

# Cheaper options available

January 9, 2024 @ 12:02am



Flexible study pathways enable students to continue their higher education locally and internationally. FILE PIC

**LETTERS:** The depreciation of the ringgit has put a burden on Malaysians pursuing their education abroad.

The pursuit of higher education is fraught with challenges. We acknowledge the difficulties faced by Malaysian students, especially concerning loans and scholarships.

The volatility of currencies and rising overseas costs have led to situations where some students find limited options to continue their education domestically due to financial constraints.

Moreover, escalating expenses have forced some to abandon their goal of studying abroad.

However, I encourage students not to forsake their dreams but instead explore pathways to higher education that offer increased flexibility, which boosts their employability post-graduation.

A recent QS global employer survey report said 80 per cent of employers seek graduates with international experience.

Advocating flexible study pathways doesn't imply a retreat from international experiences.

Instead, it promotes a strategic approach to education, ensuring that students don't compromise on the quality of their education.

Many universities have introduced flexible pathways for students, allowing them to complete their degrees in Malaysia or opt to study part of their degree abroad.

Nicole Chang Wen Wen, an accounting and business finance alumna, said: "Taking part in an inter-campus transfer programme gave me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and gain new experiences.

"My parents saved substantial costs on my education as I didn't have to go overseas for all three years of my degree, but instead, had the option to do a 2+1 programme, in which I did my first two years at the Malaysia campus and transferred to Edinburgh, Scotland, for my final year.

"I was hired by KPMG UK in 2022 when I graduated, where I am still working here in Edinburgh."

Employers appreciate the diversity that international employees bring to the organisation, recognising the different experiences and perspectives they bring.

Choosing institutions with flexible pathways not only eases financial burdens but also ensures a sustainable and adaptable educational journey for students.

This approach recognises the economic challenges faced by Malaysian students and offers a solution.

Students and their parents should research support provided by universities, such as scholarships, discounts, bursaries and financial assistance for academic excellence.

## **JANICE YEW**

Chief operating officer and registrar, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

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The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Straits Times

