

2024 Budget: UUM students, candidates laud strong commitment to higher education

By [Ahmad Mukhsein Mukhtar](#) - October 13, 2023 @ 8:37pm



UUM Communications Students Society president Haiman Syamil Hishamudin said the RM250 million allocated to upgrade internet access for public universities underscored the government's intent on developing higher education. - Courtesy pic

ALOR STAR: Universiti Utara Malaysia students have lauded the 2024 Budget's strong commitment in advancing higher education with an allocation of RM16.3 billion for the Higher Education Ministry.

UUM Communications Students Society president Haiman Syamil Hishamudin said the RM250 million allocated to upgrade internet access for public universities underscored the government's intent on developing higher education.

"This means that student voices have been heard by the prime minister, and I hope that students can make the most of this.

"This announcement gives us confidence that the government highly values the role of education in shaping Malaysia's future," he said when contacted.

Haiman also praised the RM300 million allocation for maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and the replacement of outdated equipment to elevate the level of comfort and safety within higher education institutions.

"I am confident that the student learning experience will now be of higher quality, and this also means that our lecturers will have more resources to provide the best education to students," he added.

UUM Students Representative Council member Projeet Roy commended the government's decision to offer discounts to borrowers of the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) to clear their loans.

"This is a welcome relief for numerous B40 students, especially within UUM, where we have many former and current students grappling with full repayment," he added.

Meanwhile, Wafa Mukhtar, a diploma graduate from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, was grateful that the public university registration fees have been capped at RM1,500.

"I know many of my fellow diploma graduate friends will be happy with this, as we can now allocate more of our budget to prepare for other things such as books and accommodation," said the 23-year-old who intends to pursue a Bachelors degree in UUM next year.

During the 2024 Budget presentation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also finance minister, announced an allocation of RM16.3 billion for the Higher Education Ministry next year.

This included a RM250 million allocation to upgrade internet access and RM300 million for maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and the replacement of outdated equipment in public universities.

Anwar also said PTPTN borrowers who settle their loans will receive discounts of up to 15 per cent, and registration fees for the admission into public universities in 2024 being capped at RM1,500.