



# **TROPICAL EXCHANGE SEMESTER**



**Done By**

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# Introduction

**My journey to Malaysia began as an unexpected but serendipitous opportunity, after my initial plans to study abroad in the United States for the Fall 2023 semester fell through due to a missed sponsorship deadline. Despite feeling that all doors were closed, the Study Abroad team at Khalifa University opened a new one by providing me with the chance to spend a semester at Universiti Teknologi Petronas. Situated in the picturesque outskirts of Malaysia, this experience came as a dream come true.**

**Malaysia, a tropical country where the rain falls unexpectedly and the sun shines unwaveringly, offered more than just a change of scenery. It was a gateway to the diverse and vibrant cultures of Southeast Asia. This incredible opportunity not only allowed me to immerse myself in a different academic environment but also to meet people from various cultural backgrounds, each bringing their unique perspectives and stories.**

**Thanks to the proactive efforts of the Study Abroad team at Khalifa University, what initially seemed like a setback turned into one of the most enriching and transformative experiences of my academic career."**



# The Outskirts

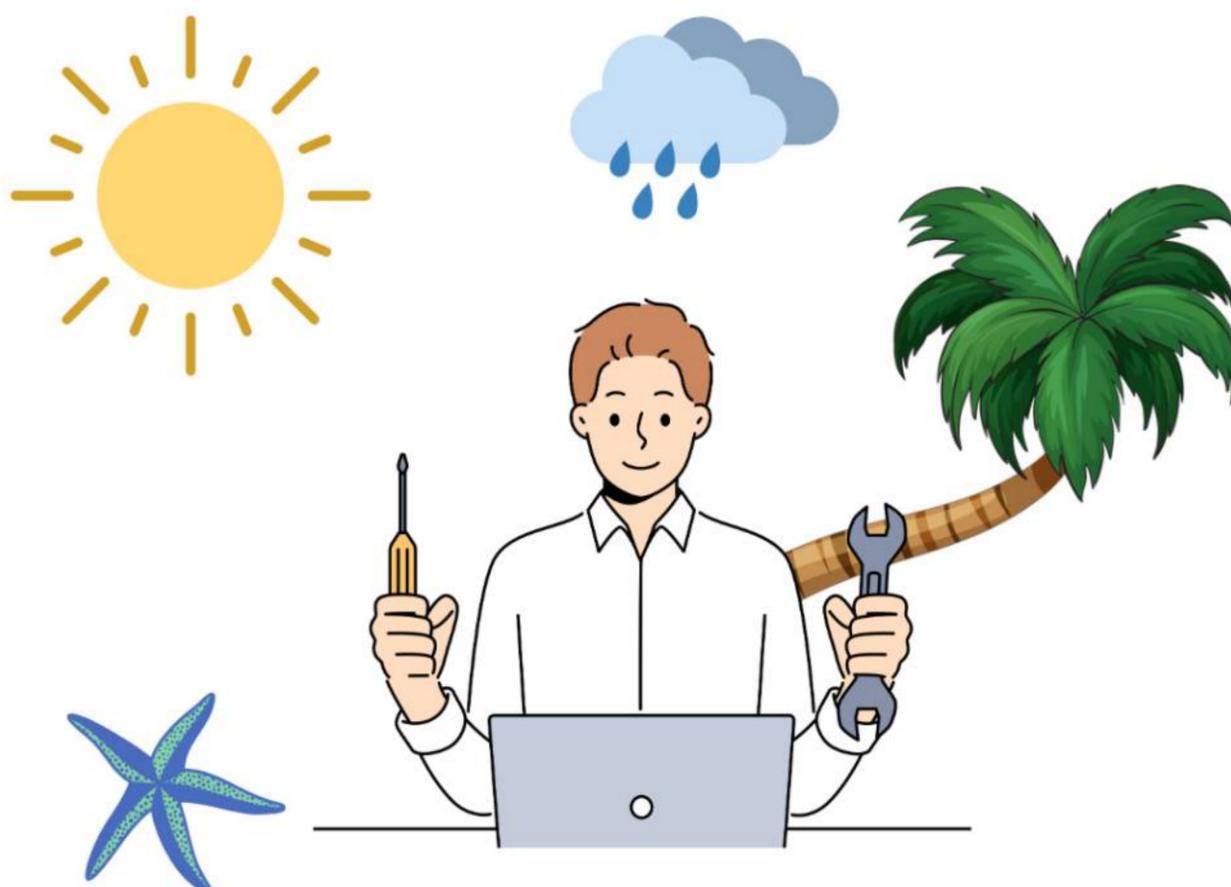


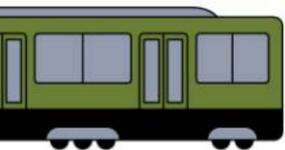
# Courses I took

During my study abroad semester at UTP Petronas, I took six courses: Database Systems, Embedded Systems, Signals and Systems, Data Structures and Algorithms, Operating Systems, and Software Testing and Quality Assurance. These courses differed significantly from the theoretical focus I was accustomed to, offering a practical, hands-on learning approach. Each course included laboratory sessions that emphasized real-world problem-solving and the application of concepts.

In particular, the Database Systems course challenged me to understand complex data structures and optimize database performance, applying these skills in project work that received direct oversight from our instructors. Similarly, the Embedded Systems course offered a deep dive into the integration of software and hardware, underlining the intricacies of programming and system design. This course also involved project work that required us to tackle substantial challenges, closely guided by our professors.

This practical approach to learning not only deepened my understanding of the subjects but also honed my problem-solving skills, preparing me for real-world challenges beyond the academic environment.



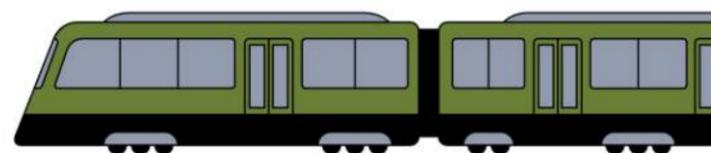
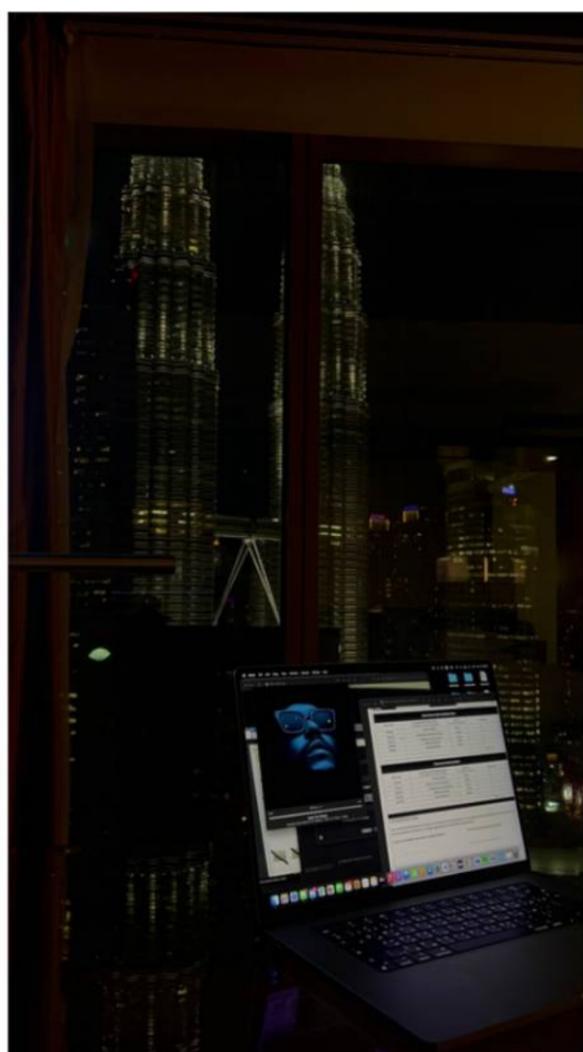


# The Journey



Studying in Malaysia was an unexpected journey that profoundly enriched my life. Nestled in the state of Perak, specifically in Seri Iskandar, I was immersed in the vibrant Malaysian culture. The experience was a delightful contrast to my native United Arab Emirates. Malaysian cuisine, a tantalizing array of Asian dishes, became a daily exploration of flavors.

Beyond academics, my friends and I embarked on numerous adventures, discovering the country's diverse landscapes and urban dynamics. We wandered through Kuala Lumpur, a city that dazzles with never-ending lights and the constant motion of metros. Each journey through Malaysia's wilderness offered a new perspective on the stark differences in culture and climate compared to back home. From the bustling city life to the serene natural settings, Malaysia presented a tapestry of experiences that were both enlightening and exhilarating. The country's rich cultural mosaic and warm hospitality made every moment memorable. It was truly a cherished chapter of discovery and friendship in Southeast Asia.





# “Into The Culture”

