms
-  A few familiar personal items

Weather safety

-  Expect delays during heavy rain.
-  Never walk or drive through floodwater.
-  Move indoors during thunderstorms.
-  Use mosquito repellent.
-  Remove standing water around housing.
-  Monitor official weather warnings.

Malaysia does not have four seasons, but local weather still demands preparation.

Before You Travel

Inform ILC at least 4-5 days before departure

International students must send ILC Student Affairs their confirmed flight itinerary 4-5 days before travelling. Send changes immediately.

Carry in your hand luggage

-  Valid passport
-  eVAL / Visa Approval Letter
-  Single-Entry Visa or eVisa, if required
-  ILC offer or acceptance letter
-  Accommodation address and confirmation
-  Confirmed flight itinerary
-  ILC and emergency contacts
-  EMGS and immigration documents
-  Medical and vaccination documents
-  Payment receipts
-  Malaysian Ringgit or enabled bank card

Prepare before departure

-  Check that names match on every document.
-  Confirm passport validity.
-  Confirm airport reception with ILC.
-  Save secure digital document copies.
-  Give family your flight and housing details.
-  Notify your bank of travel.
-  Confirm email and phone access abroad.
-  Check current Malaysian entry rules.
-  Never carry luggage for strangers.

Do not put essential documents, medication or money in checked baggage.



Arriving in Malaysia

EMGS and ILC coordinate your supported airport arrival

- 1

Before travel

Send flight number, date, time and terminal to ILC at least 4-5 days ahead.
- 2

After landing

Keep your passport and student documents ready; follow arrival instructions.
- 3

EMGS Centre

Proceed to the International Student Arrival Centre and identify yourself as an ILC student.
- 4

Immigration

Follow EMGS and Immigration officers' instructions. Final entry permission belongs to Immigration.
- 5

Baggage & Customs

Collect and inspect luggage, then complete Customs formalities.
- 6

Meet your representative

Confirm the identity of the ILC staff member or authorised representative.
- 7

Travel to accommodation

ILC supported airport transportation takes you to your confirmed accommodation.

Delay or changed flight? WhatsApp +6011 6302 4840 immediately.

Protect Your Student Status

Immigration compliance is a continuing responsibility

International students must maintain valid immigration status throughout their stay.

-  Keep your passport valid and know your Student Pass expiry date.
-  Begin renewal when instructed by ILC.
-  Provide requested documents promptly.
-  Attend required medical appointments.
-  Update ILC after changes to passport, address or contact details.
-  Ask before leaving Malaysia during an application or endorsement.
-  Never overstay.
-  Do not change institution or programme without approval.
-  Do not surrender your passport to an unauthorised person.
-  Carry suitable identification and keep secure copies.

POST ARRIVAL MEDICAL SCREENING

New international students are normally required to attend an EMGS panel clinic within seven working days of arrival. Missing the screening can delay Student Pass endorsement.

Requirements can differ by nationality and application type. Consult Student Affairs before travel, renewal or passport changes.

Attendance Protects Your Progress

Student Pass holders at language centres cannot work

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance supports learning and Student Pass renewal.

-  Attend every scheduled class.
-  Arrive on time.
-  Report illness or emergencies.
-  Provide medical evidence when requested.
-  Do not book holidays during class.
-  Monitor your attendance.
-  Follow ILC academic and conduct rules.

EMGS generally requires at least 80% attendance for renewal; ILC may set stricter academic requirements.

EMPLOYMENT

ILC international students are not permitted to work.

Malaysian Immigration excludes Student Pass holders at language centres, training centres and accredited skills centres from part-time employment permission.

Do not accept paid or unpaid employment, freelance work, cash work or informal jobs without confirmed legal authorisation.

Unauthorised work can affect your immigration status and future plans.

When in doubt, ask ILC Student Affairs before accepting any work or business opportunity.

ILC Accommodation Options

Exact monthly prices from the current pricing booklet

Choose a place where you can study, rest and feel secure. Availability is confirmed at the time of booking.

HOTEL RESIDENCE

CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE

HOTEL RESIDENCE		CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE	
ROOM TYPE	MONTHLY	ROOM TYPE	MONTHLY
Standard Queen	RM1,320	Small Room	RM1,300
Deluxe Twin	RM1,490	Medium Room	RM1,600
Deluxe Family Queen	RM1,672	Master Bedroom	RM1,850
Included facilities		Studio Unit	RM2,200

-  Air conditioning
-  High-speed Wi-Fi
-  Gym and swimming pool
-  Open relaxation area
-  On-site café
-  Access-card system
-  24-hour security

Included facilities

-  Air conditioning
-  High-speed Wi-Fi
-  Shared kitchen access
-  Gym and swimming pool
-  Open relaxation area
-  On-site café
-  Access-card system

Consider distance, transport, utilities, occupants, house rules and contract length, not rent alone.

Understand the Booking Terms

Know the initial payment before you commit

RM500

Accommodation
booking fee

14 days

Room secured after
required booking
payment, subject to
confirmation

2 + 1

Two months' security
deposit plus one
month's advance
rent

2 + 1 EXAMPLE • STANDARD QUEEN

RM1,320 × 2 deposit + RM1,320 advance rent = RM3,960

The RM500 booking fee is shown separately from the 2 + 1 payment.

Before moving in, confirm

-  Accommodation name, address and room type
-  Monthly rent and initial payment
-  Check-in date and time
-  Included facilities and utility arrangements
-  House rules, visitors and cooking
-  Inventory and existing damage
-  Refund and cancellation terms
-  Notice required before moving out
-  Receipt for every payment

Never transfer money to an unknown person based only on an attractive online listing.

Budget for Real Life

Accommodation choice and lifestyle create the biggest difference

MONTHLY EXPENSE	ESTIMATE
ILC accommodation	RM1,300-RM2,200
Food & groceries	RM500-RM1,000
Transportation	RM100-RM500
Mobile phone & data	RM30-RM80
Utilities, if separate	RM80-RM250
Laundry & household items	RM80-RM200
Personal & recreation	RM200-RM600
Emergency savings	RM100-RM300

ESTIMATED MONTHLY TOTAL

RM2,390-RM5,130

Tuition, visa, insurance, screening, airfare, booking fee, deposits, books, major travel and emergencies are separate.

Initial costs to prepare separately

RM500 booking fee • two-month deposit • first month's advance rent

All figures are estimates. Actual costs change with room, utilities, transport, food and personal choices.

Use Money Safely

Cards and electronic payments are common, but scams are too

The Malaysian Ringgit is written RM or MYR. Keep a small amount of cash for markets, smaller restaurants and emergencies.

Opening a bank account

-  Passport
-  Student Pass or supporting document
-  ILC confirmation / offer letter
-  Malaysian address
-  Malaysian mobile number
-  Initial deposit

Use money wisely

-  Use licensed banks and money changers.
-  Avoid carrying large cash amounts.
-  Keep receipts.
-  Check transactions regularly.
-  Report a lost card immediately.

STOP • THINK • VERIFY

Never reveal a PIN, password, OTP or TAC code.
Never lend your account to another person.
Do not receive or transfer money for strangers.
Verify ILC payment instructions directly.
Distrust urgent calls, parcel links and guaranteed returns.
A 'money mule' account can lead to financial loss or criminal investigation.



Discover Malaysia Through Food

Nasi lemak • roti canai • satay • chicken rice • laksa • mee goreng • rendang • char kway teow • banana-leaf rice • teh tarik • tropical fruits

DIETARY NEEDS

Halal food is widely available. Non-halal outlets usually identify themselves. Vegetarian does not always exclude fish sauce, shrimp paste, egg or dairy. Ask clearly.

ALLERGIES & SAFETY

Carry required medication. Ask about ingredients and shared equipment. Keep emergency information on your phone. Choose clean, busy outlets. Refrigerate leftovers and stay hydrated.

Food is available at cafés, restaurants, food courts, markets, stalls and through delivery applications.

Moving Around Kuala Lumpur

MRT • LRT • Monorail • Rapid KL buses • MRT feeder buses • KTM Komuter • airport rail • taxis • licensed e-hailing

-  Use official journey planners and transport apps.
-  Allow extra time in peak hours and heavy rain.
-  Stand behind platform safety lines.
-  Let passengers leave before boarding.
-  Offer priority seats when needed.
-  Keep bags close in crowds.
-  Confirm e-hailing driver and vehicle.
-  Share your trip when travelling late.

STUDENT FARES

Eligibility can depend on nationality, institution and documents. Confirm before relying on a discount.

Road safety

Malaysia drives on the left. Look both ways, use crossings and stay alert for motorcycles moving between vehicles.

Connected and Protected

Choose the right mobile plan and guard your digital identity

Malaysia has broad mobile and internet coverage, especially in Kuala Lumpur. SIM registration generally requires a passport or MyKad.

COMPARE

-  Prepaid or postpaid
-  Data allowance
-  Network coverage
-  Hotspot use
-  International calls
-  Contract period
-  Roaming charges
-  Lost-SIM replacement

USEFUL TOOLS

-  Maps and navigation
-  Public transport
-  E-hailing
-  Food delivery
-  Weather alerts
-  Banking
-  Translation
-  EMGS mobile services

DIGITAL SAFETY

Use strong, different passwords and two-factor authentication.
Avoid sensitive accounts on unsecured public Wi-Fi.
Do not click unknown parcel or payment links.
Share passport images only when genuinely necessary.
Be cautious when meeting online contacts in person.

Healthcare & Medical Insurance

Know where to go and what your plan covers

Malaysia has public and private hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and specialist services. International students must maintain approved local medical insurance.

BEFORE TREATMENT

-  Check whether the provider is in your insurance network.
-  Carry identification and insurance details.
-  Ask whether payment is required first.
-  Keep medical reports and receipts.
-  Inform ILC if illness affects attendance.

Insurance may not cover every treatment, medicine or pre-existing condition.

STAY HEALTHY

-  Drink enough water.
-  Use sunscreen.
-  Prevent mosquito bites.
-  Sleep regularly.
-  Eat balanced meals.
-  Exercise safely.
-  Never share prescription medicine.
-  Seek advice if symptoms persist.

SERIOUS OR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY

Call 999 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

New international students: complete EMGS panel-clinic screening within seven working days of arrival.

ILC STUDENT GUIDE

Stay Alert, Not Afraid

Kuala Lumpur is a major city, so ordinary precautions matter

-  Keep valuables out of sight.
-  Carry only the money you need.
-  Do not leave drinks, phones or bags unattended.
-  Avoid isolated places late at night.
-  Use licensed transport.
-  Tell someone where you are going.
-  Do not invite strangers into your accommodation.
-  Take care at cash machines.
-  Protect passport and immigration documents.
-  Report theft, threats or harassment promptly.

COMMON RISKS

Online scams • phone theft • bag snatching • fraudulent rentals • impersonation of officials or bank staff

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

999

Police • ambulance • fire • general emergency

ILC Student Affairs

**+603 2022 4840 • WhatsApp +6011 6302 4840 •
studentaffairs@interlink.edu.my**

Save these contacts before you need them.

Know the Law. Protect Your Future.

Malaysian law applies to citizens and visitors

DRUG OFFENCES CAN CARRY EXTREMELY SEVERE PENALTIES

Never possess, use, transport or distribute illegal drugs. Never carry packages for strangers.

Students must not

-  Work without legal permission or overstay an immigration pass.
-  Give false information to authorities.
-  Participate in fraud or lend a bank account.
-  Steal, damage property, fight, threaten or harass.
-  Drive without the correct licence and insurance, or drink and drive.
-  Photograph restricted security or government areas.
-  Possess prohibited weapons.
-  Post unlawful, threatening or defamatory content online.

ALCOHOL

Available to non Muslims in permitted settings. Obey age restrictions, house rules and public behaviour laws.

SMOKING & VAPING

Restricted in many public places. Follow current regulations and posted signs.

If questioned or detained: remain calm, cooperate, ask why, and contact ILC Student Affairs and your embassy when appropriate.

Everyday Services & Shopping

Convenience is everywhere, and good judgment still matters

Kuala Lumpur offers supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies, laundries, shopping centres, restaurants and online delivery services.

SHOP SMART

-  Compare prices for major purchases.
-  Keep receipts and read return policies.
-  Check food and medicine expiry dates.
-  Buy electrical products from reputable sellers.
-  Avoid counterfeit documents and illegal goods.
-  Ask before installing appliances.
-  Use secure delivery locations.
-  Inspect second hand items before paying.

AT HOME

-  Follow laundry instructions.
-  Dry clothes fully to prevent mould.
-  Follow housing guidance for drinking water.
-  Switch off lights and appliances.
-  Air-conditioning can raise electricity costs.
-  Know whether utilities are included.
-  Respect shared kitchens and common areas.

GOOD HOUSEMATE PRACTICE

**Pay bills on time • clean shared areas • control noise •
respect privacy • discuss problems early**

Give Yourself Time to Adjust

Excitement, homesickness and confusion can all be normal

A new country can change your food, weather, accents, routines, teaching style and social expectations. Adjustment is a process, not a test you must pass immediately.

Healthy ways to settle in

-  Build a regular sleep and study routine.
-  Stay connected with family without isolating yourself.
-  Join class activities.
-  Make friends from different backgrounds.
-  Explore safely and exercise regularly.
-  Prepare familiar food sometimes.
-  Ask when you do not understand.
-  Speak to Student Affairs early.

Respectful relationships

Every student has the right to dignity. Bullying, harassment, discrimination and threats should not be ignored. Students must also respect other people's boundaries, privacy, religion and choices.

FEELING UNSAFE OR OVERWHELMED?

Contact Student Affairs and seek appropriate professional support.

Asking for help is responsible, not a sign of weakness.



Explore Malaysia Responsibly

Petronas Twin Towers • Batu Caves • Central Market • Merdeka Square • Putrajaya • Melaka • George Town • Langkawi • Cameron Highlands • Genting Highlands • Taman Negara • Sabah • Sarawak • Sunway Lagoon

-  Check the ILC academic calendar; never miss class for leisure travel.
-  Check passport and Student Pass validity.
-  Ask before travelling during renewal or passport endorsement.
-  Share your itinerary and use reputable providers.
-  Monitor weather warnings.
-  Respect heritage sites and communities.
-  Never feed, touch or remove wildlife.

Travel can enrich your education when it is safe, respectful and properly planned.

Your Final Student Checklist

A calm arrival starts with clear preparation

BEFORE DEPARTURE

- ✓ Documents checked
- ✓ ILC notified 4-5 days ahead
- ✓ Airport reception confirmed
- ✓ Accommodation arranged
- ✓ Medication packed
- ✓ Budget includes deposits
- ✓ Family has travel details

FIRST WEEK

- ✓ Report arrival to ILC
- ✓ Attend orientation
- ✓ Complete registration
- ✓ Attend medical screening
- ✓ Check room inventory
- ✓ Obtain mobile service
- ✓ Learn route to ILC
- ✓ Save emergency contacts

DURING STUDY

- ✓ Attend classes regularly
- ✓ Keep documents valid
- ✓ Update ILC after changes
- ✓ Pay fees on time
- ✓ Follow housing rules
- ✓ Maintain insurance
- ✓ Do not work
- ✓ Budget responsibly
- ✓ Ask for help early

SAVE NOW • Student Affairs: +603 2022 4840 • WhatsApp: +6011 6302 4840



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW CHAPTER

Malaysia is more than a place to study. It is a place to discover new cultures, develop independence, build international friendships and use language in real life.

Be curious. Be respectful. Be responsible.

STUDENT AFFAIRS



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