



ARRIVAL GUIDE
FOR
TROPICAL DATA
SCIENCE SCHOOL
SUMMER PROGRAMME
07 JANUARY - 20 JANUARY
2024

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1. Arrival at Penang

Participants who take flight to Penang should ensure that you will land at Penang International Airport. This airport is located near Bayan Lepas at the south-eastern tip of Penang Island, 16 km south of the city center. If there is no direct flight to Penang International Airport from your country, you may transit first at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). Coming from an international destination you are more likely to land at KLIA, either KLIA1 or KLIA2 depending on the airlines used. KLIA1 and KLIA2 are basically 2 different terminals. Both terminals have international and domestic flights. KLIA1 and KLIA2 are not connected airside but are connected landside by the KLIA Express/Transit train (3 minutes ride). In case you must travel from KLIA to KLIA2 for your next transit to Penang, you can choose to ride this KLIA express. The ticket cost for KLIA express from KLIA to KLIA2 costs RM2 according to their website. Trains currently run every 15 minutes during weekdays peak hours and every 30 minutes during weekdays off peak hours and weekends. Kindly refer to their website for further information about fares and schedules: <https://www.kliaekspres.com/products-fares/klia-transit/>.

The Arrival concourse is located on the ground floor of the airport. You should arrive at Penang on 7th January 2024 and depart on 21st January 2024. You can start to book your flight tickets. You are required to find your own accommodation if your flights are on earlier dates than the stated dates. Transportation from Penang Airport upon your arrival and to Penang Airport on 21st January will be arranged by us. Please make sure you have confirmed your arrival details to us. Email us both of your flight details so that we can await your arrival and arrange the transportation accordingly. If you would like to stay at Penang after 20th January, you are welcomed to do so but the expenses are on your own account.



Malaysia Map



Penang Map

*Estimated duration of the journey from Kuala Lumpur to Penang (KL-PEN)

Bus:8 hours

Flight:1 hour

2.Financial Information

During this program, you should also bring extra money. Stores in Malaysia mainly accept Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) as payment. Payment by Cash and QR are widely used in Malaysia. You can choose to exchange your home currency in Malaysia as well. Majority major currencies are accepted. Credit cards are widely accepted in bigger stores.

Rough estimation for your daily needs is:

- Mineral water 500mL : RM 1 per bottle
- Snacks : RM1 - RM6 each

Below are the pictures of Malaysia Ringgit (MYR), the currency used in Malaysia.



Picture of Malaysia Ringgit (New Edition)

Or you might find this old edition of Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) money but still acceptable and valid.



Picture of Malaysian Ringgit (Old Edition)

Attached are the shillings used in Malaysia. Old edition and new edition of coins are both valid.



Note: Above - New edition coins
Below - Old edition coins

3. Climate and Weather

Malaysia is located between 2-7 degrees north of the Equator, in the tropical climate zone. Malaysia is a tropical country with 2 seasons only. The humidity level is high, especially during November or December to March. We suggest you bring an umbrella or a raincoat along. Malaysia is also known for its hot temperature up to 32°C. When it rains, the temperature drops into around 23° – 25°C.

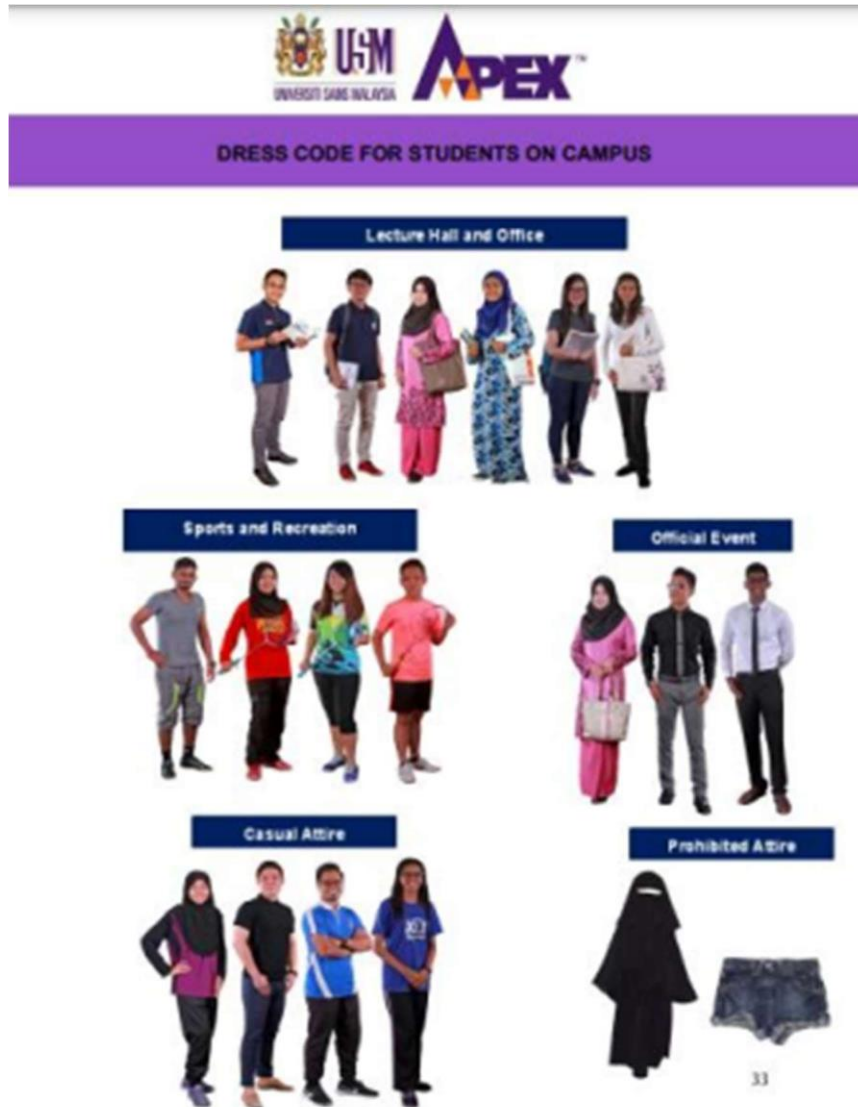
4. Clothing

Appropriate clothing during the programme consists of casual clothes. For example, collar shirts, shirts, blouses over full-length jeans and trousers, and a pair of shoes. Make sure that you wear casual clothes that are not revealing and appropriate to attend lecture halls (ex: shirts with long pants) throughout this program due to our regulation in our university.

For the dress code within the campus, you should:

- Avoid wearing too revealing clothes
- No skirts/dresses that are above knee length
- No strapless/spaghetti straps/off shoulder dresses
- No short pants
- No sleeveless

Do not worry if you did not bring sufficient personal items for your necessities in Malaysia as you can get them near your accommodation. You may not need to bring too many clothes as you can wash your clothes in the accommodation laundry, though you may need to buy detergent. Lastly, you may bring some fancy outfits for the farewell party (not revealing), at least one will be fine but two to be safe and don't go too far. Culture outfit is suggested but not mandatory. Don't forget to bring your sports attire and sports shoes. The wearing of masks outdoors and indoors is optional, including in shopping malls, offices, public transportation and e-hailing rides.



Dress code for students on campus

5. To-do Before Departure

Vaccination Info

According to the latest media statement released by the Ministry of Health Malaysia, starting from 1st August 2022, there has been a relaxation of requirements for travellers to enter Malaysia. There is no longer a need to undergo a COVID-19 screening test before entering Malaysia for both categories of vaccination (fully vaccinated and partially vaccinated). Therefore, there is no longer a need for a home surveillance order or quarantine before/upon entering Malaysia.

Tropical Data Science School Summer Programme 2024

Before departure, make sure you:

- Make copies of your passport, visa and any other important documents.
Leave a set at home and put another set in your luggage.
- Make sure you already inform us about your arrival time, special sickness, restriction food and other important information.
- Save Tropical Data Science School's organizing committee's phone number: +60 11 10788463 (Razita) on your phone or LineID: razitaahman

Before departure, make sure that you've brought the following items:

- Enough money
- A valid passport
- Your Visa (if required)
- Your Letter of Acceptance from the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
- PCR Negative Test (if needed)
- Prescriptions for any regular medication
- Universal Plug (Type G / UK electrical plug) Please make sure you bring the plug from your country
- Pack light and manageable bags and suitcases
- Clothing and personal items (Light jacket)
- Sunglasses (Optional)

6. Visa Arrangements & Arrival Info

Visa information

- Foreign students from 38 countries; Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Myanmar (Burma), Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville, Congo Democratic Republic, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Hong Kong (Certificate Of Identity - Coi), India, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Refugee (Unhcr) - Traveling Withtitre De Voyage / Laissez Passer, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Western Sahara, United Nation - Titre De Voyage and United Nation - Laissez Passer, are required to apply for **Single-Entry Visa** for visiting Malaysia.
- There are **two** ways to apply for a visa:
 - Via a Malaysian Representative Office in your country of residence.
 - Online via eVisa. <https://www.visasmalaysia.com/>
- **Countries that are not mentioned may enter without Visa according to the time of stay on a Social Visit Pass (Social) in between 30 days to 90 days according to the Citizens' entitlement.**

Arrival Information

As mentioned above, all travellers are now allowed to enter Malaysia regardless of their vaccination status. However, travellers who develop COVID-19 symptoms while in Malaysia should get tested and if found to be positive, they are subject to the current protocol for positive COVID-19 cases as below:

- Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 must undergo isolation via a Home Surveillance Order (HSO) for seven (7) days.
- Individuals can be released from isolation on the 4th, 5th or 6th day when they are asymptomatic and the test result of an RTK Ag test is negative.
- Discharge on the 7th day does not require any COVID-19 detection test.

The usage of face mask is also no longer mandatory indoors and outdoors. However, there are certain public places that may still require you to wear face masks, for example when using public transportation such as buses, trains, planes, and hospitals and medical institutions. Do bring an extra face mask or two wherever you go in Malaysia in case you enter a place where they might request you to wear one.

7. General Information

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Summer Programme Coordinators Contact Info

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