

Overseas Travel

Risk Assessment: Student Mobility_Malaysia

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to ensure that members of the University community are unlikely to be exposed to unacceptable risks which could affect their health, safety or security when travelling abroad on behalf of the University.

This form should be completed by the individual wishing to travel prior to making any firm arrangements to travel, and must be completed in discussion with the relevant line manager or supervisor, allowing sufficient time in advance of travelling for any issues to be addressed.

Before completing this form you should ensure that you (and your manager/supervisor) are familiar with the contents of the Health and Safety and Insurance webpages on travelling abroad.

When completed and approved this risk assessment and its associated itinerary should be carried by the traveller(s) and a copy retained by the Department. Queries on the completion of this assessment should be directed to HealthSafetyHelpdesk@warwick.ac.uk.

Please consider when completing this form how the country you intend to visit is managing the Covid-19 outbreak. In particular, it may be helpful to consider access to local medical facilities, how local transport is being managed and any local guidelines and social behaviours you may need to adopt

Department:	Student Mobility, Student Opportunity
Location(s) to be visited:	Malaysia
Purpose of journey:	Student Mobility
Name and role of traveller(s):	List held with Student Mobility, and on SITS
Name of line manager or supervisor:	Maria Fox (Head of Student Mobility)
Dates of proposed travel:	Academic Year 2026 – 2027
Information taken from:	https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malaysia
Living In Country Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/world/living-in-malaysia

[Sign-up for FCDO travel advice email alerts](#) and follow FCDO travel advice on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

<i>Hints and Tips from previous Student Mobility participants</i>	
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Hazard/Consideration	Risk (High / Medium / Low)	Mitigating Actions (please add to or amend as appropriate)	Comments / Actions
Money			Money and banking The official currency of Malaysia is the Ringgit RM Taking money into or out of Malaysia When you enter or exit Malaysia, you must declare cash in any currency or travellers cheques worth 10,000 US dollars or more. If you do not, customs officials could seize your money. You could get a fine of up to 3 million Malaysian ringgit and up to 5 years in prison. Before you travel, you must get approval to take ringgit worth 10,000 US dollars or more into or out of Malaysia.
Visa Applications			Visa requirements You can visit Malaysia without a visa for tourism. You will normally be allowed to stay for 90 days on arrival. If you want to stay for longer than 90 days or are not a tourist, you must apply for a visa from the nearest Malaysian diplomatic mission before you travel.

The Malaysian authorities do not tolerate illegal immigration. Do not overstay your visa or violate the terms of entry. Even if you overstay for just a few days, you can be:

- fined
- detained
- deported to the UK at your own cost
- banned from returning to Malaysia

Detention facilities can be poor with limited healthcare. The British High Commission is unable to help you stay in Malaysia or issue any document to support your overstay.

Keep a copy of your passport and visa safe in case your passport is lost. It may take time to get a replacement visa. If you cannot show your original visa or entry stamp on exit, you may be treated as an overstayer.

Passport validity requirements

To enter Malaysia, your passport must have an 'expiry date' at least 6 months after the date you arrive. Make sure it is undamaged, with no pages missing.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Dual nationals

Malaysia does not recognise dual nationality. You can be refused entry if you're found with a Malaysian passport and one of a different nationality. If you have dual nationality (not including Malaysian), enter and exit on the same passport.

Submitting an arrival card

You must [submit an arrival card online](#) to enter Malaysia. Do this before you travel – airlines may ask for it at check-in. If you are not passing through immigration, you do not need to complete an arrival card. See the [Malaysian Immigration website](#) for further information, including exemption details.

			Entering East Malaysia If you're travelling between Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (sometimes known as Malaysian Borneo and made up of the states of Sabah and Sarawak), you must carry your passport. You will pass through immigration control and must get entry and exit stamps. Vaccine requirements To enter Malaysia, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a country listed as a transmission risk. For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see TravelHealthPro's Malaysia guide. Drug screening The Malaysian authorities could ask you to take a urine test on arrival if they suspect drug use. If they find drugs in your system, they could detain or deport you and ban you from returning to Malaysia. You could face these penalties even if you took the drug outside Malaysia, including in a country where it is legal. Customs rules There are strict rules about goods you can take into or out of Malaysia. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty. If you are not sure if it is legal to bring items, including medications, declare them on entry.
Local knowledge, understanding of customs and conditions		• Experience of travel to, or working in, the region before • Obtain guidance and information from the host organisation • Research via relevant web-sites • Consider dress, behaviours and sensitivities • Local laws, fees or levies.	Before you travel No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide as well as support for British nationals abroad which includes: • advice on preparing for travel abroad and reducing risks • information for women, LGBT and disabled travellers

			Laws and cultural differences Read about laws and cultural differences in safety and security in the travel advice for Malaysia. This includes: • penalties for illegal drug smuggling • LGBT+ rights • carrying ID
Equality and Diversity LGBTQ information		• Unless provided here there is no statement given by the FCDO on Equality and Diversity and LGBTQ information, issues or concerns	Please see the link below which you may find useful: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-foreign-travel-advice LGBT+ travellers Same-sex sexual acts are illegal in Malaysia under federal law. The Malaysian authorities sometimes carry out raids on LGBT+ spaces and events. Showing affection in public could attract negative responses from other members of the public. Openly LGBT+ safe spaces and support groups exist. Read more advice for LGBT+ travellers
Cultural differences		• Awareness of attitudes towards protected characteristics, e.g. disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment etc. • Dress in accordance with local laws/customs • Avoid behaviour that may fall foul of local customs/laws/cultures. • Report and support at Warwick: https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcom/spring/livingatuniversity/reportand support	Laws and cultural differences Malaysia is a multicultural, majority Muslim country. Respect local laws, cultures, traditions and religions. If you're a Muslim, you may be subject to local Sharia law. Personal ID By law you must carry ID. Always carry your passport.

Dress code

Dress modestly, particularly in conservative and rural areas. You may be refused entry to places of worship or government offices if you do not have your shoulders and knees covered or are not wearing closed shoes. Check the signs displayed at the entrance.

Ramadan

Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims. The dates vary by year and country. In Malaysia, Ramadan will take place in March 2025.

During this time, you should:

- check opening hours of shops and restaurants
- follow local dress codes – clothing that does not meet local dress codes may cause more offence at this time
- be aware of the risks of dehydration and that fasting can cause tiredness, particularly during the later afternoon and early evening

Get more advice when you arrive from your tour guide, hotel or business contacts.

Illegal drugs penalties

Possession, trafficking and manufacture of any illegal drugs are serious offences in Malaysia. This includes cannabis. British nationals have been caught carrying cannabis while transiting through Malaysia.

Airports in Malaysia have security equipment and procedures in place for scanning and detecting illegal substances, including cannabis. This is also used to scan all carry-on and checked-in baggage of transiting passengers.

The Malaysian authorities have a zero-tolerance policy to drug offences. Possessing drugs, even in very small quantities, carries severe penalties, including:

- arrest and detention
- a long jail sentence if charged and convicted

			• a possible whipping • a possible death sentence by hanging for drug trafficking Legal processes before court hearings can be long and expensive. It can take many months for a case to go to trial and time served ahead of that will not be included as part of the sentence. Criminal gangs in the UK and elsewhere are known to coerce people into carrying drugs across borders. Do not allow yourself to be persuaded. It is important to be aware of your rights if you are detained by the police. See our guidance for those detained or imprisoned in Malaysia. Police often raid venues known to be frequented by foreigners. You may have to take a urine or blood test if there is a reasonable suspicion you have used drugs. You will be arrested if the test is positive.
Social/Political Unrest or Terrorism:		• Check the FCO website for up-to-date advice. • If the FCO advises against travel to destination(s) on safety/security grounds then seek approval from HoD/Line Manager • Consider not just the country in question but also any territories as identified in FCO pages • Reschedule visit or modify itinerary if at all feasible.	Terrorism There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. You should remain vigilant at all times UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on staying safe abroad and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad. Terrorism in Malaysia Terrorist attacks in Malaysia cannot be ruled out. Terrorism attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreign nationals, such as: • bars and restaurants

- hotels
- markets
- shopping malls
- tourist attractions
- places of worship
- airports

You should be especially vigilant and maintain a high level of security awareness in crowded places and at large gatherings.

Terrorist kidnap

In Malaysia, there is a threat to foreigners of kidnapping in coastal areas of eastern Sabah from terrorist groups. The threat is particularly high between the towns of Sandakan and Tawau and on islands close to the Sulu Archipelago in the southern Philippines.

The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), based in the Philippines, has previously kidnapped foreigners from the east coast of mainland Sabah, the islands and the surrounding waters. The group has murdered several hostages. Some groups operating in the southern Philippines, including factions of ASG, have pledged allegiance to Daesh and are likely to regard westerners as legitimate targets.

British nationals are seen as legitimate targets, including tourists, humanitarian aid workers, journalists and business travellers. If you are kidnapped, the reason for your presence is unlikely to protect you or secure your safe release.

The long-standing policy of the British government is not to make substantive concessions to hostage takers. The British government considers that paying ransoms and releasing prisoners builds the capability of terrorist groups and finances their activities. This can, in turn, increase the risk of further hostage-taking. The Terrorism Act (2000) makes payments to terrorists illegal.

			Political situation In response to the current situation in Israel and Palestine, there have been peaceful demonstrations in some Malaysian cities, including outside some western embassies. It's illegal under Malaysian law for foreign nationals to take part in demonstrations or protests. Monitor local and international media and avoid all demonstrations. Police can use tear gas and water cannons to control public protests.
Personal attack / kidnap: Dangers associated with travelling alone; arriving at night, etc.:		• Precautionary measures should be taken to protect personal safety. • Inform hosts of itinerary. • Be aware of specific local risks. • Travel during daylight hours if possible.	Warwick Business Travel Insurance Details: 24 hour Emergency Medical Assistance Helpline +44 (0)1243 621066 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention. Security Assistance If there is a risk to your personal safety please call: 24 hour Security Helpline +44 (0)2077412074 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA Report and Support: https://reportandsupport.warwick.ac.uk/ Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/ Emergency services in Malaysia Police and ambulance: 999 Fire: 994 Ambulance (from a mobile): 112

Crime:		• Awareness of risk of theft or pickpockets • Awareness of local scams or hotspots • Cash and card security/awareness	Protecting your belongings Thieves normally work in teams of 2 or more and tend to target small bags and pockets. You should: Crime Protecting yourself and your belongings Bag-snatching is common, particularly in major cities. Thieves on motorbikes can target tourists. They can cut straps or pull off bags carried on the shoulder closest to the road. They have sometimes pulled people to the ground and killed or injured them if they try to hold onto their bags. To protect yourself from petty crime, avoid carrying valuables and take particular care of your passport while: • walking • in cafes • on aircraft • in airport and railway terminals • at hotels Credit card and ATM fraud is widespread. Take care when using your card. Personal security There have been assaults and robberies, particularly around bars and nightlife areas. Do not open your hotel room door to strangers, especially late at night. This applies particularly to women travelling alone.
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			Drink spiking There have been cases of strangers offering tourists a spiked drink, even in reputable bars or restaurants, and then robbing or assaulting them. Methanol poisoning There has been an increase in cases of serious illness caused by alcoholic drinks containing methanol in popular travel destinations around the world. Even small amounts of methanol can kill. It is not possible to identify methanol in alcoholic drinks by taste or smell. See Travel Aware Drink Spiking and Methanol Poisoning for information about how to reduce the risks. Seek urgent medical attention if you or someone you are travelling with show the signs of methanol poisoning after drinking. Police reports If you're a victim of crime, inform the local police and get a police report for insurance purposes.
Theft or loss of ID documents and other belongings: passport, driving license, bank cards, travel tickets, laptop		• Keep items secure. • Record details of numbers, issue dates, etc. and store separately both with you and at home. • Have emergency contact numbers • Report to police if theft suspected • Minimise amount of cash carried	Keep your passport secure at all times. Unless you are required to carry the original document, keep your passport in a safe location. If your passport is lost, stolen or damaged while you are on a trip overseas, you will need to apply for an emergency travel document so you can get back home. Make sure you have access to enough funds to cover emergencies. Check expiry dates on your credit or debit card(s). Inform your bank of your travel plans. Use a money belt or secure inside pocket. Do not openly display your cash. Do not carry all your cards with you – leave one in a secure location. If your passport or valuables are stolen abroad, report it at once to the local police and get a statement, as you will need one to claim against your insurance. You will need to cancel any bank cards, so take relevant phone numbers.

			Only emergency medical treatment is covered under the University of Warwick Business and Travel Insurance policy. In the event of an emergency please call: 24 hour Emergency Medical Assistance Helpline +44 (0)1243 621066 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention. Security Assistance If there is a risk to your personal safety please call: 24 hour Security Helpline +44 (0)2077412074 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA Emergency services in Malaysia Police and ambulance: 999 Fire: 994 Ambulance (from a mobile): 112
Travel Preparation		Valid vehicle insurance (you cannot use the Business Travel Insurance policy).	At least 8 weeks before your trip, check the latest country-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website. Each country-specific page has information on vaccine recommendations, any current health risks or outbreaks, and factsheets with information on staying healthy abroad. Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website. General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is available on the NHS website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you're abroad. The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in the UK can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines.

			For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to. While travel can be enjoyable, it can sometimes be challenging. There are clear links between mental and physical health, so looking after yourself during travel and when abroad is important. Information on travelling with mental health conditions is available in our guidance page. Further information is also available from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC).
Exposure to infection: Known endemic illnesses in destination(s)		• Take medical advice and arrange vaccination/inoculation/prophylaxis as appropriate • Consider the following conditions in particular: Cholera, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Tick-borne Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Typhoid and Yellow Fever.	Health Before you travel check that: • your destination can provide the healthcare you may need • you have appropriate travel insurance for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant. At least 8 weeks before your trip, check the latest country-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website. Each country-specific page has information on vaccine recommendations, any current health risks or outbreaks, and factsheets with information on staying healthy abroad. Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website. General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is available on the NHS website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you're abroad. The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to. While travel can be enjoyable, it can sometimes be challenging. There are clear links between mental and physical health, so looking after yourself during travel and when abroad is important. Information on travelling with mental health conditions is available in

			our guidance page. Further information is also available from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC). Vaccine recommendations and health risks At least 8 weeks before your trip: • check the latest vaccine recommendations for Malaysia • see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the NHS travel vaccinations page See what health risks you'll face in Malaysia, including: • malaria • dengue • rabies in the states of Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Sarawak Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of Malaysia, including Mount Kinabalu in eastern Malaysia (Malaysian Borneo). Read more about altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro.
Pre-existing medical conditions		• Take medical advice. • Carry written details of medical condition, adequate supplies of prescribed medication, details of blood group, etc. • Consider translation of information into local language. • Share with colleagues where appropriate	Medication The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries. TravelHealthPro explains best practice when travelling with medicines. The NHS has information on whether you can take your medicine abroad. Read the guidance if you need to travel with medicines
Health and Local medical facilities		• Hospital proximity and standards. • Access to doctors/dentists. • Payment methods for medical treatment.	Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. If you have a health condition, or you are pregnant, you may need specialist healthcare abroad. Check whether your destination country can provide the healthcare you may need and ensure you have appropriate travel insurance for unexpected medical evacuation or local treatment. At least 8 weeks before your trip, check the latest country-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website. Each country-specific page has information on vaccine recommendations, any current health

risks or outbreaks, and factsheets with information on staying healthy abroad. Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the [FitForTravel website](#).

General information on [travel vaccinations](#) and a [travel health checklist](#) is available on the NHS website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you're abroad.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the [embassy, high commission or consulate](#) of the country or territory you're travelling to.

While travel can be enjoyable, it can sometimes be challenging. There are clear links between mental and physical health, so looking after yourself during travel and when abroad is important. Information on travelling with mental health conditions is available in our [guidance](#) page. Further information is also available from the [National Travel Health Network and Centre](#) (NaTHNaC).

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Healthcare in Malaysia

Government and private hospitals charge for all services. Private care is expensive. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

FCDO has a [list of medical providers in Malaysia](#) where some staff will speak English.

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Malaysia](#).

			Travel and mental health Read FCDO guidance on travel and mental health. There is also mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro. Ambulance: 999 Ambulance (from a mobile): 112
Accommodation		• Pre-book accommodation • Stay in recognised accommodation • Familiarise yourself with emergency exits • Security staff and arrangements • Secure storage/safes	Student mobility students hosted at a partner University will be supported with finding accommodation by the partner. Work placements students are required to find their own accommodation with local support. Suitable accommodation can be difficult to identify and secure, it is recommended that you don't leave it too late to find this. We have had students whose placements have been impacted by being unable to secure suitable accommodation.
Transport		• Use only registered taxis • Arrange airport collection where possible • Check safety and road worthiness of any hire vehicle • Avoid driving at night • If possible, share long distance driving • Ensure all internal transfers are booked in advance of travel (where possible).	Transport risks Road travel If you are planning to drive in Malaysia, see information on driving abroad. You'll need both the 1949 international driving permit (IDP) and your UK driving licence to drive in Malaysia. You cannot buy an IDP outside the UK, so get one before you travel. You must buy a new IDP for each additional year you plan to drive in Malaysia. If you're in a road accident, it's illegal to leave the scene before the police arrive. If a crowd gathers, it may be safer to go directly to the nearest police station instead. Drivers, particularly motorbike riders, do not always stop at traffic lights or pedestrian crossings. There have been several fatal bus crashes, particularly on overnight journeys. Choose a reputable operator for your journey.

			If you rent a motorbike, it's illegal not to wear a helmet. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence, and the traffic police regularly carry out breath tests. If you are found driving over the legal limit, you may get: • a heavy fine • a prison sentence • deported Road conditions in East Malaysia are not as good as those in Peninsular Malaysia. Using taxis At airports you pay for your taxi with a fixed-price coupon you buy at a counter in the terminal. In other areas, taxis should use a meter. Sea and river travel Some passenger boats have sunk due to overloading and poor maintenance. Take care when travelling by passenger ferry or speedboat. Avoid travelling on vessels that are clearly overloaded or in poor condition. Make sure life jackets are available. Piracy in South-East Asian waters is an ongoing problem. There have been attacks against ships in and around Malaysian waters, particularly in the Strait of Malacca and the waters between Sabah and the southern Philippines. Be vigilant and take appropriate precautions. Reduce opportunities for theft, establish secure areas on board and report all incidents to the coastal and flag state authorities.
Communications		• Consider access to landlines or alternative handsets if mobile phone is lost or stolen. • Back-up chargers or batteries for phones or electronic devices • Access to network or wi-fi	Loss of mobile phones or laptops are not covered on the University Insurance policy
Utilities/Cyber Issues		• Compatibility of equipment • Voltages and safety equipment • Power cuts or interruptions	Plug adapters will be required

Insect and animal bites		- Consider likely insect/animal issues in particular area - Avoid by prevention – repellents, clothing, etc. - Consider use of nets in accommodation - Carry appropriate treatment	
Contaminated water/food		- Avoid food or water which could be contaminated. - Carry water sterilising tablets.	
Minor injuries and ailments		Carry basic First Aid kit.	
Sunburn		- Avoid by prevention – hat, sunglasses, and sunblock. - Carry appropriate treatment.	
Leisure activities		- Ensure you are adequately insured (the University insurance does <u>not</u> provide cover for non-business related activity) - Skiing, white water, bungee jumping, diving. Etc.	The Warwick Business Travel Insurance will not provide cover for non-business (study) related activity. Ensure you take out personal insurance.
Natural disasters		Assessment of the risk of typhoons, earthquake, tsunami, avalanche, etc	Extreme weather and natural disasters Find out what you can do to prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards. Seasonal storms affect Malaysia. The timing of these storms depends on location in the country. Flooding and landslides are common and can cause significant damage to infrastructure. Essential services can be interrupted. For information on local weather, check the Malaysian Meteorological Department. Earthquakes can happen in Malaysia but are rare.
Research or work activities		- Awareness of safe systems of work - Awareness of local safety measures - Remoteness of work sites	Will be covered by the Host Institution
Completed by Department:			Student Mobility, STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

Completed by Study Abroad:	Friday, 12 June 2026
	Frequently Asked Questions (warwick.ac.uk)

