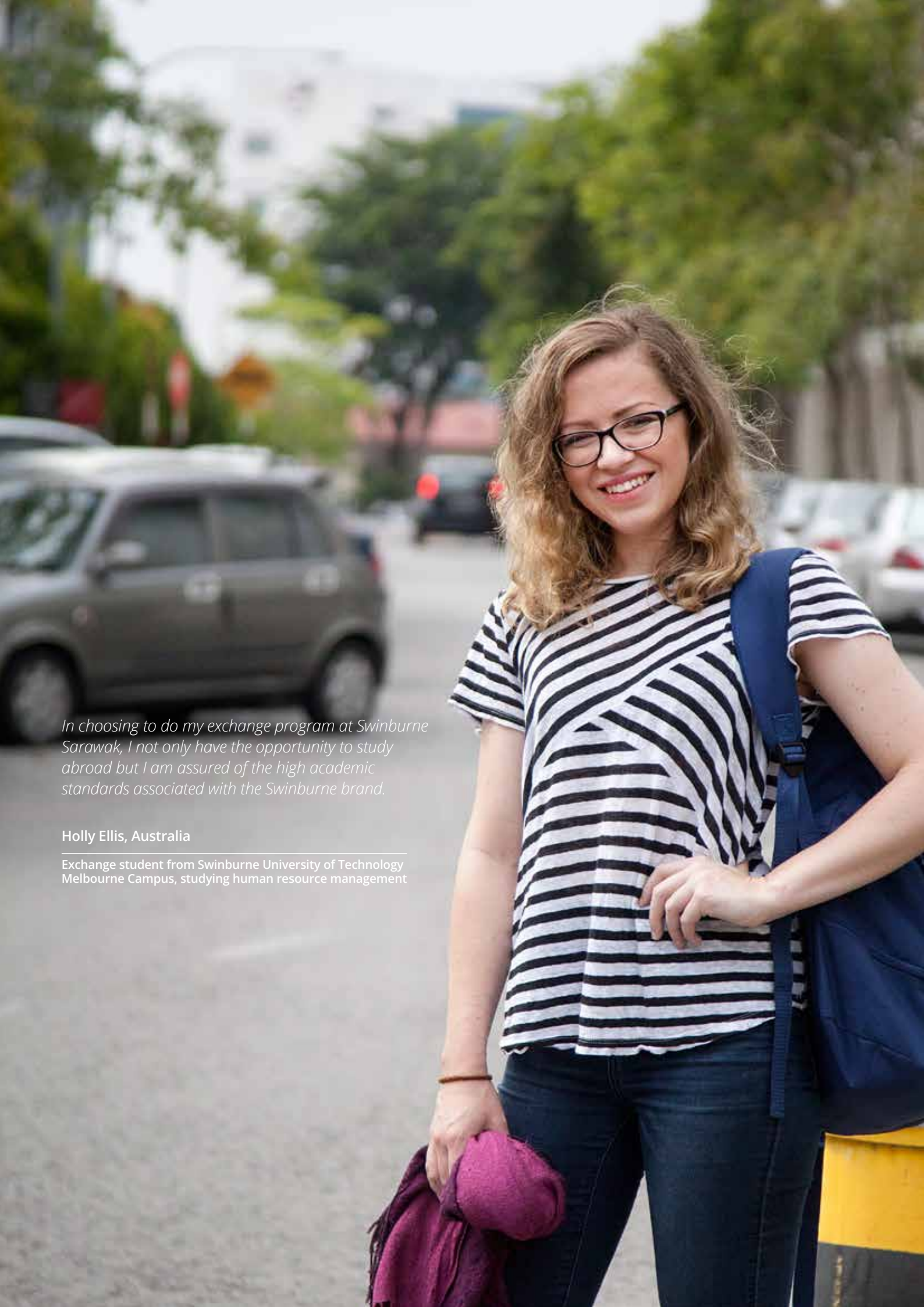


# Study Abroad and Student Exchange





*In choosing to do my exchange program at Swinburne Sarawak, I not only have the opportunity to study abroad but I am assured of the high academic standards associated with the Swinburne brand.*

**Holly Ellis, Australia**

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Exchange student from Swinburne University of Technology Melbourne Campus, studying human resource management

# Kuching and **SARAWAK**

Kuching has been described as one of the most liveable cities in Southeast Asia and is listed in Tripadvisor.com's 2016 Traveller's Choice Top Destinations on The Rise. Rich in history with old world charms blended into 21st century modernity, the city is home to more than half a million people.

## Historical charm of Kuching

Kuching is simply unique. It brings together a kaleidoscope of culture, crafts and cuisines that represents its more than 40 sub-ethnic groups. Kuching means 'cat' in the Malay language. Though there are a number of suggestions as to how the city acquires its name, it is without a doubt that Kuching is a place occupied by friendly folks who welcome travelers with open arms. A first time visitor will find its quaint but bustling streets alive with a modern and colonial vibe.

A city rich in history, Kuching is divided by the Sarawak River; the southern part of the city is where the predominantly Chinese commercial and residential areas are situated while the north shore is lined with old Malay kampong houses, the seat of the state government and several state offices. The city centre is well preserved and compact. Everything worth seeing is easily accessible on foot.

Visitors will find that there are an excellent range of accommodation on offer, from luxurious 5-star hotels to budget hostels, good restaurants and a nightlife that suits most tastes. For the gastronomic adventurers, local delicacies such as deer meat and jungle fern, a vast array of seafood dishes and a glass or two of tuak or local rice wine, are easily available.

Being a multi-cultural city, one can see a mix of various religions and languages among its people. While the Chinese speak the Hokkien or Hakka dialect, similarly the Malays speak the national language and a local variation of the language. English is also widely spoken, a result from colonial times. Ethnic races like Bidayus, Ibans and Melanaus are also found in Kuching, as well as Tamils and Punjabis who make up the Indian community.

One can find Kuching to be bright and sunny most times except for the monsoon season that runs through November to February. The heat is at its peak in the months of May through July.

## Getting to Kuching

As it is situated on the island of Borneo, Sarawak is separated from Peninsular Malaysia by the South China Sea.

A traveler's first point of arrival in Malaysia will usually be Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Peninsular Malaysia. Some may arrive into the country via Kota Kinabalu International Airport in the northern Borneo state of Sabah.

The peninsula and Sabah is linked to Sarawak by air. Kuching International Airport currently has direct international flights to/from Singapore and Pontianak in Indonesia.

A modern city with excellent infrastructure and facilities, moving about in Kuching is easy as the city and its surrounding areas are well serviced by taxis and buses. Many have also opted to rent bicycles or motorcycles as a convenient way of getting around. Or if you are adventurous, Kuching is a very walkable city. If ever you find yourself lost, just make your way back to the waterfront and you will be able to get your bearings.

## Annual festivals and events

Kuching plays host to several international festivals annually, the most notable being the Rainforest World Music Festival held every July or August. Other annual festivals are Borneo Jazz Festival in the northern city of Miri and the Borneo Cultural Festival held in Sibiu. In recent years, local and international interest has seen major cities in Sarawak emerge as a vibrant centre for arts, culture and food.

## Doorstep to nature

As one of the largest cities in the island of Borneo, Kuching offers a multitude of outdoor activities as well as untouched natural beauty across its vast land. For nature lovers, the city is a day trip to attractive beaches dotted with resorts. A number of national parks are also within easy reach of the city. The blend of different cultures, ethnic tribes and languages adds depth and appeal to this wondrous city. Kuching has plenty to offer and is a pleasant destination for tertiary education.

## Swinburne Sarawak campus

Swinburne's Sarawak campus is approximately 10 minutes by car from Kuching's city centre.

The 16.5 acre city campus offers courses in business, design, engineering, ICT and science, from foundation to postgraduate levels.

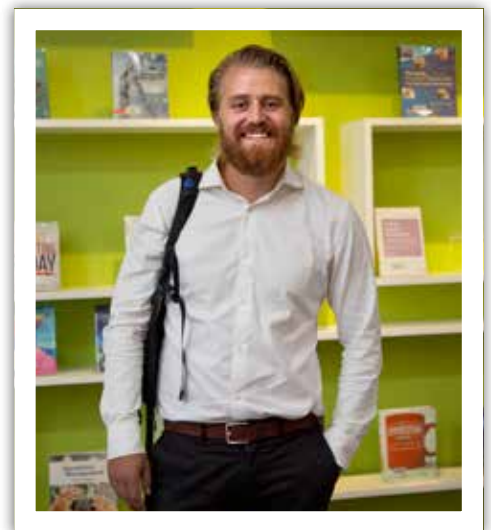
There are currently more than 4,000 students pursuing these courses at Swinburne Sarawak. International students hail from more than 60 countries, making the campus a vibrant and international place to study.

The university offers a supportive, secure and peaceful environment. On campus are a lecture theatre, an information resource centre, a multi-purpose hall, campus-wide Wi-Fi connectivity and accommodation, so you'll get the most out of your studies with us.

## Make Sarawak your classroom!

With more than 29 indigenous and ethnic groups, Sarawak is the most culturally diverse state in Malaysia. Its communities are well-known for their friendliness and hospitality.

Immerse yourself in the colourful culture and festivities of the people, and savour exotic cuisine of the various communities. Explore the numerous national parks and natural wonders of Sarawak, and learn of its rich and diverse ecosystem.



*The reason I chose Swinburne Sarawak was to experience new culture, languages and places. The study options offered by the university to a study abroad student are also good.*

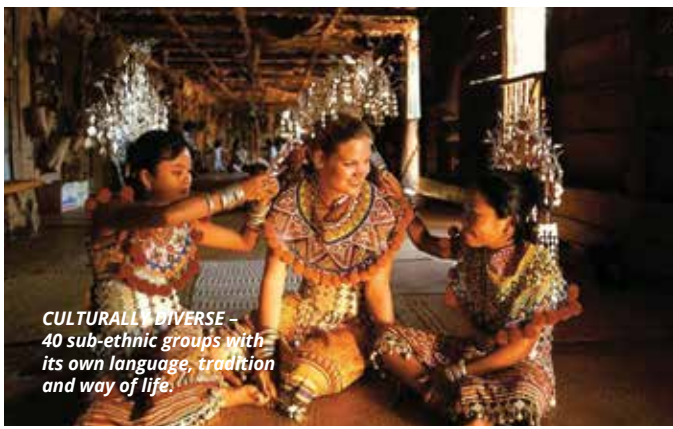
**Anton Kinlund, Sweden**

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**Study Abroad student from University of Linköping, Sweden  
studying Business**



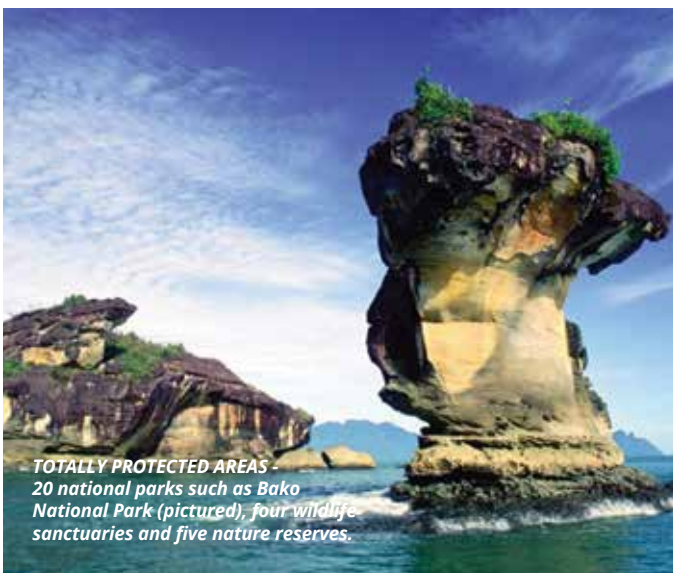
*KUCHING - rich in old world charm and 21st century modernity.*



*CULTURALLY DIVERSE - 40 sub-ethnic groups with its own language, tradition and way of life.*



*CULINARY JOURNEY - discover a variety of mouth-watering cuisine such as Sarawak laksa.*



*TOTALLY PROTECTED AREAS - 20 national parks such as Bako National Park (pictured), four wildlife sanctuaries and five nature reserves.*



# Living in **KUCHING**

Swinburne Sarawak offers a range of accommodation options for your study abroad experience. Choose from on-campus hostels or find a place of your own that suits your budget and needs.

## On-campus hostels

Two fully furnished on-campus hostels, separated into male and female blocks are available and ready to accommodate more than 400 students.

Rooms are available for single occupancy or twin-sharing. Furnishings include bed, study table, chair and wardrobe. Wall fans are a standard feature while selected units are equipped with air-conditioning. Besides Wi-Fi access, amenities include common reading/visitor areas, kitchen and dining rooms as well as laundry and drying areas. Security is provided 24 hours a day. Hostel rentals range from RM95 to RM232.50 per room per week.

## Renting a house or apartment

You may choose to rent an apartment or house of your own, or share with other students. If you prefer such accommodation you may contact the Student Engagement Division for assistance, [accommodation@swinburne.edu.my](mailto:accommodation@swinburne.edu.my)

For private rentals, the student is normally required to sign a tenancy agreement with the landlord.

## Budget accommodation

Students who seek off-campus housing are advised to lodge temporarily at budget hotels while looking for suitable accommodation. The average rate for a budget hotel is about RM200 per night. You may seek the assistance of the University for help in locating these budget hotels.

## Living costs

Living costs vary depending on your lifestyle and the type of accommodation you choose. As a guide, the monthly expenditure starts from a minimum of about RM1,500 to RM2,200.



Map is for illustration purpose only.

# Gateway to **SARAWAK AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**



## Gateway to Sarawak

Kuching forms the central hub and gateway to Sarawak. Known as Land of the Hornbills, Sarawak is home to the world's oldest tropical rainforest. Rare and endangered species such as the orang-utan and the hornbill also form part of Sarawak's attraction.



## Gateway to Southeast Asia and Beyond

Once you're in Kuching, you'll find that you can easily take a short flight out to other exciting Southeast Asian destinations such as Bangkok, Bali, Singapore and The Philippines.

Just one hour and thirty minutes by flight, many would be familiar with Singapore. Kuching is connected to this island-state by several airlines.

A little bit north of Singapore and the Malay peninsula lies Thailand. The land of thousand smile is easily accessible from Kuching or Singapore. Or for the more adventurous, travel overland on the E&O Express.

To the east of Thailand is Laos, a landlocked country often overlooked in favour of its better-known neighbours. There are currently no direct flights to Laos, so most visitors will fly via Bangkok.

South of Laos is Cambodia, a country that was once the seat of Asia's most magnificent early civilizations, where many of its areas remain unexplored. Travelling to Vietnam located near Cambodia, is now easier via its many international airports.

North of Borneo island are The Philippines. Several airlines fly direct into Manila via Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Bangkok.

To the south of Borneo is the Indonesian archipelago.

With these countries less than three hours flight away, Kuching is the ideal city for tertiary education as well as where you can learn to be a global citizen.



# Studying at **SWINBURNE SARAWAK**

## Study Abroad

The International Study Abroad Program is designed for students currently studying at an overseas institution. Fees are payable to Swinburne Sarawak and include tuition, insurance and student visa.

Students can spend one or two semesters at Swinburne Sarawak. They may begin their studies in either Semester 1 or 2, and are required to take 3 to 4 units per semester as a full-time study load. Most units at Swinburne Sarawak carry 12.5 Credit Points, which are equivalent to 7.5 ECTS.

## Exchange Program

The International Exchange Program is available to students currently studying at any of Swinburne's overseas partner institutions. Students can spend one or two semesters at Swinburne Sarawak while continuing to pay the relevant tuition fees to their home institution.

## Arrival services

All Study Abroad and Exchange students may request a pickup service prior to arriving at Kuching International Airport. To book this service, the Arrival Services Booking Form must be submitted to the University beforehand. This complimentary service will take you to your pre-arranged accommodation.

## Orientation

Orientation will be held for all international students. This is to equip you with all the information for a successful Study Abroad or Exchange experience. The orientation program is designed to provide you with an academic, social and cultural introduction to life at Swinburne and in Sarawak.

## Buddy Program

To help you make a smooth transition into studying and living in Malaysia, Swinburne Sarawak has a program that connects Study Abroad and Exchange students with local students. This program is available upon request. Prior to your departure to Kuching you will be paired with a student currently studying at the university. This student will help answer any questions you may have before your arrival and will also show you around campus.

## Teaching style

Where appropriate, classroom teaching will utilise applied commercial examples relevant to the Asian region. Lectures are held weekly and students are given an overview of the week's materials.

Tutorials are an opportunity for students to meet in smaller groups to discuss lecture materials. Laboratory sessions are held for some subjects to enable students to gain practical knowledge of their academic area.

## Assessment at Swinburne

Just as there are many teaching methods used at Swinburne, there are also many ways your work may be assessed.

These include assignments, reports, examinations, class presentations, journal keeping, class participation and group projects. Most subjects will use a combination of assessment methods.

At the end of the semester you will be awarded a result for each subject.

## Your credit transfer

You will need to negotiate with your home institution before leaving for Swinburne Sarawak to ensure your classes here will be credited to your home program. At the end of your studies here, the Student Administration Office will issue a Swinburne University Academic Record (transcript) so that you can have your studies credited at your home institution.

## International student insurance cover

International students enrolled at Swinburne Sarawak are covered by a medical and health insurance policy throughout their period of study in Malaysia. This is a requirement of the Malaysian Ministry of Education. The insurance policy is undertaken by the University on behalf of the student, and the cost is included in your letter of offer.

## Staying for an extra semester

The maximum Study Abroad/Exchange duration at Swinburne is two semesters. If you are only enrolled for one semester and are considering staying on for another, do contact the Marketing and Communications Unit as soon as possible to see if it is possible for you to continue.

## Other services

Student Engagement provides a range of support and services to help students gain as much as possible from their time at Swinburne Sarawak. For more information, go to [swinburne.edu.my/successful-students-guidelines](http://swinburne.edu.my/successful-students-guidelines).





With more than **4,000 students from over 60 countries**, Swinburne Sarawak is a vibrant, **diverse and colourful campus**.



## ● FURTHER INFORMATION

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The information contained in this course guide was correct at the time of publication, June 2017.  
The university reserves the right to alter or amend the material contained in this guide.

For most up-to-date course information please visit our website.