

Evolution of Tertiary Education in Malaysia

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School System and Compulsory Education

Compulsory Education

Primary (6 years)
Lower Secondary (3 years)

Upper Secondary
(2 years)

Vocational
& Technical

Matriculation
(1 year)

Pre-University
(2 years)

Polytechnic

History of Tertiary Education in Malaysia (1)

- ▶ Malaysian universities are relatively young by global standards
- ▶ Oldest Public Universities
 - ▶ Universiti Malaya (1949/1962)
 - ▶ Universiti Sains Malaysia (1969)
 - ▶ Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (1970)
 - ▶ Universiti Putra Malaysia (1971) [formerly Universiti Pertanian Malaysia]
 - ▶ Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (1975)
- ▶ Places in public universities were limited cf. population of school leaving students
 - ▶ Rapid economic growth during 1970's – 1990's
- ▶ Tertiary Education as gateway to social advancement
- ▶ Emphasis on Professional Qualifications
 - ▶ E.g., Medicine, Law, Finance/Accounting, Engineering

History of Tertiary Education in Malaysia (2)

- ▶ Before 1980's, private tertiary education has to be pursued overseas
 - ▶ Popular destinations are English speaking developed countries
 - ▶ British Commonwealth, USA
- ▶ Financial burden due to global economic conditions in late 1980's and 1990's
 - ▶ Significant foreign exchange outflow
 - ▶ Private Tertiary Education liberalization
 - ▶ 1996 Private Higher Educational Institutions Act
- ▶ Regional Tertiary Education Hub as growth industry

Collaboration with Foreign Universities (1)

Government Funded Universities

- ▶ Bilateral G2G Agreements
 - ▶ Established based on govt. to govt. agreements
 - ▶ Local (public/ govt. funded) university involvement
 - ▶ Focus on technical/engineering programs
 - ▶ Granted right to confer degrees
 - ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (Universiti Technology Malaysia)
 - ▶ Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL): Malaysian France/ Malaysian Spanish/ British Malaysia Institute

Collaboration with Foreign Universities (2)

Private Colleges & Universities

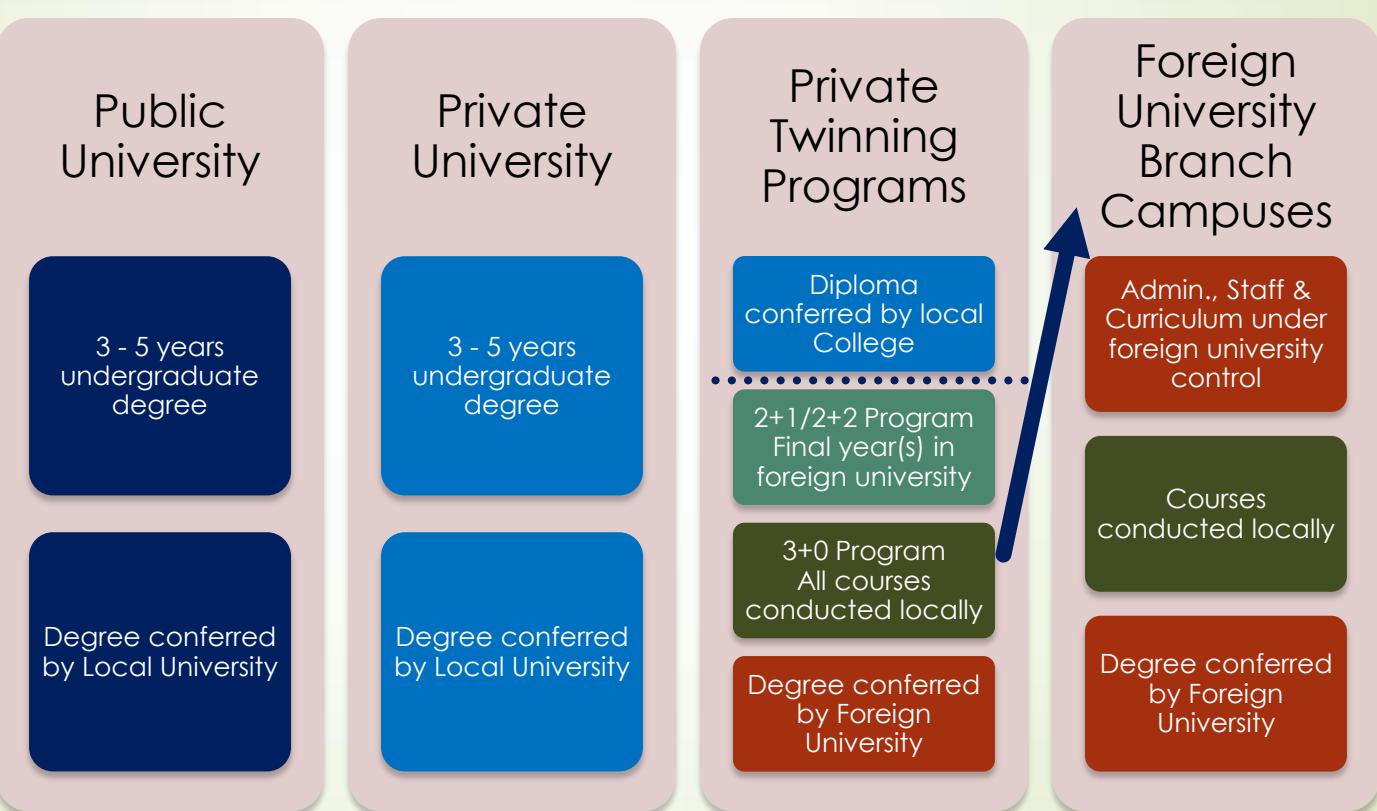
- ▶ Twinning Programs (e. g., 2+1/2+2 Programs)
 - ▶ Diploma + Degree combination
 - ▶ Diploma conferred by local institution
 - ▶ Credit transfer for degree courses
 - ▶ Mostly from private tertiary education providers
- ▶ Franchise Programs (e.g., 3+0/4+0 Programs)
 - ▶ Courses conducted full by local institution
 - ▶ Degree conferred by foreign university
- ▶ Foreign University Branch Campuses
 - ▶ Joint Venture with local entity
 - ▶ Evolved from Franchise Program approach
 - ▶ Degree conferred by foreign university

Collaboration with Foreign Universities (3)

Transnational Private Universities

- ▶ Established as a new private university between local and foreign university
 - ▶ E.g., International University of Malaya-Wales
 - ▶ University of Malaya
 - ▶ University of Wales
 - ▶ Recognized both in Malaysia and in UK
 - ▶ Degrees conferred by new entity
 - ▶ Easier to implement Double Degree programs

Tertiary Education Pathways



Public Higher Education Institutions Statistics (2015)

- ▶ 20 Public Universities
 - ▶ 5 Research Universities
 - ▶ research / postgraduate emphasis
 - ▶ 4 Comprehensive Universities
 - ▶ undergraduate teaching emphasis
 - ▶ 11 Focused Universities
 - ▶ field specific teaching & research emphasis
- ▶ <http://www.mohe.gov.my/portal/en/institusi/ipta.html>

Private Higher Education Institutions Statistics (2015)

- ▶ Approx 500 private higher education institutions
 - ▶ 37 Private Universities
 - ▶ Degree and Postgraduate
 - ▶ 29 College Universities
 - ▶ Degree
 - ▶ 7 Foreign University Branch Campuses
 - ▶ Degree and Postgraduate
 - ▶ 419 Colleges
 - ▶ Diploma, Certificates, etc.
 - ▶ Twinning programs with foreign universities
- ▶ <http://jpt.mohe.gov.my/menudirektori.php>

Postgraduate Education Scenario

- ▶ Transformation towards Knowledge Economy in the 2000's
- ▶ Masters and PhDs are offered by Public and Private Universities
 - ▶ Coursework Mode Masters (Coursework + Project)
 - ▶ Mixed Mode Masters (Coursework + Small Thesis)
 - ▶ Research Mode Masters (Thesis & Viva)
 - ▶ Coursework Mode Doctorate (e.g. EDD)
 - ▶ Research Mode PhD (Dissertation & Viva)

Examples of Double Degree @ Undergraduate Level

- ▶ Bachelors in Engineering at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
 - ▶ Double Degree with Universität Duisburg-Essen Faculty of Engineering
 - ▶ UDE Mercator Office in UKM
 - ▶ <http://ti.uni-due.de/dd/index.php>
 - ▶ Final year of degree is at partner university
 - ▶ Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)
 - ▶ Double Degree in Mechatronics with HS Karlsruhe
 - ▶ <http://gacc.ump.edu.my/Programmes.html>
 - ▶ However, sustaining enrollment is difficult due to additional expenses

Examples of Double Degree @ Postgraduate Level

- ▶ PhD by Research
 - ▶ Bilateral agreement (MoA) between universities
 - ▶ No need for university senate approval
 - ▶ Joint supervision
 - ▶ Residency requirements at respective universities
 - ▶ Degrees conferred by both universities
 - ▶ E.g. Cotutelle Program with French partner universities
- ▶ Masters by Coursework Programs
 - ▶ Need university senate approval
 - ▶ Duration of program?
 - ▶ Most Masters by Coursework programs are 1.5 – 2 years
 - ▶ Revenue sharing model & cost issue to student
 - ▶ Exchange rate for Malaysian Ringgit not conducive

Opportunities for Double Degree Programs in Malaysia (1)

Postgraduate Programs

- ▶ Research Mode
 - ▶ Easiest to implement
 - ▶ Various established Double degree PhD programs
- ▶ Coursework / Mixed-mode
 - ▶ Cross-disciplinary programs may be suitable
 - ▶ Need detailed preparatory work and lengthy approval process

Opportunities for Double Degree Programs in Malaysia (2)

Undergraduate Programs

- ▶ Public Universities have various constraints
 - ▶ Policy dictated by government
- ▶ Transnational Private Universities
 - ▶ Require extensive planning, approval and accreditation process
- ▶ Private Colleges / Universities may be more open to the idea
 - ▶ Twinning programs and Foreign University Branches are popular
 - ▶ Prestige associated with foreign degrees
 - ▶ Revenue model is major impediment
 - ▶ Need to show cost advantage compared with studying at foreign university branch campus, and/or studying abroad

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