



2023 AUSTRALIA–MALAYSIA PHD VIRTUAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The 2023 Australia-Malaysia PhD Virtual Internship program is an initiative of the Australian Department of Education in Malaysia in collaboration with the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education to enable up to **ten** PhD scholars from Malaysian public universities to undertake a virtual internship with an Australian supervisor from a higher education or research institution.

This initiative follows the success of the pilot held in 2022 where the first cohort of ten PhD scholars completed 8 weeks of virtual internship.

For the 2023 edition, selected 2nd and 3rd year PhD scholars will undergo **12 weeks** of the virtual internship program. Scholars from all fields of study except for those in lab sciences and engineering are encouraged to apply.

Participating scholars will be required to complete an orientation program before commencing the internship, submit a midterm report, and present their research at a final closing ceremony. The Department of Education will continue to fund the orientation program and other ancillary costs of the PhD Virtual Internship Program, including a one-time student stipend.

Background

The 2022 Australia-Malaysia Virtual PhD Internship pilot was the first of its kind to be delivered virtually and in Southeast Asia. This program is part of a series that initially started between Australia and US dating back to 2004. In 2019 the Australia-Americas PhD Research Internship program was developed with partner countries in Latin America with students from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.

This program recognises the Australian Government's priority of strengthening education cooperation, institutional partnerships and student and researcher mobility with Malaysia, through partnership with the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).

Objective

The primary objective of the research internship program has been to provide high calibre overseas students with first-hand experience in an Australian research environment at host research institutions and to help establish strong and lasting collaborative international research links with Australia.

Requirements

- Scholars must be enrolled at one of the 20 public universities in Malaysia.
- Due to the virtual nature of the internship, applicants enrolled in lab sciences or engineering are ineligible for the program.
- Scholars must secure their own Australian supervisor prior to commencing the program but need not have one at time of application.
- Scholars must be a Malaysian national.

Timeline

17 July	Call for applications
15 August	Applications close
August	Candidate shortlisting, interviews, and final selection
1 September	Selected candidates are notified
15 September	Induction session for supervisors and students
September - November	Internship period
December	Closing ceremony and student presentations