

KU GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: MALAYSIA

The University of Kansas has maintained academic partnerships in Malaysia since 1988. The following profile highlights KU research and teaching associated with Malaysia.

KU has a strong alumni presence in Malaysia. Malaysia has been among the top five countries represented at KU. In 1999, over 100 Malaysian students were enrolled, the majority of whom were transfer students coming from two-year Malaysian school American programs. KU was one of the first American universities to sign agreements with these programs.

During a recent visit with INTI Penang officials, the KU Schools of Business and Engineering agreed to accept additional courses for transfer credit. This could help reinvigorate the flow of Malaysian students to KU.

STUDENTS & VISITING SCHOLARS

KU enrolled **29 students** from Malaysia in Fall 2014.

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT IN MALAYSIA

KU faculty teach and/or conduct research on Malaysia and collaborate with Malaysian researchers on a wide range of areas, some of which are highlighted below.

[Alice Bean](#), Physics & Astronomy ▪ [Dave Besson](#), Physics & Astronomy ▪ [Kyoungchul Kong](#), Physics & Astronomy ▪ [John Ralston](#), Physics & Astronomy ▪ [Gene Rankey](#), Geology ▪ [Kapila Silva](#), Architecture ▪ [Patrick Suzeau](#), Dance ▪ [Graham Wilson](#), Physics & Astronomy

KU students celebrate Malaysian Independence Day. The University is working to reinvigorate the flow of Malaysian students to KU.

Photo courtesy of Puteri Ahmad



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The University of Kansas

Drawn to the multitude of cultural influences in Malaysia, Professor Patrick Suzeau applied for a Fulbright Fellowship to the small nation in 2014. The dance professor served as artist in residence at the Temple of Fine Arts and taught at the National Arts Culture and Heritage Academy, both in Kuala Lumpur.

His five-month residency culminated in a contemporary dance showcase, featuring Malaysian dancers.

Working closely with the dancers, Suzeau gained insight into the development of contemporary dance in Southeast Asia.

Suzeau is among the KU faculty working to rebuild synergistic partnerships within Malaysia. The global recession and 9/11 attacks have slowed exchanges between KU and Malaysian collaborators.

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STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

KU students engage in comparative academic studies, receive practical training, and visit sites of academic and cultural relevance in Malaysia. In addition to the programs below, Study Abroad offers a variety of experiences in Malaysia.

[Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris](#) (Year or Semester)

[Student Initiated Programs in Southeast Asia](#) (Year, Semester, or Summer)

AGREEMENTS

Inti College ■ Kolej Kommuniti Mertaham ■ HELP University

RESOURCES

[Malaysian Student Association](#)

[Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures](#)

[East Asian Library Collection](#) ■ [Center for East Asian Studies](#)

[School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures](#)

[Center for Global & International Studies](#)

[International Programs](#) ■ [Office of Study Abroad](#)

[KU Global Awareness Program \(GAP\)](#) ■ [KU Global Scholars](#)

[International Recruitment & Undergraduate Admissions](#)

[Malaysia World Factbook](#)

Students sell traditional Malaysian food, drinks, and handcrafted batik silk at the annual Lawrence Festival of Cultures. The students also display games and cultural items to showcase Malaysian culture.

Photo courtesy of Puteri Ahmad



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The University of Kansas

Since 2005, KU doctoral student Chan Kin Onn has been involved in the description of 78 new species in his native Malaysia.

The small nation is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world.

“Malaysian biodiversity is definitely under-researched due to the lack of manpower and expertise,” Chan said.

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the National Geographic Society,

Chan and his collaborators will continue collecting data on undiscovered reptiles and amphibians.

KU researchers will sequence DNA and examine species relationships among four different types of frogs. At the KU Biodiversity Institute, they will investigate how genes flow within and among these geographically separate populations.

Animals who are losing their habitat due to tourism projects or agriculture will receive top priority, said Chan. He hopes to call attention to conservation efforts.