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Value & Achievements of the UEC

Q&A



1. Introduction

1.1 What is the UEC?

UEC, the abbreviation for Unified Examination Certificate, is the unified examination for Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in Malaysia. The first known Unified Examination was held in 1975, and reached its 44th year in 2018. So far, the total cumulative number of UEC candidates is 645,699, out of which 252,705 are from the Senior Middle Three (Form 6), 384,356 are from the Junior Middle Three (Form 3) and 8,638 are from those taking the Vocational Subjects.

1.2 What are the objectives of the UEC?

The objectives of the UEC are as follows:

1. To get an overall unified assessment of the Independent Chinese Secondary Schools' academic performance;
2. To create favourable conditions for UEC graduates for the pursuit of higher studies and employment;
3. To provide local and foreign higher educational institutions with the required academic authentication for admissions into their institutions; and
4. To provide academic reference of employment for all walks of life in the society

1.3 Who offers the UEC?

Since the implementation of the Education Act 1961, the government has ceased organising lower and upper secondary examinations for Chinese secondary schools. From 1962 to 1974, there was no unified examination specially held for SMJK(C) and Independent Chinese Secondary Schools.

At the end of 1973, the Independent Chinese Secondary School Proposal was forwarded to streamline the fundamental guidelines and policy for Independent Chinese Secondary Schools, and has mapped the directions for the development of the Independent Chinese Secondary Schools. Dong Jiao Zong has since established an ad hoc committee entitled Independent Chinese Secondary School Working Committee to lead the Unified Examination Committee.

Simply put, Dong Zong is responsible for holding the UEC for the candidates of Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in Malaysia.

2. History of the UEC

2.1 How was Independent Chinese Secondary Schools born?

As per the directives of Rahman Talib Report 1960, the Education Act 1961 was enacted, numerous Chinese secondary or high schools in Malaysia were consequently informed to convert into English secondary schools. In Sarawak, pursuant to the Sarawak Report on Secondary Education 1960, the McClelland's Report and the National White Paper on Secondary Education 1961, some local Chinese high or middle schools transformed themselves into English high or middle schools. Some Chinese high schools in Sabah were virtually converted into English high schools in 1971. At later stage, the central government converted the English high or secondary schools into Malay secondary schools (Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan or SMK).

Under the Rahman Talib Report 1960, there would strictly be two types of secondary schools—the fully subsidized secondary school (SMK and SMJK) and the independent secondary school, the students then had to sit for the mandatory secondary school public examination. The “partially subsidised” secondary schools ceased to exist since then. If a Chinese school wished to apply for full subsidy, it had to convert itself into an English school (SMJK). Effective from January 1st 1962, the government had terminated subsidy for the partially subsidised schools which refused to convert into English secondary school. In this vein,

these secondary schools, together with other existing independent schools that had not been receiving government subsidies, were classified as independent secondary schools. The Report dictates that independent secondary schools must be allowed to remain as a composite part of the education system as long as they abide the statutory requirements, or their education licenses revoked otherwise.

Those Chinese secondary schools which were reluctant to observe the conversion, together with the Chinese language classes in the converted schools and Chinese secondary schools existing in Sarawak from 1962 to 1968, would not receive any subsidies or operating funds from the government and were left to survive on their own devices. They eventually ended up as Independent Chinese Secondary Schools.

2.2 What examinations were held in Chinese secondary schools before conversion?

Prior to the conversion, the central government held three types of examinations for the Chinese secondary schools, with Chinese language as the medium of examination; namely, the Junior Middle Three Examination (Form Three Examination), the Chinese Secondary School Entrance Examination and the Chinese Secondary School Leaving Examination.

After the conversion, the Ministry of Education suspended the Form Three Examination and the Chinese Secondary School

Entrance Examination in 1961, and ceased the Chinese Secondary School Leaving examination in 1963. Meanwhile, the national public examinations for secondary schools were conducted in either Malay or English language only.

2.3 What were the rationales for Dong Jiao Zong to offer the UEC?

The Education Act 1961 regulated that Chinese secondary school must change the medium of instruction to English in order to obtain subsidies from the government. Those Chinese secondary schools which refused to observe would exist as independent secondary schools without any government subsidy. Since there was no standardised examination system to evaluate the academic qualifications of the independent secondary school graduates at that time, they were left in the lurch and faced difficulty in furthering their higher studies. In 1973, the National Independent Chinese Secondary School Development Committee was founded to study the issue and to formulate a standardised examination system. The following year, the Consolidated Curriculum & Examination Group Report was published, and the unified examination system drawn for Junior Year and Senior Year secondary schools was implemented. After a year of intensive preparation, the first Unified Examination for Junior secondary education was successfully held in 1975 on 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th and 17th December.

2.4 How was the first UEC held in 1975?

The expiry date of the registration for the first Unified Examination was initially on 31st May 1975. However, it was postponed to 30th June by the requests of some schools. The first Unified Examination was held from 11th to 17th December 1975, for a consecutive 5 days.

The first UEC received overwhelming support from the Chinese community and Independent Chinese Secondary Schools nationwide. 6,141 students registered for the examination (Junior Middle Level 4,146 and Senior Middle Level 1,995). 42 Independent Chinese Secondary Schools participated (33 schools from West Malaysia and 9 schools from East Malaysia). The average rate of attendance was 65.3% for Senior Middle Level (Upper secondary) candidates and 70.9% for Junior Middle Level (Lower secondary) candidates respectively. Eventually, 1,577 or 79.0% of the total number of candidates received their certificates. For both levels, the examination results were divided into three grades, represented by A, B and C respectively. Grade A indicates a score of distinction; Grade B is credit and Grade C is a pass. The subject results of those candidates who failed or were absent from the respective subject of the examination would not be shown in the exam certificates.

2.5 What were the problems encountered by Dong Jiao Zong on the UEC and how did they overcome?

On the eve of the first UEC examination in 1975, Mahathir Mohamad, the incumbent Education Minister unexpectedly summoned the leaders of Dong Jiao Zong and instructed them to stop the Unified Examination. The late Mr. Lim Fong Seng, the Chairman of Dong Zong responded then that holding the Unified Examination was not the decision of a few individuals and it demanded legal consultation on the abrupt cessation of the exam. Furthermore, the decision had to be mooted by the state and central committees. As such, he requested for a 2-month period to review the matter. Subsequently, on 30th November 1975, Dong Jiao Zong convened a joint meeting at the Chinese Assembly Hall that were attended by all State Chinese School Directors' Associations, Teachers' Unions, representatives from Associations of Alumni, the Independent Chinese Secondary School Working Committee, Chairmen of respective Independent Schools and school principals. During the meeting, it was unanimously resolved that the Unified Examination would proceed as planned, and the first Unified Examination was successfully conducted from 11th to 17th December 1975.

Before 1980, Unified Examination was conducted manually, from keying in exam questions, printing, delivery and assurance of the confidentiality of the exam papers to production of certificates. Everything was done manually, and the process was extremely time-consuming. The invigilation and the marking of exam papers involved hundreds of Independent Chinese School teachers who had sacrificed their annual leaves to render their supports in order to assist in completing the work successfully for the Unified Examination according to the schedules.

The Independent Chinese School Working Committee of Dong Zong and Jiao Zong began to embark on the project of UEC computerisation and automation in 1982 to improve the quality and efficiency of work and, to reduce the cost, including the purchase of computers and other advanced equipment to facilitate the complicated process and to maximise the administration of the UEC system to achieve perfection.

In order to add value to the UEC and optimise the development of independent Chinese secondary schools in Malaysia, the Working Committee further set up five committees and four sub-committees from 1976 to 1986. After years of seminal efforts, the UEC finally got on track and was recognised by thousands of higher institutions worldwide.

3. Prospects of the UEC

3.1 Why must the UEC be recognised by the central government?

Dong Zong considered that equal opportunity in education should not be merely political discourse for election. We are more concerned with the government's sincerity and practicality in implementing their policy. In this train of thought, we urge the government to review the current single stream education policy aiming to create a multi-stream education environment which is essentially democratic, open and fair.

Not only will the recognition of the UEC allow independent Chinese secondary school graduates to go to national universities and eventually work as public servants, but it also represents the government's appreciation of UEC holders' contribution towards national development. Of late, the government has accepted independent Chinese secondary school graduates into National Teachers' Training Colleges, implying that the UEC does comply with the national education system and its corresponding academic level. With this orientation, we aim for impartial and total recognition of the UEC.

3.2 What are the reformations on the UEC in conjunction with the Malaysian Independent Chinese Secondary School Education Blueprint?

In conjunction with the Malaysian Independent Chinese Secondary School Education Blueprint, the reformations on the UEC in future are—to put oral test in practice for the three languages studied, to conduct practical examinations for science stream subjects and to push forward the implementation of school-based assessment.

4. Registration for Unified Examination

4.1 Who can register for Unified Examination?

All Junior Middle Three and Senior Middle Three students who are currently studying in the independent Chinese secondary schools, or students who have completed Senior Middle Three secondary education in independent Chinese secondary schools are eligible to register for the Unified Examination.

4.2 Why is the UEC not a public exam?

Hosting the UEC is an important proposal pursuant to act on 1973 Independent Chinese Secondary School Proposal. Since 1975, Junior and Senior Unified Examination have been held solely for Junior Middle Three and Senior Middle Three students studying in independent Chinese secondary schools every year.

On 4th October 2014, the committee members of both Dong Zong and Jiao Zong had mooted and decided to allow students of Sekolah Menengah Chong Hwa Kuantan to sit for the Unified Examination. It was an exceptional case and thus special consideration was warranted.

4.3 What is the medium of instruction for Unified Examination?

There are 8 exam papers for Junior Middle Three except for the language papers, all other subjects are tested in Chinese language, with the exception of the examination in Sabah, which still keep the bilingual (Chinese and English) exam papers for Maths and Science subjects.

There are 22 Senior Middle Three exam papers with the exception of language papers, among which 10 are subjects tested in Chinese and English language, 7 papers for Maths and Science stream and 3 papers for Commerce (except Economics). 9 other subjects are tested only in Chinese.

There are 5 exam papers for the vocational subjects. Besides language papers, all four other subjects are tested in Chinese language.

4.4 How many levels of Unified Examination are there? What are the exam papers in each level?

The Unified Examination comprises Junior Middle Three exams, Senior Middle Three exams and Vocational section exams.

There are 8 papers for Junior Middle Three; namely, Chinese Language, Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Art.

There are 22 papers for the Senior Middle Three, viz., Chinese Language, Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business Studies, Bookkeeping & Accounts, Accounting, Economics, Computing & Information Technology, Art, Basic Circuit Theory, Principles of Electronics, Digital Logic and Fundamentals of Electrical Engineering.

There are 5 papers for the Vocational section, i.e. Industrial English, Car Repair & Maintenance, Car Repair & Maintenance (Practical), Fine Art & Craft, Fine Art & Craft (Practical).

5. Academic Level of the UEC

5.1 Does the UEC meet professionalism?

Since the inception of the UEC in 1975, relevant preparations had to be started from scratch – from exam registration, exam questions writing, compilation of exam papers, arrangements of exam, time-table, etc. to papers grading. In the process, a set of guidelines for administration work was concluded through practical experiences. The smooth running of Unified Examination over the years has proven that this UEC administration system is vital, necessary and crucial.

On the other hand, the staff of Dong Zong Examination Department have attended a series of training since 2010. After 40 years of practical experience, 24 work instructions were set up observing ISO requirements. After 2 years of hard work, the execution of UEC administration work was granted ISO certification on 12th March 2011, and successfully received the ISO9001-2008 certifications awarded for “The Implementation of Administrative Work of Unified Examination for Independent Chinese Secondary Schools” by ISO bodies in Malaysia, Mainland China, UK and Japan.

5.2 What is the academic standard of the UEC?

To date, more than 300 private higher education institutions have recognised the UEC and accepted applications of UEC holders for their professional courses, twinning programmes and other tertiary courses. More than 1,000 overseas national and private higher institutions have recognised the UEC qualifications and accepted UEC holders for direct entry into higher institutions.

Please refer to Appendix 1: The List of Higher Education Institutions Which Accept UEC Qualifications

5.3 Is UEC on par with STPM and A-Level?

Since more than 1,000 overseas national and private higher education institutions have admitted UEC holders as undergraduates, that translates the UEC is in essence equivalent to those of STPM and A-Level. Since all three are equivalent in status, their conversion formulae can be obtained using the method of proportion. For the conversion formulae, please refer to Appendix 2.

5.4 Why do Independent Chinese Secondary School students need to complete Senior Middle Three studies and sit for the UEC?

Independent Chinese Secondary Schools' senior high education is geared to a holistic senior level secondary education. It would be partial and wanting if any one student did not continue his senior three studies after completing senior two studies. Notwithstanding with SPM results a student can get admission to pre-university

studies, Independent Chinese Secondary Schools' high school education ensures students not only to receive the necessary knowledge but also to help students develop an all-round education foundation. Independent Chinese Secondary Schools' education backdrop, culture as well as co-curricular activities appropriately offers an optimal learning platform, and provides senior three students with physical and spiritual learning and experience of which pre-university programmes cannot offer. Completing senior three studies and register for the UEC ensure the use of mother tongue to sit for the exams thus to obtain better results and eventually get admission to better university. Apart from the above mentioned, completing senior three studies and sit for the UEC merit the following advantages:

5.4.1 Direct admission to Bachelor of Arts programmes

According to the regulations of the Ministry of Education, SPM holders are not eligible for direct admission into national and private higher education institutions for undergraduate programmes. They must first attend pre-university preparatory courses such as STPM/Matrikulasi/Asasi for 1 to 2 years, or Foundation/A-Level courses provided by private universities. But UEC holders are eligible for direct entry into undergraduate programmes. As long as UEC holders obtain an average-to-good results, e.g. 5 B's, they can apply for undergraduate programmes directly.

5.4.2 More options for tertiary studies

Qualified UEC holders are eligible for entries into most universities except the national universities in Malaysia. These universities include private colleges and universities in Malaysia that accept UEC holders such as Taylors University, HELP University, Sunway University, UTAR, etc., as well as foreign university in Malaysia like Nottingham University, Monash University, Xiamen University, among others. Most higher institutions in other countries accept the UEC, including those in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA and the like. Respective foreign universities may impose their own stipulated requirements towards prospective undergraduates such as ensuring the candidates to have taken and earned good grades in language proficiency tests like IELTS, TOEFL, etc.

The UEC is a channel which helps independent Chinese secondary school students to get into universities globally. Some world-renowned universities even provide scholarship specially reserved for independent Chinese secondary schools with the objective of attracting outstanding UEC holders. These universities include Tsinghua University (Mainland China), Peking University (Mainland China), Hong Kong Polytechnic University, National University of Singapore, Kyoto University (Japan), Sungkyunkwan University (Korea) and Toronto University (Canada), etc.

Please refer to Appendix 3: Higher Learning Pathway for Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Leavers

5.4.3 The most economical Senior Middle Three education

It is more economical to receive Senior Middle Three education in Independent Chinese Secondary Schools than doing pre-university courses in any universities. According to statistics, the school fees for Senior Middle Three is around RM400-RM5,500 a year (2018), whereas the fees for pre-university courses in higher institutions ranges between RM14,900 to RM65,300. The tuition fees for foundation courses in universities are somewhere between RM9,400 to RM28,300. Presently, the school fees for both local and foreign universities are comparatively high, studying in Independent Chinese Secondary School's senior middle three will definitely save up the money to be submitted in the pre-university courses.

It is worth mentioning that although UEC holders are not eligible to apply for entry into local national universities, they can get a bachelor degree from private universities in Malaysia or foreign universities and continue their Master's or Doctorate degrees at local national universities afterwards.

Appendix 1: The List of Higher Education Institutions Which Accept UEC Qualifications



Malaysia

Every academic year, more than half the number of UEC holders opt to study at local private colleges and universities, including Bachelor programmes, university fundamental courses, professional diploma programmes and 3+0 credit transfer or twinning programmes, the last two of which are virtually channels to Bachelor degrees of foreign universities. The list below shows private universities/colleges recognised by Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) which accept the UEC for their diploma and Bachelor programmes:

Private Universities / Colleges

1.	AIMST University
2.	Akademi Pertama Rekabentuk dan Komunikasi
3.	Akademi Seni Lukis Dasein
4.	Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (Asia Pacific UTI)
5.	Binary University of Management & Entrepreneurship (BUME)
6.	City University Malaysia
7.	DRB-HICOM University Of Automotive Malaysia
8.	Fairview University College

9.	First City University College
10.	Geomatika University College
11.	GlobalNxt University
12.	Han Chiang University College of Communication **
13.	HELP Academy
14.	HELP University
15.	Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur
16.	Institut Antarabangsa Sains Mantin
17.	Institut Bahasa Teikyo
18.	Institut Jati
19.	Institut Methodist Pilley
20.	Institut Pengajian Global
21.	Institut Profesional Axismatics
22.	Institut Seni Lukis Malaysia
23.	Institut Sinaran
24.	Institut Teknologi ANS
25.	Institut Teknologi Maklumat Asia Pasifik (APIIT)
26.	Institut Teknologi Maklumat Nusantara
27.	Institut Teknologi Pertama
28.	Institut Teknologi Riam
29.	International Medical University (IMU)
30.	International University of Malaya-Wales
31.	INTI International University
32.	KDU University College
33.	Kolej Adroit
34.	Kolej Alfa

35.	Kolej Aman Batu Pahat
36.	Kolej Antarabangsa Almacrest
37.	Kolej Antarabangsa Cyberlynx
38.	Kolej Antarabangsa Goon
39.	Kolej Antarabangsa Greencity
40.	Kolej Antarabangsa INTI Kuala Lumpur
41.	Kolej Antarabangsa Mahsa Prima
42.	Kolej Antarabangsa Putra
43.	Kolej Antarabangsa Stradford
44.	Kolej Antarabangsa Travex
45.	Kolej Antarabangsa Yes
46.	Kolej Antarabangsa YPC
47.	Kolej Asia Metropolitan College Kota Kinabalu
48.	Kolej ATI
49.	Kolej Ausfield
50.	Kolej Bersepadu Nasional
51.	Kolej Binary
52.	Kolej Brickfields Asia
53.	Kolej Cosmopoint
54.	Kolej Disted
55.	Kolej Edu Oasis
56.	Kolej Eksekutif
57.	Kolej Equator
58.	Kolej Erican
59.	Kolej IACT (Pengiklanan, Komunikasi & Teknologi Antarabangsa)
60.	Kolej IBS

61.	Kolej IHM
62.	Kolej International Crescendo
63.	Kolej INTI Antarabangsa Pulau Pinang
64.	Kolej INTI Nilai
65.	Kolej INTI Sabah
66.	Kolej Kewartawanan dan Komunikasi Hanxing Sedunia
67.	Kolej Laila Taib
68.	Kolej Mantissa
69.	Kolej Mont Royale
70.	Kolej Newbridge
71.	Kolej Olympia
72.	Kolej Otomotif TOC
73.	Kolej Pengajian Siswazah Segi
74.	Kolej Pengajian Tinggi ATC
75.	Kolej Pengajian Tinggi Raffles
76.	Kolej Peninsula Georgetown
77.	Kolej Peninsula Shah Alam
78.	Kolej Perniagaan KYS
79.	Kolej Perubatan Melaka-Manipal
80.	Kolej PIA
81.	Kolej Point
82.	Kolej Poly-Tech Mara
83.	Kolej Premier
84.	Kolej Presiden
85.	Kolej Profesional dan Pengurusan KLIA
86.	Kolej SC

87.	Kolej SEGI
88.	Kolej Seni dan Teknologi HELP
89.	Kolej Sentral
90.	Kolej Stamford Melaka
91.	Kolej Sunway
92.	Kolej Taylor
93.	Kolej Teknologi Sarawak
94.	Kolej Terra
95.	Kolej UCSI
96.	Kolej Universiti Agrosains Malaysia
97.	Kolej Universiti Sains Perubatan Cyberjaya (CUCMS)
98.	Kolej Universiti Teknologi Antarabangsa Twintech (TWINTECH)
99.	Kolej Universiti Teknologi Sarawak
100.	Kolej Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (TARC)
101.	Kolej Universiti Veritas
102.	Kolej Universiti Widad
103.	Kolej Universiti Yayasan Sabah
104.	Kolej University Saito
105.	Kolej Vision
106.	Kolej Widad
107.	Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan University College (KLMUC)
108.	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology
109.	Lincoln University College
110.	Linton University College

111.	Mahsa University
112.	Management and Science University (MSU)
113.	Manipal International University (MIU), Malaysia
114.	Multimedia University (MMU), Cyberjaya Campus
115.	New Era University College**
116.	Nilai University
117.	Open University Malaysia
118.	Perdana University
119.	Quest International University Perak
120.	RANACO Education and Training Institute (RETI)
121.	Segi University
122.	Southern University College**
123.	Sunway University
124.	Taylor's University
125.	UCSI University
126.	UNITAR International University
127.	Universiti Malaysia Sains Komputer dan Kejuruteraan
128.	Universiti Selangor (UNISEL)
129.	Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)
130.	Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK)
131.	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
132.	Wawasan Open University (WOU)

* Professional Diplomas, inclusive of

1. Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, U.K. (ACCA)
2. The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, U.K. (CIMA)
3. Malaysia Association of Company Secretaries (MACS)
To apply for MACS, applicants must hold either SPM, STPM, BA or equivalents.

Having earned B.A. of Accounting, UEC holders can proceed to read ACCA or CIMA courses. Colleges which offer ACCA courses are Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), INTEC Education College, HELP College of Arts and Technology, etc, whereas Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Asia Metropolitan University, FTMS College offer CIMA courses. (Source: EduAdvisor)

** Private university colleges run by Malaysian Chinese communities.

Foreign University/Colleges Campuses (Malaysia Campus)

1.	Curtin University, Malaysia
2.	Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM)
3.	Kolej MDIS Malaysia
4.	Monash University Malaysia
5.	Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia
6.	Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus
7.	The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNIM)
8.	University of Reading Malaysia
9.	University Of Southampton Malaysia Campus (USMC)
10.	Xiamen University Malaysia



Singapore

The National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University have waived the university entrance examination for UEC holders since 1997. Other Singapore universities/colleges follow suit soon after. From 2011 to 2015, some 2,065 UEC holders had been admitted in Singapore universities.

1. National University of Singapore
2. Nanyang Technological University
3. Singapore Management University
4. Republic Polytechnic
5. Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
6. Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)
7. Singapore University of Technology and Design
8. Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)
9. Ngee Ann Polytechnic
10. Singapore Polytechnic
11. Nanyang Polytechnic
12. Temasek Polytechnic
13. LASALLE College of the Arts
14. SHRM College
15. Curtin Singapore



Taiwan

Further studies at Taiwan universities has since been a popular option for UEC holders. In terms of degree recognition, on 20 June 2011, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) signed an agreement with Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) to mutually recognise each other's degrees. Out of the 157 recognised Taiwanese universities by the Malaysia government, 58 are national universities and 99 are privately run. Accordingly, eight medical degrees, seven dentistry degrees, one veterinary medicine degree and three pharmacy degrees from Taiwan were recognised by Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (Malaysia).

1. China Medical University
2. Chung Shan Medical University
3. Kaohsiung Medical University
4. National Taiwan University
5. National Yang-Ming University
6. National Cheng Kung University
7. National Defense Medical Center
8. National Chung Hsing University
9. Taipei Medical University

Apart from the above listed universities, the Preparatory Programmes for Overseas Chinese Students offered by the National Taiwan Normal University, Overseas Youth Vocational Training Workshop and other national and private universities in Taiwan likewise recognise the UEC.



Mainland China

On 28th April 2011, Malaysia and China signed the “Mutual Recognition Agreement for Higher Education Degrees”, whereupon Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) recognised 1,243 universities recommended by China’s Ministry of Education (<http://www.mqa.gov.my>. Retrieved on December 4, 2017). Most of the universities in the list accept the UEC, and UEC holders are exempted from taking the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK Exam or Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi).

In addition, world top 200 China universities such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, University of Science and Technology of China, Zhejiang University, Nanjing University similarly accept UEC holders directly and provide scholarships.

Currently, merely two medical degrees from both Shanghai Fudan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China are recognised by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC). Moreover, four Chinese language Bachelor degrees and five Bachelor degrees from Chinese medicine universities are listed by Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (Malaysia).

1. Beijing Foreign Studies University
2. Beijing Language and Culture University
3. Beijing University of Chinese Medicine
4. Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine

5. Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine
6. Peking University
7. Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
8. Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
9. Tsinghua University



Hong Kong

Most national and private universities/
colleges in Hong Kong recognised the UEC
(www.studyinhongkong.edu.hk).

1. The University of Hong Kong
2. City University of Hong Kong
3. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
4. Hong Kong Baptist University
5. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
6. The Education University of Hong Kong
7. The Chinese University of Hong Kong
8. Lingnan University
9. Hang Seng Management College, Hong Kong
10. Centennial College
11. Chu Hai College of Higher Education
12. The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts



Macau

All Macau public and private universities/colleges (except Escola Superior das Forças de Segurança de Macau) admit UEC holders

(www.gaes.gov.mo).

1. University of Macau
2. Macao Polytechnic Institute
3. Institute for Tourism Studies
4. City University of Macau
5. University of Saint Joseph
6. Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau
7. Macau University of Science and Technology
8. Macau Institute of Management
9. Macau Millennium College



Japan

Though Japanese universities approve the 12-year formal education (6 years of primary and another 6 years of secondary education) in foreign countries, foreign students must pass a Japanese or English proficiency test for courses taught in English (www.studyinjapan.org.my).

1. University of Tokyo
2. Kyoto University

3. Tokyo Institute of Technology
4. Tohoku University
5. Osaka University
6. Meiji University
7. Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
8. Nanzan University
9. Nagoya University



South Korea

Korean universities basically consider the 12-year formal education as one of its entrance prerequisites and thus UEC holders are allowed to apply (www.studyin korea.go.kr).

1. Seoul National University
2. Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology
3. Pohang University of Science and Technology
4. Yonsei University
5. Korea University
6. Sungkyunkwan University
7. Kyung Hee University
8. Hanyang University
9. Ewha Womans University
10. Sogang University
11. Kyungpook National University
12. Pusan National University

13. Inha University
14. Chungnam National University
15. Chonnan National University
16. Chung-Ang University
17. University of Seoul
18. Chonbuk National University
19. Chungbuk National University
20. Dankook University



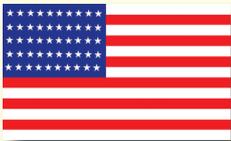
United Kingdom

Universities in the United Kingdom accept the UEC qualifications. However, attributed to expensive tuition fee and high cost of living in the U.K, UEC holders generally prefer to complete their twinning programmes or 3+0 credit transfer programmes in Malaysia before going to the U.K. Applicants must attach IELTS or TOEFL certification as proof of English proficiency (British Council).

1. Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge & Chelmsford
2. Astrum Colleges, London
3. Bangor University
4. Bath Spa University
5. Bellerbys College
6. BPP University
7. Briston UWE
8. Cardiff University

9. CATS College & CSVPA
10. Edinburgh Napier University
11. Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU)
12. Heriot-Watt University
13. Lancaster University
14. Leeds Beckett University
15. Liverpool John Moores University
16. London South Bank University
17. Manchester Metropolitan University
18. Middlesex University London
19. Newcastle University
20. Nottingham Trent University
21. Oxford Brookes University
22. Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
23. Queen's University Belfast
24. Robert Gordon University
25. Sheffield Hallam University
26. Swansea University
27. Teesside University
28. The University of Derby
29. The University of Hull
30. The University of Nottingham
31. The University of Sheffield
32. University College Birmingham
33. University of Aberdeen
34. University of Birmingham
35. University of Brighton

36. University of Dundee
37. University of East Anglia (UEA)
38. University of East London
39. University of Essex
40. University of Glasgow
41. University of Gloucestershire
42. University of Greenwich
43. University of Hertfordshire
44. University of Kent
45. University of Leeds
46. University of Lincoln
47. University of Portsmouth
48. University of Reading
49. University of South Wales
50. University of Southampton
51. University of Strathclyde
52. University of Sunderland
53. University of Surrey
54. University of Sussex
55. York St John University



USA

Any foreigners opting to pursue tertiary studies in the USA must complete a 12-year formal education and attach TOEFL or IELTS certification as proof of English proficiency. Some most sought after universities demand SAT, GRE, GMAT, etc. (www.fsi.com.my/usa/).

The universities below invite candidates with 12-year formal education for application on their websites:

1. California Institute of Technology
2. Carnegie Mellon University
3. Case Western Reserve University
4. Columbia University
5. Cornell University
6. Dartmouth College
7. Duke University
8. Emory University
9. Georgetown University
10. Johns Hopkins University
11. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
12. New York University
13. Purdue University
14. Tufts University
15. University of Arizona
16. University of Chicago
17. University of Colorado Boulder
18. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
19. University of Minnesota
20. University of Rochester
21. University of Wisconsin-Madison
22. Washington University in St Louis
23. Yale University



Canada

Outstanding UEC holders in general enjoy direct admission by Canadian universities, but IELTS proof of English proficiency must be provided (www.fsi.com.my/canada/).

1. University of Winnipeg
2. University of Toronto
3. King's University College
4. Saint Mary's University
5. University of Prince Edward Island



Australia

With IELTS proof of English proficiency, UEC holders are eligible to apply for Australian Universities (www.fsi.com.my/australia/).

1. Australian National University
2. Central Queensland University
3. Charles Sturt University
4. Curtin University
5. Deakin University
6. Griffith University
7. Macquarie University
8. Monash University
9. University of Adelaide

10. University of Melbourne
11. University of New South Wales
12. University of Southern Queensland
13. University of Sydney
14. University Of Tasmania
15. University of Western Australia
16. University of Western Sydney
17. Victoria University



New Zealand

New Zealand universities recognise the UEC and UEC holders with TOEFL or IELTS can apply for admission (www.fsi.com.my/nz).

1. Auckland University of Technology
2. Massey University
3. Manukau Institute of Technology
4. The University of Waikato
5. University of Auckland
6. University of Otago
7. Waikato Institute of Technology



Ireland

Universities/colleges in Ireland impose different requirements for admission on a yearly basis.

Completion of high school studies is a must. Besides, other than meeting requirements, candidates must have IELTS proof of English proficiency (www.fsi.com.my/iralanf; universities websites).

1. Trinity College Dublin
2. Dublin City University
3. University College Cork
4. University of Limerick
5. Dublin Institute of Technology



France

The UEC is equivalent to senior high school certificate in France. Applicants to universities must complete a 1-year course in French

language before application (www.fsi.com.my/france/).

1. École Normale Supérieure
2. École Polytechnique
3. Université Pierre et Marie Curie



Russia

All universities/colleges in Russia admit UEC holders (Russian Centre of Science and Culture, resc@russia.org.my). Below are only a few of the many higher institutions in Russia:

1. Lomonosov Moscow State University
2. Novosibirsk State University
3. Saint-Petersburg State University
4. Tomsk State University
5. Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology State University



Indonesia

Indonesian national universities do not for the moment recognise the UEC, but private universities accept UEC holders (www.fsi.com.my/indonesia/).

1. Universitas Trisakti
2. Universitas Kristen Krida Wacana
3. Universitas Prof Dr. Moestopo

Note: 12-year Formal Education: 6 years of primary and another 6 years of secondary education

(Updated as at 4th June 2018)

Appendix 2: Conversion Equations of the UEC to STPM and A-Level

$$(1) \text{ STPM equivalent of A level} \\ = [(\text{A level} - 2) / 8] \times 2 + 2$$

$$(2) \text{ STPM equivalent of UEC} \\ = [(\text{UEC} - 3) / 6] \times 2 + 2]$$

- (1) According to the experience gained from enrolment requirements procedure of the Ministry of Higher Education, various private higher institutions and some foreign universities, the conversion between the UEC and STPM can be concluded by the following equation:

$$\text{STPM equivalent to UEC (CGPA)} \\ = \{ [(\text{UEC} - 3) / 6] \times 2 \} + 2$$

- (2) The conversion equation between STPM and A-Level, given by the Ministry of Higher Education:

$$\text{STPM equivalent to A-Level (CGPA)} \\ = \{ [(\text{A-Level} - 2) / 8] \times 2 \} + 2$$

Table Interpretation

1. STPM grades and grade points are shown in the table below:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
CGPA	4	3.67	3.33	3	2.67	2.33	2	1.67	1.33	1	0

2. UEC grades and equivalent grade points are shown in the table below:

Grade	A1	A2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C7	C8	C9
CGPA	4	3.67	3.33	3	2.67	2.33	2	1.67	1.33

3. A-Level grades and equivalent grade points are shown in the table below:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F
CGPA	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5

Based on the 2 conversion equations above, an “A1” in UEC = an “A” in STPM = an “A” in A-Level.

Grades comparison of three examinations are shown below:

STPM	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
UEC	A1	A2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C7	C8	F9		
A-Level	A	B	C	D	E	F					

Appendix 3: Higher Learning Pathway for Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Leavers

