

# Hub of knowledge

Students of all ages from all over the world can find a great fit in Malaysia.



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**M**alaysia is promoting itself as an international education hub. With a stable socio-economic environment, cultural diversity, strategically located between east and west, state-of-the-art infrastructure, affordable courses, dedicated research universities and 141 international schools and counting, Malaysia is in a position to attract even more students from around the world.

Helen Prior, founder of school consultancy service provider SchoolSelect Malaysia, shares, "Expatriates, especially those who are on short-term contracts, tend to prefer sticking to their home country's curriculum to ensure their children's education won't be interrupted."

Abhijit Jain, a software engineer from India, agrees with Helen, saying, "When relocating to Malaysia, my only concern was the impact it would have on my son's

education and how he will cope in case we needed to move back to India while he is still in school."

His son is now a student at an international school that follows the Indian curriculum.

There are also parents like Lizzie Hudson, who do not exactly have a 'home' country. "My husband and I are from different places and both of us have been overseas for a long time," she explains.

"We were more interested in a curriculum for our children that was not tied to one particular country and hence chose the International Baccalaureate programme."

The experiences of these expat parents point to one important reason this beautiful tropical country is so popular among foreign families – the sheer breadth of options.

From a postgraduate angle, Kuheli Mondal, a PhD student at Malaysia-Japan International

1. With the breadth of study options available, Malaysia is inching closer to its goal of becoming a regional and international education hub.

Institute of Technology (MJIIT), says, "Being from India, I was exempted from taking the English language exam for foreign students, so it was a rather smooth journey for me, from being accepted into my course of choice to applying for my student visa," says Kuheli.

"I was fortunate to have a Malaysian associate professor and a Japanese professor as my supervisor and co-supervisor, respectively. Under their supervision, I was able to produce a high-impact publication and complete my previous master's programme successfully."

The experiences of these international students in Malaysia prove that the country has come a long way in providing quality education. Malaysia will no doubt be the best education destination in the region with continuous improvement in facilities, infrastructure and study options.