



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
name university abroad	Monash Malaysia
start date	3 / 2 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 7 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process for Monash Malaysia was probably the most frustrating part of my entire exchange. Due to time differences and slow processing of questions, communication with Monash was a bit difficult. Thankfully they seemed to have a lot of patience and are more than willing to help with everything you have questions with.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was very helpful mostly during the application process, very helpful and quick responses. Throughout my exchange I didn't use counselling and support from either university as it was not necessary.

academic preparation

I didn't need to do any specific academic preparation, but I recommend picking units that fall in line with units you have done at your home university.

language preparation

For Malaysia no specific language preparation is necessary. Almost everybody has a good grasp of English so being fluent in English is all you need.

finances

Malaysia is a pretty cheap country to live in, if you need to live on a budget you can survive here with €200 per month (aside from monthly rental of where you live). However if you want to go out for dinner with friends daily you'll end up spending a lot, it would be smart to keep track of your expenses while you're here.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I ended up doing 3 units: Environmental microbiology, Tropical environmental management and tropical aquatic biology. I noticed that even though all these units are considered year 3 units, the difficulty and workload between them varies a lot. For me it became very difficult to uphold my standard in all 3 units due to the difference in workload for each of them I unfortunately ended up failing one of them. Something important in the organisation of units is that the Monash website doesn't (clearly) distinguish between units for Monash Australia and Monash Malaysia, in order to see what units are available in Malaysia you need to use the handbook. Unfortunately I didn't know this so the units I wanted to do ended up being



units in Australia, this resulted in some very last minute organisational issues but everything worked out in the end.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is very high. All lecturers are extremely qualified and the units are all structured well. The units taught the practical side of researching and I gained a lot of practical experience that I am not sure I would've had if I stayed at home.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't use the counselling and support much, but the university has a free psychiatrist and relax room where you can go if you feel like you need it. The university emphasizes that it's okay if you need help and they are always ready to extend a hand to help you out. All the lecturers I have encountered are friendly and willing to help with whatever you need help with.
transfer of credits
As of right now I'm not sure how the transfer of credits works

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme at Monash Malaysia was honestly kind of lacking, considering it's fairly new for non-Monash students to go on exchange to Monash so the orientation programme doesn't really mention anything specific for exchange students and only focuses on the new students who will be here for the years to come.
accommodation
I stayed at the waterfront residence. This is a pretty good place as it is directly connected to Monash and has a bunch of nice facilities within it's complex, like a supermarket and a gym. If you're on a budget this is a great place as it is one of the cheapest options around while also being reasonably comfortable. However I don't know if I'd be able to stay here for longer periods of time. You don't have your own bathroom and there is no kitchen so you're forced to order food almost every day which probably ends up costing more than you'd like. I honestly recommend looking around a bit more for other apartment complexes. Some really nice places nearby are GEOsense, GEOLake, La Costa and Nautica. All these places are within walking distance of Monash and have much nicer rooms and facilities but are a little more expensive (but honestly not much more expensive)
leisure & culture
Within sunway there's not a whole lot of things to do unfortunately. There's however a really nice mall nearby called "Sunway Pyramid" it's a big mall with many facilities and fun places to go with friends. It also has all the shops you could need throughout your exchange. This mall ends up being the go to place when you want to hang out with friends. Next to the mall is also "Sunway lagoon" this is like a theme park with a zoo, rides and other attractions, and a water park. Entree fee is a bit much but it's actually a really neat place but not worth going to more than twice if I'm honest. Monash itself has many clubs and associations where you can spend time after school hours. I joined the Futsal, Frisbee and Volleyball club and I had tons of fun in the after school activities. There are also many non-sports clubs so there will be something for everyone. Malaysia is a very multi-cultural country and this is especially noticeable around sunway where there's a lot of universities. English is the go to language because of the many different nationalities.
suggestions/tips



I really recommend looking into other accommodation places than waterfront residence if you have the budget for it because the rooms are small and there's minimum privacy.
I also really recommend joining one or more clubs at Monash.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would actually highly recommend Monash Malaysia as an exchange destination. Living here is relatively cheap, the people are all extremely friendly, the university is in the top 30 of the world (and it shows) and Malaysia is a great place to use to travel around. All south-east Asian countries are within a couple hours of flying and flying from here is really cheap. So if you have some free time and money you can just go on trips around south-east Asia.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I talked about everything I wanted to talk about in previous parts.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Global Sustainability Sciences

destination city & country	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	18/07/2022
end date	18/11/2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite straight forward. There was a nice document that explained every step of the process. The only thing I would really recommend is doing it in time. Do not wait but as soon as you can just hand in all the information which is needed. Do not underestimate the time that it cost to make sure you have the proper documents.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Starting the process of your exchange is a task you have to take upon yourself. However, when I had questions I could easily email Clim (manages Asia) and she would help me. Responses were very quick and helpful.

academic preparation

I did nothing to prepare myself academically.

language preparation

All my classes were in English and this is also the case in the Netherlands so I needed no preparation. If your English is university level you can easily follow courses at Monash.

finances

I worked a little bit before I started my exchange to save some money. Renting an apartment was around 300 euros so that was the same as in the Netherlands. Living in Malaysia is cheaper than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issue)

In the beginning figuring out the system of Monash was a little bit hard (They don't really help you with that). However, when you get the hang of it you find out that everything is very nice and structured. You can choose your own tutorial and lectures times and this way you can make a convenient schedule. The content of my courses is what I expected. I would say courses at Monash are a little bit easier than in Utrecht but this is just a minor difference.

academic quality of education activities

As I states above, there is not a big difference between the difficulty of Monash and Utrecht, therefore I would say that the academic quality is good.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Before I arrived in Malaysia, I had a lot of questions. Luckily, Hoo Sze Ling was there to answer them all. She was great help before my exchange started. However, during my stay in Malaysia, it was sometimes difficult to contact her.

transfer of credits

This went very easy without any trouble. After getting an email that my ToR was available, I emailed Monash. In one day, my new courses were uploaded on Osiris.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was organized very well. They summed up all the information you needed as an exchange student and you met all the people that were doing an exchange at Monash.

accommodation

The accommodation was quite cheap (300 euros); was 5 minutes from the campus; had a gym, supermarket and swimming pool which made it easy and convenient to stay there. In addition, the accommodation included AC and a fan. The rooms, however, were very basic. Just like the common area that you share with 7 others. House is cleaned once a week which is very nice. In the living room there was no stove. If you wanted to cook you had to go to the chill space for everyone.

leisure & culture

Near the accommodation, there was one nice bar which was very fun. Kuala Lumpur was a 40 minute drive which was very doable with grab. Monash also has a lot of sports clubs that you can join which is nice to get in touch with people.

suggestions/tips

Go on nice trips in Malaysia! I had a great time travelling around in Malaysia. In addition, go to the food court which is a 10 minute walk from the campus. It has so many options and is so tasty.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, Malaysia is a very safe country. It is fun to travel in Malaysia but also easy to reach other countries. The university is good and their English is very perfect which makes communicating very easy. To add, Malay cuisine is amazing.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Monash University Malaysia
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Bachelor of Business and Commerce

destination city & country	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
name university abroad	Monash University Malaysia
start date	17/07/2022
end date	05/12/2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

First I chose the best destination for me, I compared all the universities of my interest and tried to read all the reports of other students to make a good decision.

When I got accepted for Monash Malaysia, the process for this specific university started. This was very very stressful and annoying, because there is so much stuff you have to organize (e.g. student visa, passport, high school and university information, etc.). Just make sure you take your time for this and start in time. It is a very stressful period but everything will be fine and everything is worth it!

Make sure you have a valid passport when you start the application process, because you need to fill in your passport number everywhere.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support at UU was good, they helped us where possible and we could always contact them. For us this was a little more difficult since we were the first ones to go to this university, but still they tried to help as much as possible!

academic preparation

For the academic part you check the classes you've had at UU and compare this with the units you want to follow in Malaysia, there are some restrictions and some requirements for specific units. There are so many options, you will definitely find units of your interest!

language preparation

Everything at Monash is in English (it is an Australian University), all the teachers speak good English and all the students communicate in English because they are almost all (Asian) internationals. So the only language you need to prepare is English. Obviously it's valuable to learn some Malay for the locals, just for fun, they will really enjoy it when you say 'thankyou' or 'good morning' in Malay :)

finances

The costs for the university are the same as UU, because you still pay the UU the money for college. My house was in the campus (at the uni), which was around 200-250 euros a month (cheaper than the average room in Utrecht), for food everyone eats outdoors because it's very cheap (around 2-3 euros a meal at the streets). Depending on how many weekend trips you do, you can calculate how much money you would have to bring. I would recommend bringing as much as possible because all the weekend trips make your exchange sooo much more fun!!!



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The first week is a little stressful because you get your schedule and you need to make sure everything fits, so you might have to change units or groups. The Exchange coordinator at Monash will help you and everything will be fine. During the semester everything is taken care of very well, the organization is very good and the communication is very clear. They use similar programs as UU and the online platforms are easy to use.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education and the activities is quite high I would say. The teachers and professors are highly educated. There is still a difference between how the UU provides lectures and tutorials, but the quality is the same. I would say Monash is a little easier to pass your units, maybe because we have learnt how to work efficiently, because for me and the other Dutch internationals it was very doable and we all passed every test and essay (we did have to work hard for it), but for the Malaysian students it seemed harder.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I'm sure if you needed support and counseling it would be possible, but you have to ask for it yourself. It is always very unclear who you have to go to and how to contact them. They only interact with you in the very first week and after this I've never received any email or anything from them. This is a little weird because you still have to organize loads of stuff and you need to know what to do when you leave the uni for example. So in my opinion they could (&should) do better, but together with the other internationals everything will work out. There also is an information desk for questions at the campus, they can answer everything.

transfer of credits

I just transferred my credits 5 minutes ago, so I can't really say anything about it but hopefully this is as easy as it looked :) Just ask for your transcript of records at Monash and email this to examencommissie.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week you arrive at the uni (everything is very exciting and new and you're jetlagged), the university organizes an introduction week wherein you can see all the societies, you get a campus tour, people are randomly singing and dancing all the time and you meet the other exchange students. The orientation and welcome programme is fun, but it's the most fun when you try to initiate dinner or lunch or something with the other new students :) The best part of this week is meeting your new friends for the next 6 months!

accommodation

You can apply for a room on campus or try to fix this yourself. There are several buildings where you can apply for a room on campus, but everyone (at least all the Dutchies) go to Waterfront residence. You can choose for a single room or a double room where you share the bathroom with your roomies or a single room with your own bathroom. In our year everyone had the single room with a shared bathroom, which was perfectly fine. It is a small room with a bed, tv, desk, closet and a fridge. You share the living room with the rest of the house (8p in total), and there is not really a kitchen but most of the houses bought their own equipment to do some cooking. In the student lounge is a big common kitchen where it's much easier to cook, but in my experience you just go outdoors every dinner because its very cheap, amazing food and way more fun than eating in your own living room :)

In waterfront residence there are two big (infinity) swimming pools, there is a student lounge with a game and tv room, a library to study, a foodcourt and it's at the university so you only have to walk for 2 minutes to go to your classes. It is close to a big shopping mall, a waterpark and a nice foodcourt for dinner. To go to Kuala Lumpur center it is about 30 mins with a taxi (cheap).



leisure & culture

Everything is so much fun! Make sure you plan your studies well and have enough time to see the country. On the weekends you can easily take the bus or plane to other parts of Malaysia and discover everything they offer. I tried to have all my classes in 3 days, so I could travel the other days of the week and see as much as possible of Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur itself is also an amazing city, very big and has so much to offer. The food in Malaysia is the best, the people are very very very friendly and are always willing to help (& always want to have a picture together with you haha), the weather is hot but sometimes rainy. Visit all the temples, mosques, markets, viewpoints, foodcourts, etc because it's so different from what you're used to!

suggestions/tips

Just go :) It is the best decision I've made and I would love to go back for another semester. The friendships with other students are very special and the student life is so cool there. The stuff you can do and visit on your weekends are so cool and everything is just so so so much fun!!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! If I had to choose again I would definitely put Monash as my number 1 choice. In my opinion this is the perfect uni since it is so different from your life in Utrecht which makes it a once in a lifetime experience, it is a very good university and high in ranking lists so it's good for your CV, it has a perfect location in Asia to travel in the rest of SA Asia in your holidays and there are loads of other exchange students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just accept that when you go it goes together with a little stress sometimes, it is still Asia so not everything is planned as you're used to.

The semester there starts when summer holidays at UU start, so you sort of skip your holiday here, but have it at the end of your semester there. My biggest advice is take those two months to spend in the rest of SA Asia and go traveling! There is so much to do and to see!!