

Gustavus Exchange - Universiti Sains Malaysia

THE UNIVERSITY AND CITY

Universiti Sains Malaysia is the second university in the nation established in 1969. Located on the site of a former army barracks in the city of Minden, it is just 9.7 km from the city of Georgetown. There are two other USM campuses, one at Kubang Kerian in Kelantan known as the Health Campus and the other at Nibong Tebal, Penang, known as the Engineering Campus.

Students at this university are able to study a wide variety of subjects that include natural sciences, applied sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, building sciences and technology, social sciences, humanities, and education. This is an opportunity for Gustavus students to fully integrate themselves in the academic, social, and residential life of Universiti Sains Malaysia. Classes are offered both in Bahasa Malaysia and English.



Penang Hill Funicular Train.

The first trading post in the Far East established by the British Government was located in the state of Penang in 1786. The city of Georgetown, named after King George III of England, is the city center for commerce, education, social activities, and entertainment. It is home of Mangkalaram, a Buddhist temple with one of the world's longest reclining statues of Buddha. Trendy restaurants, sidewalk cafes, department stores, and night markets give Penang a distinctive and lively character. Transportation in Penang varies from trains on Penang Hill to ferries between the mainland and island. Bus transportation in Penang is rather easy and inexpensive and transports students from the city center to campus. Students who choose to travel to Universiti Sains Malaysia have the opportunity to visit nearby Thailand.

ACADEMICS

Enrollment for a full time student is 18 to 22 units, which is roughly equivalent to 4 Gustavus credits, and will transfer as such. Students are required to select courses prior to arrival at USM but do not register until the second day of orientation. The first semester at USM convenes in mid June and wraps up mid-October. Students should either attend the first semester or entire year, in order to compliment the scheduling at Gustavus. A sample of different subjects students can take are: social sciences, fine arts, sciences, accounting, management, architecture, and communication studies. Students are able to make changes in course registration into the third week of the semester. Students not proficient in Bahasa Malaysia will have to take a language intensive program for sixth months to better understand the people and culture of Malaysia.

ACCOMMODATION

Students are housed on campus in one of two accommodation options: Two-room dorm or in an international house. Students in the international house have the option of air conditioning. Also available to students are hostels near by the university and private houses found through the Housing and Accommodation Unit. Self-catering meals are most common for students at the University.

COST

Students pay Gustavus tuition as normal. Room and board will be paid on-site. Generally, all financial aid applies with the exception of student work study and certain scholarships which require on campus participation. Cost of transportation is the student's responsibility.

DATES

Semester dates are slightly different than a semester at Gustavus. First semester convenes in June and ends in mid-October. Second semester begins in November and ends in March. Students wishing to spend a semester abroad should take the first semester. Students going abroad for a year should start in June as well.



An elevated beach walkway at Pulau Pimang

For more information please contact:

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Pulau Tioman is among the world's most beautiful islands.

"Malaysia is a great place with peoples of different backgrounds. The students are exposed to a variety of cultures and we get to learn and understand them. Especially during the different holidays when the people here really come out in all their color."

-Preetika, Fiji