

## JOURNEY HOME UPM STUDENT

Since the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) from March 18, i-PUTRA together with MKN, NADMA, and the Embassies have been working tirelessly to assist the student of Universiti Putra Malaysia, who was overseas their mobility programs and research attachments in their return to Malaysia and throughout their quarantine period.

From March to April, a total of 27 students UPM students who were doing their mobility program have safely returned from Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Turkey, Hong Kong, and the USA. Beginning March, some countries have imposed travel restrictions to and out of their countries in which major airline providers were forced to reduce the frequency of their flight. Students coming from affected countries had to undergo multiple flights reschedule for their return flight. The embassies along with the airline provider have worked closely to ensure the students return proceeds without any further complication. Some countries have even sponsored a chartered flight to bring the students back to Malaysia.

Upon the students' arrival in Malaysia, the students were given a short briefing on the compulsory quarantine that they need to complete before returning to their home. The students were then brought to the quarantine centers assigned by NADMA to complete their quarantine procedure. Some quarantine center involved includes IBIS Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Silika Hotel, Royal Hotel, and Kelana Resorts and Hotel, Seremban. Meals and snacks were provided by the hotel for the students with temperature monitoring conducted daily. A postgraduate student from INTROP UPM, Ms. Tay Chai Hua further shared her insight on the situation at the quarantine center.

*Each Person Under Surveillance (PUS) was given a room, with small table placed outside. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be placed on the table at scheduled timing. We are not allowed to leave the room under any circumstances unless to take the meals or instructed by the staffs. Additional snacks like biscuits and potato chips are also given from time to time. Our temperature are taken daily. Throat swab test was conducted on our 6th day of quarantine at the lobby. Despite the social distancing practice (only 4 people in the lift at a time), the whole process was quick.*

*Online food delivery and food from family members were allowed at first. The food will be passed to the hotel receptionist and brought up to respective room by the staffs. However, it got canceled later on since everything needs to be disinfected first and the hotel couldn't manage many requests. However, certain necessities like medicines and diapers are well accommodated. Still, room dining service is available after requested by many.*

*Overall, there isn't anything that can be complained about the whole process. I'm just thankful that my whole journey back to Malaysia was smooth. The student were accommodated greatly and most of them have completed their quarantine period and have returned to their home to be with their loved ones. On behalf of the University, we would like to welcome the students back home and convey our gratitude to the entities involved to ensure the safety of not only the students of UPM but also to the citizens of Malaysia during this challenging period.*

*#Flatten the curve.  
#StayAtHome*

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