



INSTITUTE OF
POSTGRADUATE
STUDIES

Postgraduate Student Handbook



Postgraduate Handbook

This handbook contains the rules and regulations of postgraduate studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

All postgraduate candidates should comply with these rules and regulations.

USM reserves the right to amend the rules and regulations from time to time.

***Institute of Postgraduate Studies
Universiti Sains Malaysia
March 2025***

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***IPS Postgraduate Student Handbook
Correct at the time of publishing***

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USM Mission and Vision

Vision : Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow

Mission : USM is a pioneering, transdisciplinary research intensive university that empowers future talents and enables the bottom billions to transform their socio-economic well-being.

Accelerated Programme for Excellence (APEX)

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was chosen in 2008 to implement the Accelerated Programme for Excellence (APEX), a fast-track initiative aimed at elevating universities to world-class status. The programme seeks to boost international recognition and raise the standard of higher education in Malaysia. The Ministry of Higher Education invited both public and private institutions to submit proposals for APEX status. USM's mission in this programme is to become a pioneering, trans-disciplinary, and research-driven university that nurtures future talents and improves the socioeconomic well-being of underserved communities. USM's vision for APEX is to lead in academic excellence, innovation, and sustainability, with a commitment to societal and national development, under the theme: "Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow".

Institutional Education Goals

Five (5) USM Institutional Educational Goal (IEG) aims to produce graduates that are able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skills, especially in their professional discipline with global mindset using critical thinking and problem-solving approaches.
2. Exhibit balanced attributes of altruistic values and attitudes, ethics and professionalism, scientific thinking, arts and humanity toward good citizenry and nation building.
3. Demonstrate socio-entrepreneurial skills and mindset, capable of contributing to the wellbeing of society in bridging inequality and enhancing sustainability.
4. Communicate effectively and with confidence, encompassing intra-and inter-disciplines, society and technology.
5. Demonstrate leadership, teamwork skills and practice lifelong learning, especially in their professional discipline.

For further details, please visit <https://www.usm.my/>

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1. REGISTRATION

Self-registration must be done according to the stipulated dates found in the offer package for admissions to USM and the academic calendar. Latest announcements for course(s) registration are available in the IPS website <https://ips.usm.my>

Registration for postgraduate studies is to be conducted via online.

Original document of degree certificates and academic transcripts must be presented for verification upon request by IPS.

Postponement of registration is allowed for genuine cases. Official request can be submitted to IPS for consideration. If your request is approved, new offer letter will be issued. If it is not approved, you can re-apply for the same program without any penalty at <https://onlineips.usm.my/admission/>

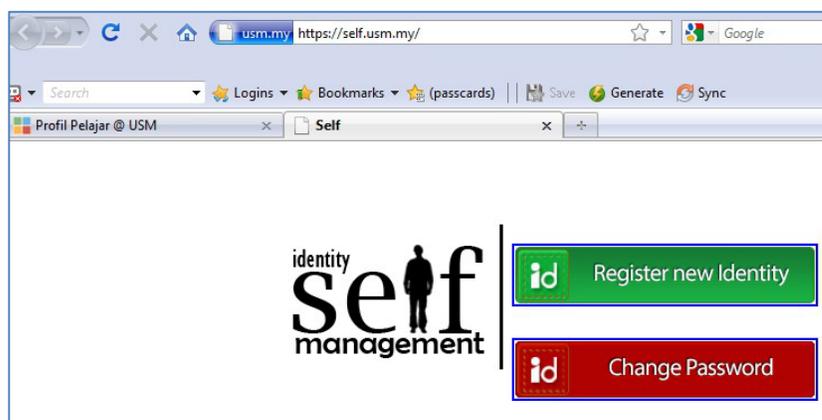
A USM registered student, either on a full-time or part-time basis is not allowed to register for another degree with any other University either local or abroad without permission.

Every registered student will be given an official email address that serves as a single unique ID for USM e-platform (such as Student Portal and Library access).

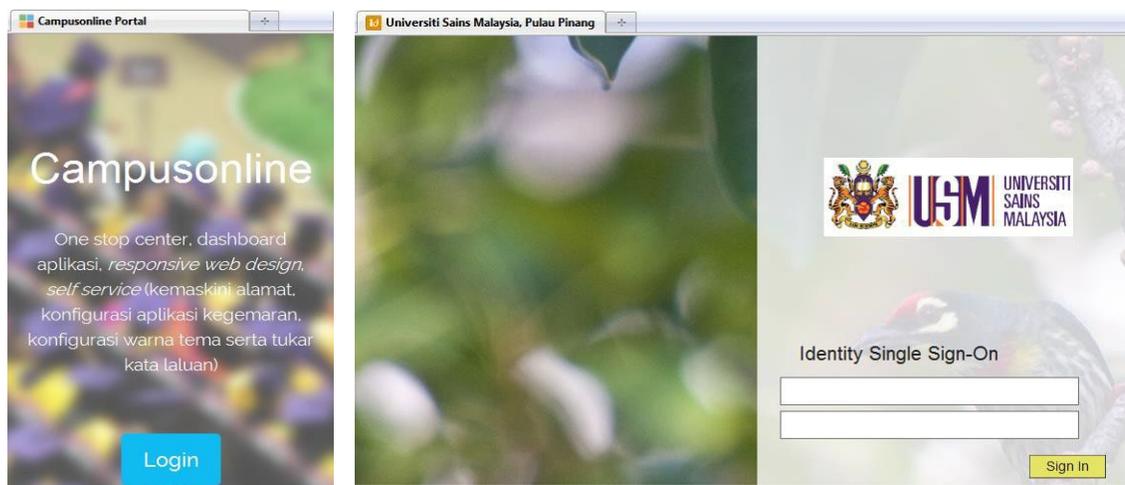
For **coursework/mixed mode students**, pre-registration process normally begins two months before the semester commences. During this period, students must complete processes like creating email ID, student card, registration of courses and pay the fees.

For **research mode students**, after your status has been activated, follow the steps below to create an access for: -

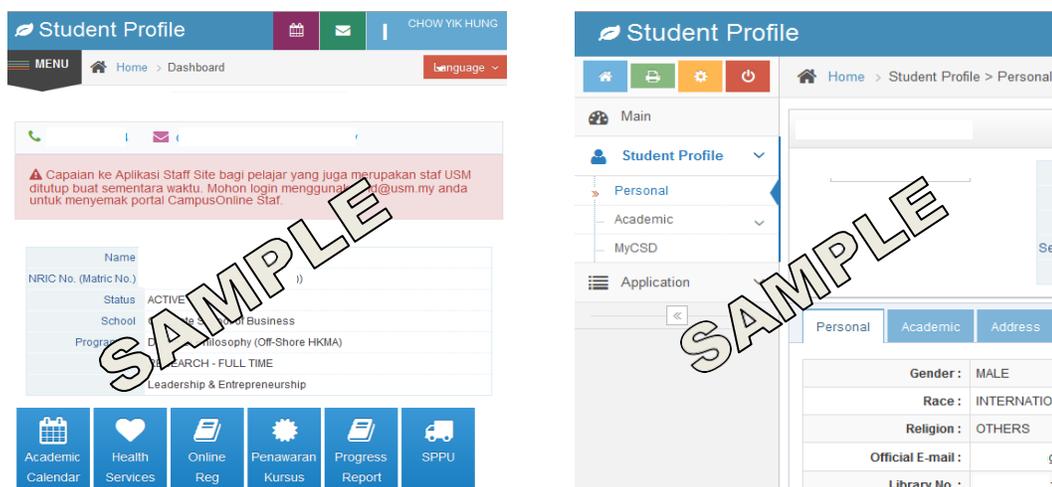
- a. Access to <https://self.usm.my/> to setup your email and password. Click 'Register New Identity', key-in your USM ID or Malaysian ID and the pin number provided.



- b. Upon successful, access to CampusOnline Portal at <http://campusonline.usm.my/>, click LOGIN.
- c. Enter your official registered email address (.....@student.usm.my) and the created password.



- d. Your student profile page will be displayed as below.



E-Learning Portal

Access to e-Learning portal is necessary for all students. Lecturers will provide course outline, learning materials, etc. in this platform. List of registered courses will be displayed after activation of status and confirmation of payment by Bursary Department.

Internet access / Student E-mail

Please note that your email ID can be used as the login ID to USM Wi-Fi. You can visit the Centre for Knowledge, Communication & Technology (PPKT) for assistance in setting up the USM Wi-Fi connection for your laptop or mobile devices.

Helpdesk: 604-653 4400 / infosec@usm.my

2. FEES

Non-Recurring Fees (payable once)

- Registration Fee
- Research Methodology Course (for research mode student)
- Personal Bond (refundable at the end of studies)
- Thesis Fee (for research mode student)
- Convocation Fee

Recurring Fees (payable every semester)

- Tuition Fees

Coursework and Mixed-Mode tuition fees will be determined by the number of units taken. The course(s) registered will automatically be confirmed upon issuance of receipt. Research Mode tuition fees may vary depending on the field of studies.

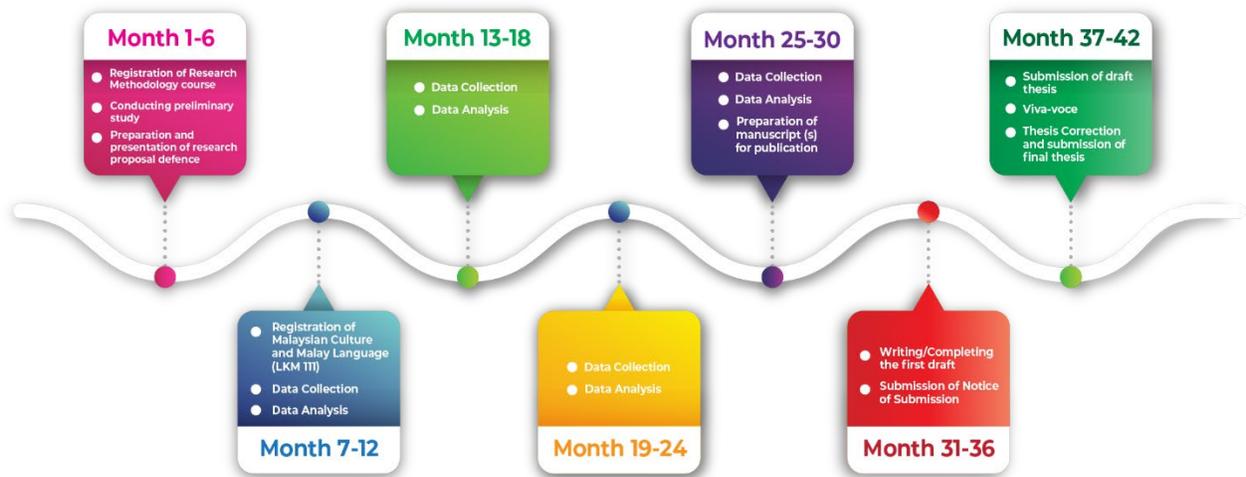
Online payment is advisable and mostly preferred. However, payment by credit/debit card is accepted at the Bursary counter. Cash payment can only be made at the counter of any branch of CIMB Bank and payment slip must be submitted during registration process for verification by USM Bursary.

3. DURATION OF CANDIDATURE

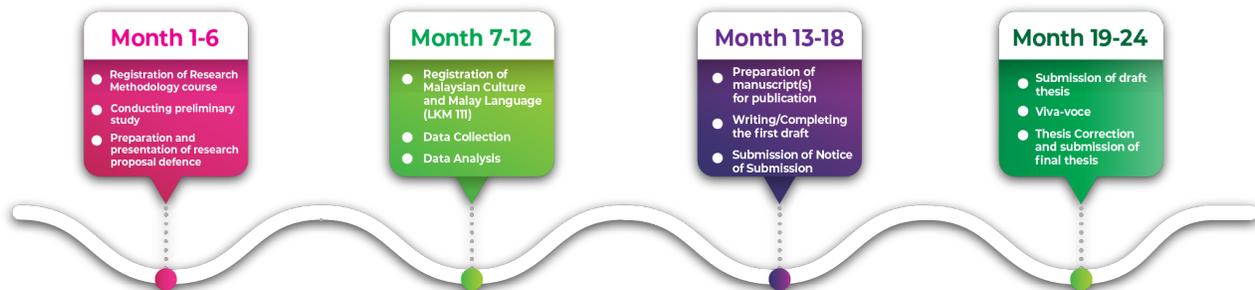
A student who registers for postgraduate study must fulfil the duration of candidature as stated in the offer letter.

Programme	Full-Time		Part-Time	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Doctor of Philosophy	4 semesters	10 semesters	6 semesters	15 semesters
Master (Research)	2 semesters	6 semesters	4 semesters	10 semesters
Coursework/Mixed Mode	Subject to programme structure			

Suggested Academic Plan for PhD Students



Suggested Academic Plan for Masters by Research Mode Students



4. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION AND COURSE(S) REGISTRATION

It is the responsibility of a student to renew registration every semester and pay tuition fees within the renewal registration period. The announcement for the registration renewal and courses registration period will be published on the IPS website, <https://ips.usm.my/> usually two (2) months before the commencement of the new semester. Students are advised to check the website and USM official email regularly for information updates prior to the registration period.

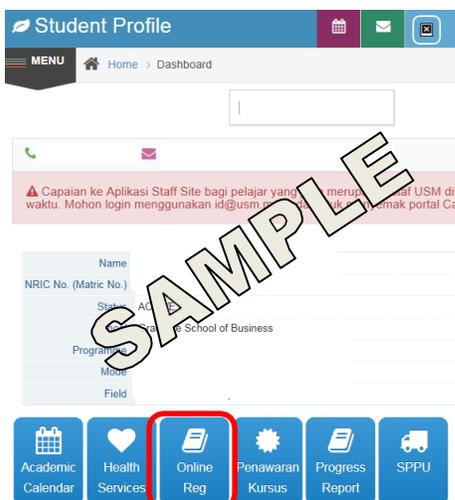
Renewal of registration guideline is available in IPS website (<https://ips.usm.my/index.php/current-student-v2/candidature-matters/renewal-registration>)

Renewal of Registration

Compulsory to be completed via the CampusOnline Portal (<http://campusonline.usm.my>) before the beginning of each semester.

Coursework / Mixed Mode

Login to the CampusOnline Portal and click 'Online Reg'. You will be directed to course registration page. Complete the course selection process until invoice of the fees is generated. Fees payment need to be made before the new semester commence.



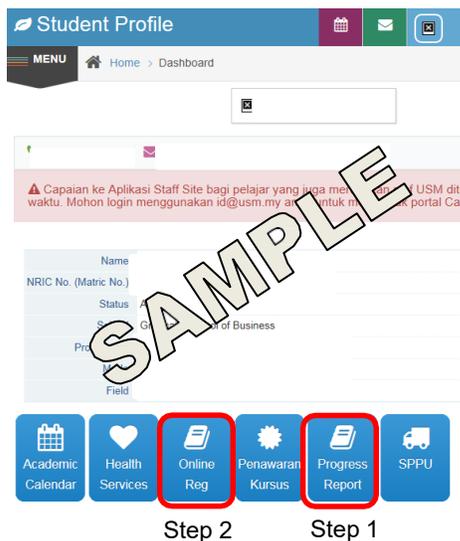
Research Mode

Students must be aware of the semester duration and the academic session. If you are registering at the end of the semester, you still need to renew the registration, and follow the renewal process as it is. For example:

Scenario	Date of New Semester Commence	Action
You are registered on 2 September 2024 (Please note that you only pay one month of tuition fee here due to pro-rated value)	1 October 2024	You need to complete the Progress Report and pay the next semester tuition fee before or on 1 October 2024

How to renew the semester?

Login to the CampusOnline Portal and click 'Progress Report'. Ensure that the report is complete for both student and the main supervisor section. Then, complete the process with 'Online Reg' button, invoice for the new semester will be generated after both reports are ready. Then, payment of fees needs to be paid before the new semester commence.



Payment of Tuition Fees

Renewal of registration is considered complete upon completion of tuition fee payment. All payments **MUST** be cleared within the stipulated period to avoid the late registration penalty. A copy of scholarship letter **MUST** be sent to the Bursary at the respective campuses within the renewal period of every semester.

Main Campus/USM@KL : ukpbendahari@usm.my
 Engineering Campus : pelajar_eng@usm.my
 Health Campus : postgradkck@usm.my

Students who have renewed the registration via online but did not complete the payment within the stipulated period will be considered as late registration and as such, liable for the late registration penalty of RM200/USD50.

Students who fail to renew the registration within the stipulated period (without justifiable reasons) will be terminated from their studies.

If any course(s) to be registered for that semester is not offered, students can apply for postponement of studies for that semester. Hence, renewal of registration is not required but the postponement request must be made before the date of the new semester commence. **(Refer to Tuition and Retaining Fees Charges Table)**

Coursework and Mixed-Mode Full-time students must register for at least two (2) courses each semester. Part-time students are required to register for at least one (1) course each semester (excluding project/dissertation/ repeating courses). This is not applicable for Clinical Programmes and Research Mode programme students.

Course(s) offered for every semester can be referred to respective School/Centre/Institute.

5. MALAYSIAN CULTURE AND MALAY LANGUAGE (LKM 111)

Compulsory for all international students and to be passed prior to graduation. The minimum required passing grade is C. Registration of the course is through Online Registration System (ORSPG) during stipulated time for course registration. Classes are online and accessible through student e-learning portal.

Exemption can be given to students who have taken and pass the equivalent course. Application for exemption must be submitted for approval to the Dean, School of Languages, Literacies and Translation.

For any enquiries, please e-mail to ppblt_courses@usm.my.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR RESEARCH MODE STUDENTS

This course is a pre-requisite course for graduation and compulsory to all research mode students starting from Semester II, Academic Session 2020/2021 intake and onward. Research mode students must Pass for this course as it is one of the graduation requirement.

The course must be taken by students in the first semester of registration. Students who registered after the 2nd week will have to register in the following semester.

For registration and exemption process, please refer to IPS website

<https://ips.usm.my/index.php/current-student-v2/candidature-matters/research-mode-programme>

7. PRE-REQUISITE COURSE(S)

Registration of all pre-requisite courses (if applicable) must be done through Online Registration System (ORSPG) within stipulated time for renewal of registration.

8. ADD/DROP OF COURSES FOR COURSEWORK & MIXED MODE STUDENTS

Any add/drop of course(s) must be made using the Add/Drop form available at <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/download/candidature>. Final confirmation of course registration after the add/drop of courses can be checked through CampusOnline Portal (<http://campusonline.usm.my>)

Upon receiving the form, students will be contacted by IPS should there is any extra payment required or eligible for refund.

Add of Course(s)

Course(s) can be added within the first two (2) weeks of the semester. The application must be made using the Add/Drop Form.

Drop of Course(s)

Course(s) can be dropped up to the sixth (6) week after the semester commence.

Tuition fee will be credited into the student's account for the following semester if the course(s) is dropped within the first two (2) weeks of the semester. **No refund will be made for courses dropped after the second (2) week of the semester.**

The application must be made through Online Registration System (ORSPG).

Students are required to check the final list of courses registered through the CampusOnline Portal latest by the ninth (9) week of the semester.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF STUDIES

Postponement of studies is only allowed after registration and completion of at least one (1) semester, except for medical or valid personal reasons. Students are allowed to postpone their studies maximum of two (2) semesters throughout the entire duration of the candidature period. Postponement application must be submitted through CampusOnline portal.

Tuition and Retaining Fees charges are subjected to the date of postponement application:

DURATION OF APPLICATION	DETAILS
Application send to School/Centre/Institute before the new semester commence until week-2 of the new semester	Retaining Fee will be imposed a. Local –RM150 b. International –RM250
Week-3 until Week-9	50% of the tuition fee will be imposed
After Week-9	Full tuition fee will be imposed

Note: Retaining Fee is to ensure student's candidature status remain ACTIVE

10. CONVERSION OF STATUS

Student can apply for conversion of status from full-time to part-time or vice versa. Application must be made using the Conversion of Status Form available at <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/download/candidature>

The conversion of status is only permitted twice during the entire period of candidature.

11. CONVERSION OF DEGREE LEVEL

Research mode Masters degree students are eligible to apply for conversion to Doctor of Philosophy level. Students can apply for conversion within the first 12 months (full-time student) or 24 months (part-time student) from registration date by submitting an official request to the School/Centre/Institute.

Students are required to submit the development of research progress proposal to be evaluated by the main supervisor and present the research output in a seminar. The School/Centre/Institute may request the student to sit for examination (if necessary).

The application will be reviewed by the School/Centre/Institute and endorsed by the University. Student candidature for Doctor of Philosophy will be calculated from the registration date of Master's degree.

12. EXTENSION OF CANDIDATURE

Application for extension of candidature must be made two (2) months prior to the date of expiration of a student's candidature. The maximum period of extension allowed is two (2) semesters only. Application must be made using the available form at <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/download/candidature>.

13. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAMME

Withdrawal from programme can be made by sending a withdrawal letter to Dean/Director of School/Centre/Institute.

Coursework/Mixed mode student - Refund of all fees (except registration and smart card fees) will be made for withdrawal up to two (2) weeks from the date of registration.

Research mode student - Refund of all fees (except registration and smart card fees) will be made for withdrawal up to two (2) months from the date of registration.

14. CHANGE OF MODE OF STUDY (Not applicable for Clinical Programme students)

Student must submit a new application for admission together with the processing fees for change of mode of study.

15. TERMINATION OF CANDIDATURE

The University reserves the right to terminate a student's candidature based on:

- a. Student's failure to renew the registration.
- b. Unsatisfactory academic performance (Coursework/Mixed mode)/research progress (Research mode)
- c. Failure to pay the tuition fees
- d. Reach maximum candidature period

16. REACTIVATION OF CANDIDATURE

All students may reactivate their candidature within 1 year after termination subjected to period of candidature. Reactivation for research mode student (terminated due to maximum period of candidature) will only be considered if the student submits draft of thesis within one (1) year from the date of maximum candidature. The reactivation of the candidature is subjected to the decision of the University.

17. EXAMINATIONS (Applicable for Coursework & Mixed-Mode Students)

Examinations are conducted at the end of each semester. The examination slip is required for admission into the examination venue and can be printed from the CampusOnline Portal (<http://campusonline.usm.my>). It is the responsibility of the student to comply with and to be present at the examination venue during the stipulated time, date, and place of the examination.

If a student is unable to sit for the examination, the student is required to immediately notify the Examination Unit (Registry Department) in writing and attach evidence (if any) to accompany the notification. Students must comply with all academic requirements (for lectures, tutorials, practical, etc.) to qualify them to sit for the examinations.

The examination process is based on the principle of continuous assessment that comprises the coursework and the written examination components. The coursework component can be based on participation in tutorials, tests, essays, project work, studio work, fieldwork, etc.

In general, performance is assessed according to the examination grading method, which the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) is based on the following scale:

Grade	Points	Master Degree	Professional and Doctorate
A	4.00	Pass	Pass
A –	3.67		
B+	3.33		
B	3.00		
B –	2.67		
C+	2.33	Fail	Fail
C	2.00		
C–	1.67		
D+	1.33		
D	1.00		
D–	0.67		
F	0.00		

- *Passing grade may vary according to the programme*.*
- *Evaluation System (not applicable for Clinical Programme (Medical & Dental))*

*Generally, the passing grade for all master degree programmes is minimum grade C+ and for a doctorate degree is minimum grade B. Courses that are graded as follows will not be taken into account in the calculation of the GPA & CGPA.

- TL (Incomplete)
- DK (with permission)
- P/F (Dissertation)
- Courses with code Y & Z

The dissertation course for Mixed Mode Programme will be considered for graduation and will be awarded a PASS/FAIL grade.

Academic Status (not applicable for Research Mode and Clinical Programme (Medical & Dental))

Students with a minimum GPA of 2.00 will be categorised as ACTIVE and are able to continue with their studies for the next semester.

- Fail and Out (F&O) status will be awarded for failure to obtain any credits.
- Student will be terminated if the CGPA is between 0.00-0.99 accumulated after 2 semesters.

Repeating Course (not applicable for Research Mode and Clinical Programme (Medical & Dental))

- Student is allowed to repeat course(s) to improve the CGPA to be minimum of 3.00 as long as the duration of student candidature is still active.
- If student obtains grade B- or below for any course, the course can be repeated if offered either in Semester I or Semester II or Inter-Academic Session Break (KSCP).
- Repeating of course(s) is not allowed in KSCP for students who obtain grade F* or X in the normal semester.
- Project/dissertation must be completed during the stipulated period according to the programme.
- Student who repeats the project/dissertation is required to select a new topic.



18. PREPARATION, SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF THESIS FOR RESEARCH MODE STUDENT

Thesis Format Guideline

The thesis format guideline is available at the IPS website. This guide is to facilitate the processes involved in the submission of the thesis. The format of the thesis should include the following;

Title Page
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of Thesis. Student full name Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, Master of Social Science or Master of Arts). Month and Year thesis was submitted for examination to IPS DO NOT number this page.
Acknowledgments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a statement of appreciation to supervisors (s), source of scholarship, assistance obtained during research etc. Number this page "ii".
Table of Contents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprises the titles of parts, sections or chapters and their subdivisions. Must be worded exactly as in the text. Must have Headings (1,2,3 and so on), sub-headings (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) and sub sub-headings (1.2.1, 1.2.2 and so on) Further divisions to be indicated by small letters in parenthesis e.g. 1.2.1(a), 1.2.1(a)(i). Number this page "iii".
List of Tables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worded exactly as in the text. Page numbered in Roman numeral accordingly
List of Figures/ Plates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worded exactly as in the text. Page numbered in Roman numeral accordingly
List of Symbols and Abbreviations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page numbered in Roman numeral accordingly
Abstrak (in Bahasa Malaysia)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An abstract is a summary of the entire thesis and should contain a brief write-up of the problem statement, objective, methodology, and summary of the findings in context of the whole study. The Bahasa Malaysia abstract appears first. Both versions must have their respective titles. Not more than 400 words and double spacing. Indent in one paragraph

Abstract (in English)
Chapter 1 : Introduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives a background and highlights the problems under investigation by describing the status of the problem(s) conceptually or theoretically. • Sets forth the scope and objectives of the study
Chapter 2 : Literature Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines plan of action or research protocol. Can include a fully-referenced review of the existing literature.
Chapter 3 : Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains detailed description of experiments carried out. • Experimental methods should be described so that another researcher will have no difficulty replicating them
Chapter 4 : Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists of results obtained from the study. • Can be presented as a series of figures, tables etc. with a descriptive text. • Analysis of data such as statistical analysis can be stated
Chapter 5 : Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses the outcome of research in relation to results obtained and existing evidence/reports
Chapter 6 : Conclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recapitulation of the study's findings. • Discussion of the findings. • Recommendation for future research. • Conclusion of the study
References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start on a fresh page. • The title REFERENCES to be centered in capital letters. • Single spacing within entry. • Double-spacing between entries. • 3-space indentation for entry exceeding a single line.
Appendices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to in the text. • Comprises of supplementary illustrative materials, original data, and quotations too long for inclusion in the text or lengthy experimental methods. • Words APPENDICES to be centered in capital letters. • Do not number this page. • Must be listed in the Table of Contents

List of Publication

- List of all the publications (including conference articles from the research work).
- List only accepted publications.
- Manuscript that has been accepted but not published must be printed as “in press...”
- Use the same style as the references.
- Obtain written permission to borrow any copyrighted material. You need to keep your own file of permission letters for any copyrighted materials used in your dissertation or thesis.

USM upholds the policy of ensuring all students for higher degrees are trained to practice highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity. This means that ideas and data of other researchers that you used must be duly acknowledged in your thesis by citing the quoted materials and providing the full references in the reference list. Failure to do this will make you liable for plagiarism. Please remember that a writer may unconsciously commit plagiarism but nonetheless it does not absolve him/her from the charge.

Notice of Submission of Thesis

Masters or PhD student is required to submit the Notice of Submission of Thesis form, at least three (3) months prior to submitting copy of the draft thesis. A student’s status must be active during the submission of this notice.

Submission of Draft Thesis

Submission of a thesis must be made after a candidate has fulfilled the minimum period of candidature. IPS will not accept any thesis that has not been written in accordance with the prescribed format. Format checking must be made at IPS before submitting the draft thesis.

Student is compulsory to submit the softcopy of the draft thesis from first until the last chapter for Turnitin screening to the respective School/ Centre/ Institute.

Draft Thesis Submission Form must be completed properly.

Should there be any changes to the thesis title, written confirmation from the main supervisor and approval from the respective Dean/Director of the School/Centre/Institute need to be obtained before the thesis is submitted to IPS in respective campus.

Payment of the Thesis Examination Fee must be made and a copy of the receipt should be submitted to IPS together with the draft thesis.

Submission of Draft Thesis

For more information on submission of draft thesis in softcopy, please refer to <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/download/viva-voce>

Viva Voce (Oral Examination)

In general, the purpose of the viva-voce is to demonstrate the originality of student's work and to ensure understanding of the research and defend it verbally. The student must answer question(s) in such a way as to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the subject to pass the viva-voce.

Students must attend the viva-voce to defend their research. It is compulsory for students to be ready at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled viva-voce session.

Viva-voce results are as follows:

Scale 1 – Pass

A student is awarded a Doctor of Philosophy/Master's Degree

Scale 2 – Pass with minor corrections

A student is awarded Doctor of Philosophy/Master's Degree subject to changes/corrections to the thesis as listed in the Viva-voce Panel Report.

Scale 3 – Pass with major changes/corrections

A student is awarded Doctor of Philosophy/Master's Degree subject to changes/corrections to the thesis as listed in the Viva-voce Panel Report. The thesis MUST be revised and verified by the Viva-voce Panel after the student has made the changes/corrections.

Scale 4 – Re-examination (Re-viva)

A student is allowed to re-submit the thesis for re-examination after the candidate has made the changes/corrections to the thesis as required in the Viva-voce Panel Report. The thesis MUST be re-examined and the candidate MUST attend another viva-voce. The result will be only PASS or FAIL.

Scale 5 – Fail

A student is not eligible to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy/Master's Degree and is not allowed to re-submit the thesis for examination.

After the viva-voce, a student must obtain the result of the viva-voce and reports for making the necessary corrections and improvements from the viva-voce Secretary. Student will be given a specific period to correct and complete the thesis before submitting the final copy. The period given for correction includes correction checking, endorsement by the assigned Panel and submission of the final copy to IPS.

In any case, if a student is required by the Viva-voce Panel to resubmit the thesis for re-examination, student must complete the Re-submission of Thesis Form to IPS.

Submission of Final Thesis

When all corrections have been made and incorporated into the thesis, a student is required to complete the Final Thesis Submission Form to IPS.

For more information on submission of final thesis in softcopy, please refer to <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/download/viva-voce>

Student Thesis's Copyright and University's Intellectual Property

The copyright to a thesis belongs to the student. However, as a condition of being awarded the degree, the student hereby grants to the University, a free, ongoing, non-exclusive right to use the relevant work and/or thesis for the University's teaching, research and promotional purposes as well as free and the non-exclusive right to retain, re-produce, display and distribute a limited number of copies of the thesis, together with the right to require its publication for further research and archival use.

19. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as the act of presenting, quoting, copying, paraphrasing or passing off of ideas, images, processes, works, data, own words or those of other people or sources without proper acknowledgement, reference or quotation to the original source(s). The acts of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following:

- Quoting verbatim word for word replication of work of other people.
- Paraphrasing another person's work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source(s).
- Submitting another person's work in whole or part as one's own.
- Auto-plagiarising or self-plagiarising one's own previous work or work that has already been submitted for assessment or for any other academic award and pass it as a new creation without citing the original content.
- Insufficient or misleading referencing of the source(s) that would enable the reader to check whether any particular work has indeed been cited accurately and/or fairly and thus identify the original writer's particular contribution in the work submitted.

Any other acts, which in the opinion of the University, fall into the plagiarism definition.

Good Academic Practice

Academic Integrity

All parties shall help the University to prevent any misconduct which comprise misattribution of data, stealing of ideas or direct plagiarism, deliberate interference and failure to act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of knowledge, ideas and information in relation to the work of others.

Intellectual Property (IP)

The University is committed to safeguard its intellectual property (IP), including all assets arising from the University's research, innovation, invention and creative output as well as the management, creation, protection, commercialization, exploitation and expansion of such rights.

Levels of Plagiarism

A complaint on plagiarism shall be investigated from all perspective including;

- a. degrees of similarity [quantitative] as determined by the detection tool
- b. levels of plagiarism [qualitative/descriptive]
- c. the significance of the plagiarism
- d. the person's intention and/or motivation
- e. mitigating factors such as:
 - i. stage/level of the academic programme
 - ii. number of previous offences
 - iii. the person's academic/education background
- f. academic conventions within the relevant discipline
- g. the impact of a particular outcome on a person's progression
- h. information provided to the person about academic integrity

The University reserves the right to take one or more action in the event depend on the levels of plagiarism defined as below:-

Level One

The extent of plagiarism at this level includes but is not limited to inadequate or misleading quoting, referencing or paraphrasing. Rather than intention to deceive, it is determined that plagiarism at this level would have arisen from limited knowledge about plagiarism, conform to academic honesty and integrity, or from carelessness or neglect. At this level, plagiarism does not amount to an academic misconduct. If the degree of plagiarism falls within Level One, repeat offenders will be reclassified as Level Two or Level Three offenders.

Level Two

The extent of plagiarism at this level includes inappropriate or fraudulent acts of work due to ignorance of academic honesty and integrity, where it would be expected that there is adequate knowledge of honesty and integrity. It is also classified as Level Two if it is apparent that there was an intention to deceive or cheat by way of plagiarism. Plagiarism at this level is considered as an academic misconduct.

Level Three

The extent of plagiarism at this level includes a copied work that arises from a clear intention to deceive by way of plagiarism. Level Three plagiarism is considered as an academic misconduct. Repeat offenders of Level Two will be classified as Level Three offenders.

Level Four

The extent of plagiarism at this level is beyond reasonable doubt which includes a substantive plagiarised work as evident from the quantified degree of similarities (such as that from a credible detection tool), that arises from an irrefutable intention to deceive. Level Four plagiarism is considered

as an academic misconduct. Repeat offenders of Level Three will be classified as Level Four offenders.

For more information on USM Policy on Plagiarism, please refer to <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/current-student-v2/others/usm-policy-on-plagiarism>

20. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A **Coursework/Mixed Mode** student must comply with the following graduation requirements:

- a. Pass all courses and examination determined by the respective School/Centre/Institute;
- b. Pass dissertation/research project;
- c. Obtain at least a CGPA of 3.00;
- d. Fulfill the minimum duration of candidature;
- e. Must obtain minimum grade C for Malaysian Culture and Malay Language (LKM111). This course is compulsory for all international students;
- f. Fulfill the publication requirements as below (for Doctorate Programme from School of Dental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences only);-

DOCTORATE PROGRAMME (Mixed Mode)	
<u>School of Dental Sciences</u>	
1. Doctor of Dental Public Health	
<u>School of Medical Sciences</u>	
1. Doctor of Public Health (Health System Management)	
2. Doctor of Public Health (Family Health)	
3. Doctor of Public Health (Environmental Health and Occupational)	
4. Doctor of Public Health (Epidemiology)	
5. Doctor of Neuroscience	
6. Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)	
7. Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology)	
At least one (1) articles journal accepted or published in journals indexed by WoS/SCOPUS/PUBMED	
Authorship	Publications accepted must be published with the supervisor(s). The candidate must be the first student author. Only the first student author is allowed to use this article to fulfil his/her graduation requirement.
Plagiarism	Plagiarized articles will not be accepted for the graduation requirement
Topic of publications	Publications accepted must be related to his/her thesis/dissertation.
Affiliation	Publications accepted must carry USM affiliation.

Blacklisted journals	Publications in the following journals are NOT accepted: https://lib.usm.my/index.php/academicians-researchers/scholarly-publishing-guide?view=article&id=293&catid=35
Journal Verification	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZrgzlw5aHIN2HFw4FoddvntnkiliTVXDFZ6qNOsmuz8PokA/viewform

A **Research Mode** student must comply with the following graduation requirements:

- Fulfill the minimum duration of candidature;
- Pass the pre-requisite courses (if any) as determined by the School/Centre/Institute;
- Must obtain minimum grade C for Malaysian Culture and Malay Language (LKM111). This course is compulsory for all international students;
- Pass the Research Methodology course;
- Fulfill the publication requirements as below;

CLUSTER	MASTER'S DEGREE	DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Sciences/ Engineering/ Health & Medical	At least one (1) article journal, accepted or published in journals/proceedings indexed by WoS / SCOPUS	One (1) article journal, accepted by or published in a journal indexed by WoS in Q1/Q2 OR At least two (2) articles journal accepted or published in journals indexed by WoS / SCOPUS
Arts	At least one (1) article journal, accepted or published in any categories listed below: i. Journals/proceeding indexed by WoS / SCOPUS / ERA ii. Journals by the University or listed in myJurnal (Malaysian Journal Management System) from MyCite (Malaysian Citation Centre) iii. Book chapters published by publishers listed in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science (WoS) Master Book List or Penerbit USM or MAPIM	At least one (1) article journal, accepted or published in journals indexed by WoS / SCOPUS / ERA or At least two (2) articles journal, accepted or published in any categories listed below:- i. Journals by the University or listed in myJurnal (Malaysian Journal Management System) from MyCite (Malaysian Citation Centre) ii. Book chapters published by publishers listed in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science (WoS) Master Book List or Penerbit USM or MAPIM

Authorship	Publications accepted must be published with the supervisor(s). The candidate must be the first student author. Only the first student author is allowed to use this article to fulfil his/her graduation requirement.
Plagiarism	Plagiarized article will not be accepted for graduation requirement
Topic of publications	Publications accepted must be related to his/her thesis/dissertation.
Affiliation	Publications accepted must carry USM affiliation.
Blacklisted journals	Publications in the following journals are NOT accepted: https://lib.usm.my/index.php/academicians-researchers/scholarly-publishing-guide?view=article&id=293&catid=35
Journal Verification	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZrgzlw5aHIN2HFw4FoddvntnkiliTVXDFZ6qNOsmuz8PokA/viewform

21. GRADUATION-IN-COUNCIL (GIC)

GIC is a policy on the submission of degree scrolls and academic transcripts to the graduates after graduation approval by the Senate.

Terms and Conditions:

- Graduates are required to settle all outstanding debts with the University (tuition fees, accommodation fees, library, etc).
- All applications are subject to the approval of the Registrar.
- The degree scroll and academic transcripts will be given after 14 working days from the date of approval.
- GiC graduates are permitted to attend the Convocation Ceremony.

Once graduated, graduands can submit GiC application through CampusOnline portal.

22. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

University provides student support services to enhance postgraduate student knowledge and values. Below are the services provided:

Professional and Personal Development (PPD) Programmes

PPD is series of workshops provided to research mode students to equip them with the essential knowledge that they may need throughout their research journey and skills after graduation. The workshops/seminars under this programme are conducted by expert speakers. List of modules are available at <https://ips.usm.my/index.php/current-student-v2/others/workshops>

Conference Fund

The fund is to assist research mode student to participate and present their research findings at any local or international conference. USM will cover a portion of total payment comprises of conference fees/accommodation/transportation. Eligibility to receive the fund is only once during the student candidature subject to the availability of the funding.

23. STUDENT CARD (ID)

A student card is issued to all registered USM postgraduate students upon completion of the registration process. This card is non-transferable and are for the following purposes:

- Identification/security check for entry and movement within the campuses
- Access to and use of University facilities (i.e. Library, Laboratory, Recreation and Sports, etc.)
- Examination (accessible to examination venue)
- Medical treatment at the University's Wellness Centre/Panel Clinics or Hospitals
- Other related matters pertaining to immigration authorities and police

Loss of the student card must be reported immediately to USM Security Office and IPS. A fee of RM30.00 (USD10) will be charged for every card replacement.

24. DRESS CODE

Students must observe the rules for the stipulated dress code of the University and be appropriately attired at all times.

Formal attire

Students are required to wear formal attire at any official functions/activities. Students will be denied entry if they fail to adhere to this ruling.

Casual attire

Students are not allowed to wear casual attire for official functions/activities. Students should wear appropriate attire according to the activities. Female students are strictly not allowed to wear sleeveless shirts, miniskirts or extremely short of shorts and revealing/skimpy clothes. Flip flops should not be worn by all students while attending classes or interviews, visiting University departments, etc. Male students should not have long hair that touches the collar.

Sports attire (shorts) can be used for areas allocated for sports only.

Laboratory coats are meant for working in the laboratories only.

CONTACT & ENQUIRIES

Main Campus

Institute of Postgraduate Studies
Universiti Sains Malaysia
11800 USM
Penang, Malaysia

Working hours:
Monday – Friday: 8.10 am – 5.10 pm
Break Time:
Monday – Thursday: 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm
Friday: 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm
Tel: 604-653 2994

Admission & Registration

ext. 2958 / 6027 / 2946 / 2606 / 6309 / 2951 / 2937
e-mail: admission_ips@usm.my

Data & Record

ext. 2936 / 2608 / 2943 / 2980
e-mail: datarecord.ips@usm.my

Fellowship

ext. 2982 / 2983
e-mail: noorzamreena@usm.my / azulia@usm.my

Professional & Personal Development

ext. 2983
e-mail: azulia@usm.my

Viva-voce & Graduation

ext. 2935 / 2607 / 2948 / 2942 / 2961 / 2945 / 2944
e-mail: draft_thesis@usm.my / final_thesis@usm.my

Visa Unit, IMCC

Tel: 604-653 2777 / 2492 / 2493
e-mail: munirahzakariah@usm.my; msidek@usm.my;
sabrina@usm.my

Security Department (24 hours)

Tel: 604-653 4999 [Direct Line]
604-653 4333 / 604-653 4334



Engineering Campus, Nibong Tebal	
Academic Management Division Registry Department Engineering Campus Universiti Sains Malaysia All postgraduate matters	Working hours: Monday – Friday: 8.10 am – 5.10 pm Thursday: 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Friday: 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm Tel: 604-599 5060 / 604-599 5016 604-599 6525 / 604-599 5075 e-mail: sammusa@usm.my
Security Department (24 hours)	Tel: 604-599 5033 ext: 5030 / 5031

Health Campus, Kubang Kerian	
Unit Pengurusan Siswazah & Antarabangsa Health Campus Universiti Sains Malaysia 16150 Kubang Kerian, Kelantan All postgraduate matters	Working hours: Sunday – Wednesday: 8.10 am – 5.10 pm Thursday: 8.10 am – 3.40 pm Break Time: Sunday – Thursday: 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Tel: 609-767 2382 ext. 2383 / 2384 / 2386 / 2387 e-mail: shahieda@usm.my
Security Department (24 hours)	Tel: 609-767 5999

USM@KL	
Institute of Postgraduate Studies Kuala Lumpur All postgraduate matters	Working hours: Monday – Friday: 8.10 am – 5.10 pm Break Time: Monday – Thursday: 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Friday: 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm Tel: 603-2681 8203 / 4966 / 5208 e-mail: sainskl@usm.my

CONTENT COMMITTEE

PROFESSOR DR. AZLAN ABDUL AZIZ
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. TAY GUAN SENG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. HASRINA MUSTAFA
IHSANUL ANWAR SHAMSUR RAHIM
FARAH MAN
HASLINDA YUSOF
SHAFIQAH SUHAILA MOHAMED
SYAZIRA OTHMAN
AHMAD FITRI RAMLI





Postgraduate
**Student
Handbook**



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