



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

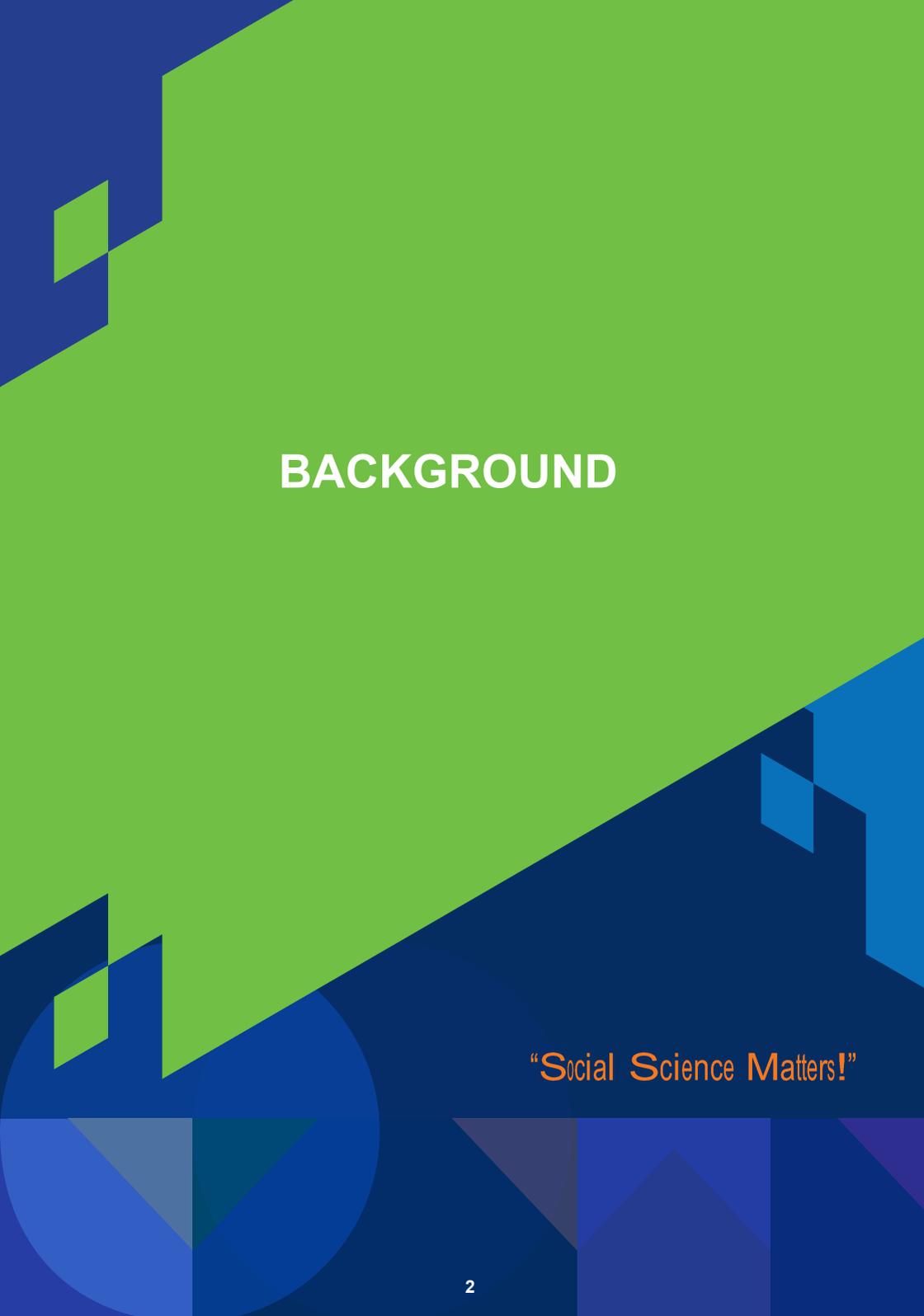
**Academic Session
2025 / 2026**

“Social Science Matters!”

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BACKGROUND

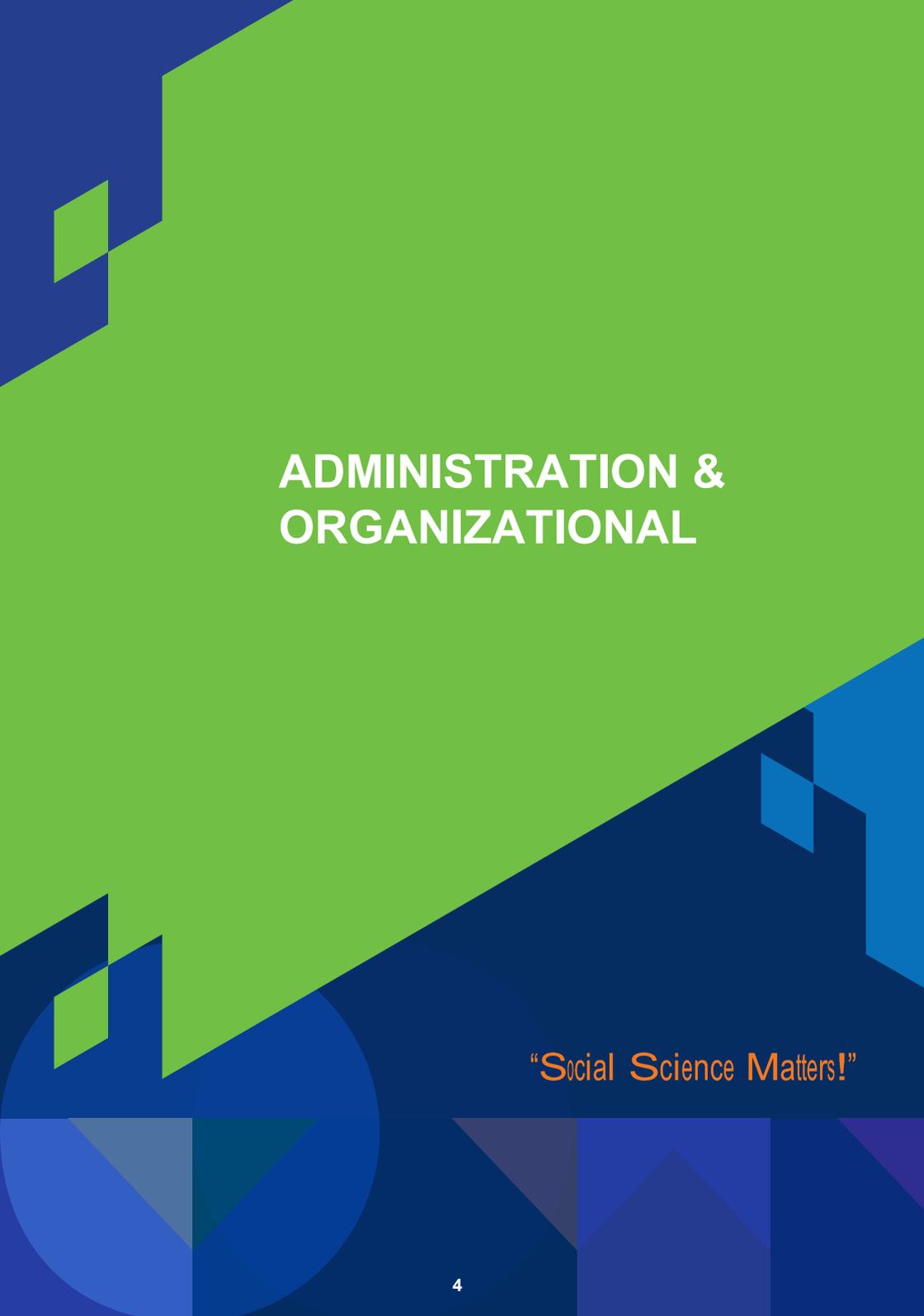
“Social Science Matters!”

Introduction

The School of Social Sciences at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has been at the forefront of advancing the social sciences in Malaysia. As one of the university's oldest faculties and among the first social sciences schools in the country, the School was established in 1970 with a core mission: to advance knowledge and facilitate desirable social transformation within Malaysian society. Over the decades, this mission has evolved, but our commitment remains steadfast to delivering quality education and conducting impactful research that contributes to national development.

Today, we offer three undergraduate programmes: the Bachelor of Social Sciences, the Bachelor of Economics, and the Bachelor of Social Work. At the postgraduate level, we provide five dynamic programmes: the Master of Public Administration (coursework), the Master of Economic Management (coursework), the Master of Social Work (mixed-mode), the Master of Social Sciences (research mode), and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Our Master of Social Sciences (research mode) and Ph.D. programmes enable students to pursue advanced research across a wide range of social science disciplines.

The School is home to 56 dedicated academic staff and a vibrant community of approximately 1,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students. We are actively engaged in global academic collaborations and maintain strong partnerships with local industries, public sector agencies, civil society organisations, policymakers, and practitioners.



ADMINISTRATION & ORGANIZATIONAL

“Social Science Matters!”

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION



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CHAIRPERSONS



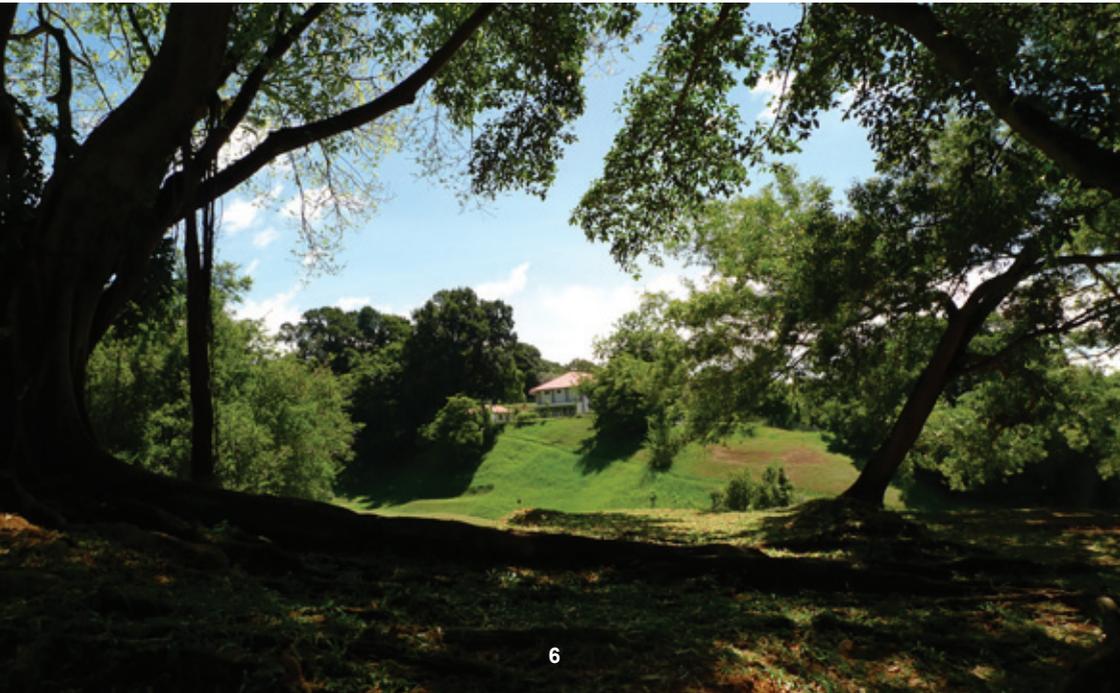
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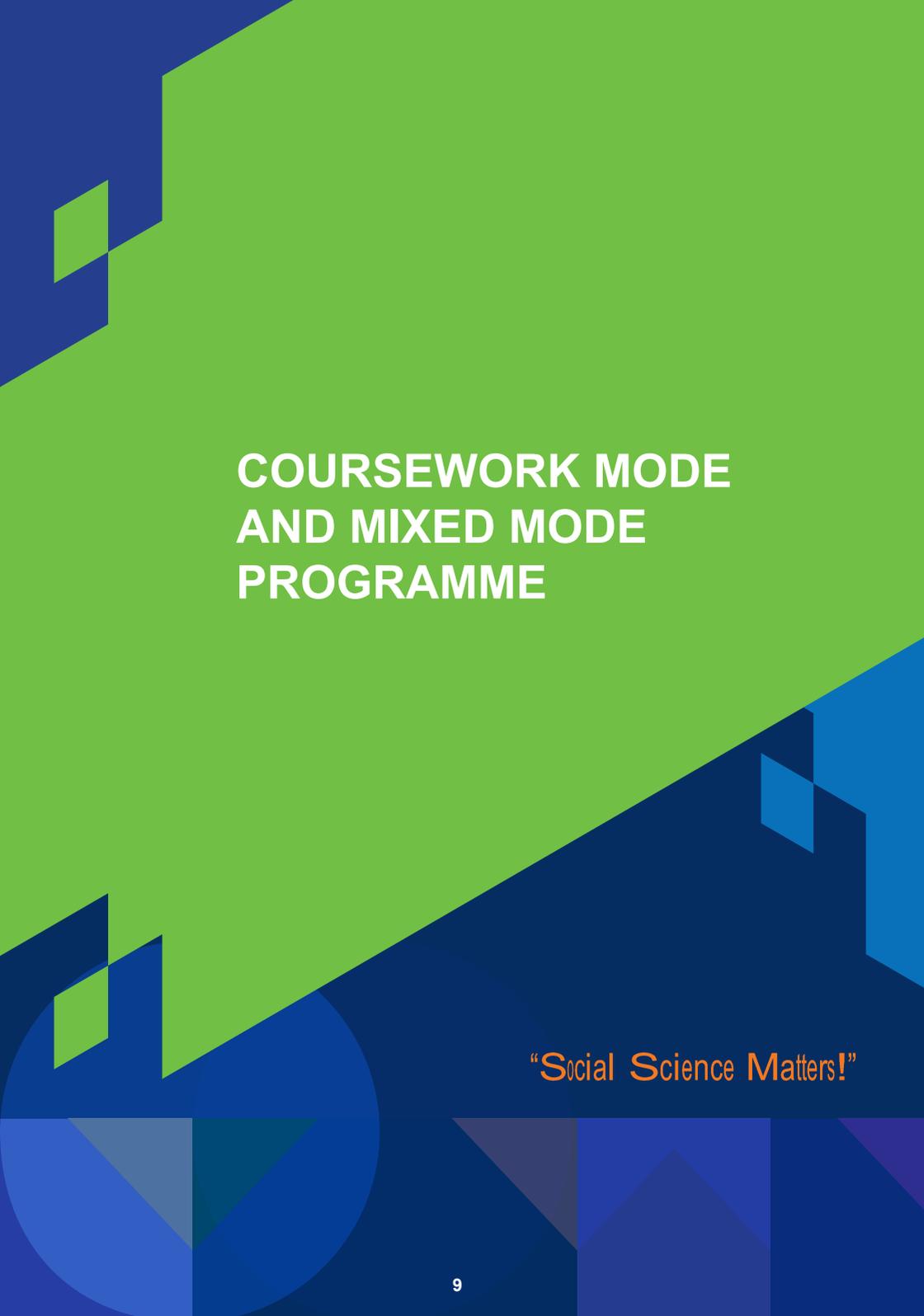
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COURSEWORK MODE AND MIXED MODE PROGRAMME

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Our COURSEWORK / MIXED MODE PROGRAMMES

COURSEWORK

1

The Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) programme is designed for those serving in the public sector and those planning a career in the public service. It is also open to those from other sectors for whom knowledge of the public sector is important. The basic entry requirement is a bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

2

Master of Economic Management (MEM)

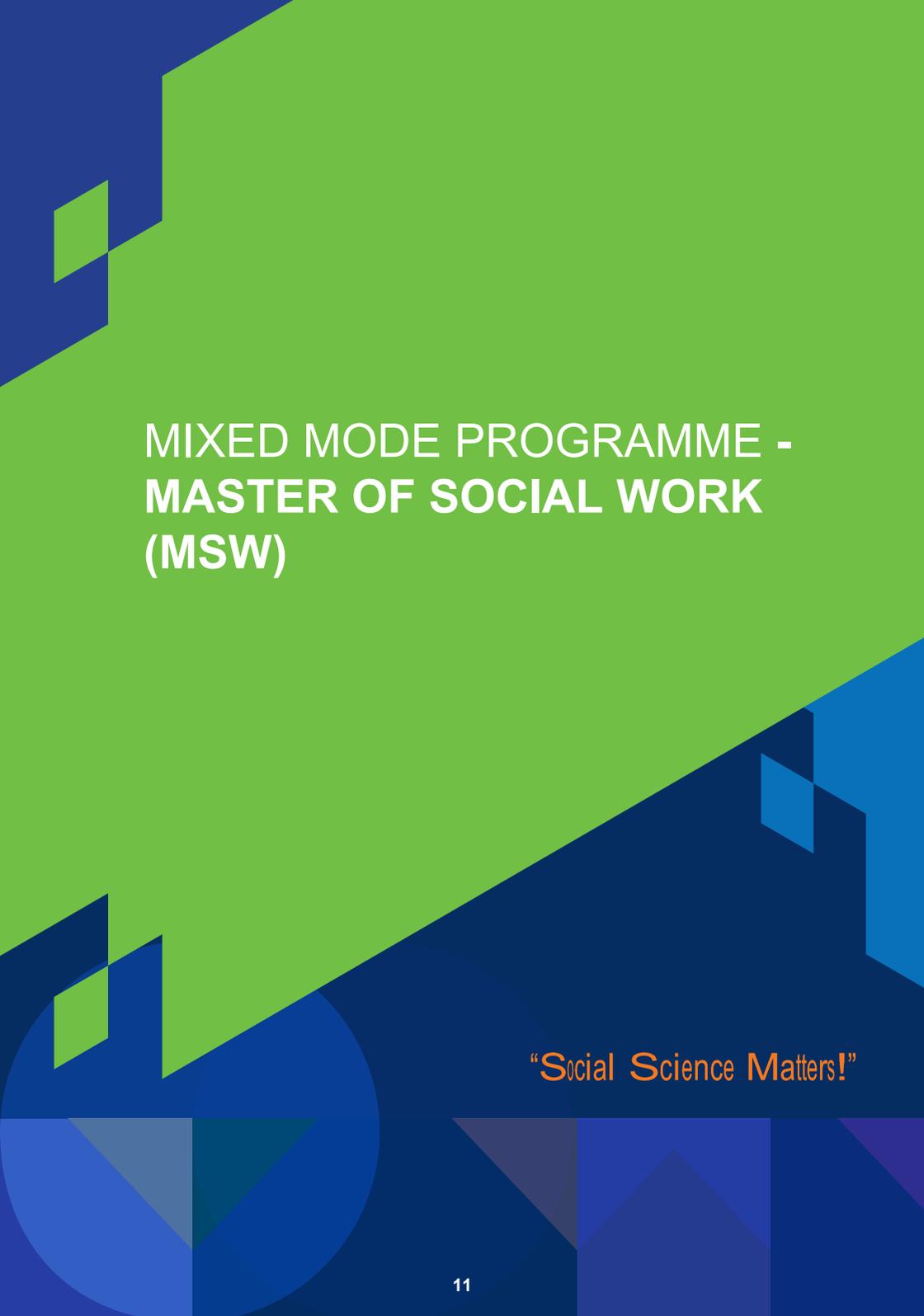
The Master of Economic Management Programme (MEM) is a unique programme that combines practical economic knowledge with an issue-oriented approach. It is designed to train innovative economics practitioners. The programme provides an interesting blend of essential theory and practical application-skills that are necessary for those involved in economic management and are likely to be confronted by a wide range of economic issues.

3

MIXED MODE

Master of Social Work (MSW)

The Masters of Social Work Programme is a programme that combines social work knowledge and field practice (practicum). It is designed to train social work practitioners from government and non-governmental organizations. This programme helps students to work in the social work field at both micro (individual and groups) and macro (organization and community).



MIXED MODE PROGRAMME - MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

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OVERVIEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES: **MIXED-MODE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)**

Introduction

The MSW Programme combines social work knowledge and field practice (practicum). It is designed to train social work practitioners for both government and non-governmental organisations. This programme prepares students to work in the field of social work at both the micro level (with individuals and groups) and the macro level (with organisations and communities).

The programme aims to enhance the quality of social work services by strengthening theoretical knowledge and advancing professional practice. It is designed to produce holistic, competent, and skilled practitioners capable of addressing complex social issues. Given the growing social challenges in the country, the MSW programme responds to the urgent need for well-trained professionals in social institutions and NGOs, where the shortage of qualified personnel is a pressing concern. By developing a stronger cadre of Master's-level social workers, the programme contributes to improving the effectiveness and professionalism of the social work sector.

Objective

The MSW programme aims to develop a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce to address complex social issues and enhance the quality of social services in Malaysia. Specifically, the objectives are to:

- (a) The MSW programme will help fulfil the need for a human workforce to cope with various social problems in line with the context of a caring society. In addition, it aims to produce students who are innovative, motivated, competent, and committed to the field of social work practice.
- (b) To expand and increase the number of Master's students with knowledge and specific skills in order to offer effective services as social workers.
- (c) To produce more trained social work graduates, who are needed by many governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as in the industrial and private sectors.
- (d) To enhance research and expand social work knowledge by assisting the country in establishing quality social policies and human services.

Programme Educational Objectives (PEO)

The MSW programme aims to develop competent and reflective social work professionals who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation necessary to contribute effectively across diverse practice settings. The specific educational objectives are as follows:

- **PEO1:** Become knowledgeable and skilled in critically understanding the concepts, theories, and issues in the social work field.
- **PEO2:** Possess competencies towards knowledge, skills, and values in addressing issues at individual, family, group, and community levels.
- **PEO3:** Become capable of applying different theories, approaches and intervention methods in the social work field for individuals, families, groups, and communities towards enhancing their social functioning.
- **PEO4:** Practice social work values, ethics, and professionalism in implementing tasks and responsibilities when working with individual, family, group, and community.

Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon completion of the MSW programme, graduates have the following:

PLO1 – Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophy, values, and ethics in social work.

PLO2 – Cognitive Skills

- Apply advanced social work theories and approaches to social work practice to current local and global social issues.

PLO3 – Practical Skills

- Apply advanced theories into practice, as social work is a practice-based discipline.

PLO4 – Interpersonal Skills

- Develop interpersonal skills such as negotiations, problem-solving, and decision-making in academic and professional settings.

PLO5 – Communication Skills

- Improve oral and written communication with various stakeholders such as team members, clients, and organisations via practicum training, research projects, seminar presentations, as well as informal discussions.

PLO8 – Leadership, Autonomy and Responsibility

- Develop leadership skills when working with various stakeholders such as team members, clients, and organisations.

PLO9 – Personal Skills

- Pursue lifelong learning via policy formulation and analysis from the local and global agendas.

PLO10 – Entrepreneurial Skills

- Use social work knowledge and skills to improve entrepreneurial and managerial capabilities.

PLO11 – Ethics and Professionalism

- Application of ethics and professionalism when working in larger-scale human service organisations.

Programme Duration

This is a mixed-mode programme that integrates coursework, practicum, and research components. For the full-time mode, the minimum duration of study is three semesters (18 months), while the maximum duration is six semesters (36 months).

Degree Requirement and Assessment

Students will be awarded the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree upon successfully completing 44 credits from core courses. Academic performance is assessed using the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) system, as outlined in the university's grading scale.

The minimum passing grade for each course is C+, and students must attain a minimum CGPA of 3.00 out of 4.00 to be eligible for graduation. In line with university regulations, students are permitted to repeat any course in which they obtain a grade of B- or below.

Grade	Grade Point	Explanation
A	4.00	Pass
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
F	0	Fail

Programme Structure

The MSW programme consists of 44 credit hours, combining theoretical knowledge, specialised practice, applied methods, and research. The structure of the programme is as follows:

Courses	Credits	%
Core Theories: (SSW501, SSW502, SSW503, SSW504)	12	48
Specialisation: (SSW505, SSW506, SSW507)	9	
Methods: (SSW591)	3	52
Dissertation: (SSW599)	20	
Total	44	100

Below is the list of courses offered in the MSW programme, which includes core theoretical foundations, specialised areas of practice, research methodology, and an independent dissertation component designed to equip students with both academic and practical competencies in social work.

Code and Course Title

Code	Course Title	Course Hour	Course Type
SSW501	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES	3	C
SSW502	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH GROUP AND COMMUNITY	3	C
SSW503	SOCIAL POLICY & SOCIAL SERVICES	3	C
SSW504	INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR	3	C
SSW505	SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION	3	C
SSW506	HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3	C
SSW507	SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT	3	C
SSW590	INDEPENDENT STUDIES	3	C
SSW591	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH	3	C
SSW599	DISSERTATION	20	C

Notes: SSW591/3 and SSW599/20 will be evaluated as PASS/FAIL.

Course Registration Structure (Full-Time)

Full-time candidates in the MSW programme are required to register for courses according to the following structured schedule:

Year 1		Year 2	
Semester I	Semester II	Session Break	Semester I
SSW501/3	SSW504/3		
SSW502/3	SSW505/3		
SSW503/3	SSW506/3		
SSW507/3	SSW591/3		
	PRACTICUM		
		PRACTICUM	
←-----			SSW599/20

COURSE SYNOPSIS

SSW501 - ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Synopsis:

Professional social work practice requires knowledge, values, and skills. This course equips students with theoretical models for effective intervention with individuals and families across various contexts. Emphasis is placed on micro, meso, and macro systems, enhancing students' capacity to apply rehabilitative, preventive, and developmental approaches while conducting theory-based interventions.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to enhance students' ability to manage and deliver services to individuals in a variety of situations that require different approaches.

SSW502 - ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH GROUP AND COMMUNITY

Synopsis:

This course enables students to understand group dynamics. This includes understanding the processes and methods of group work as part of social work intervention. It also introduces students to community work practice based on theoretical knowledge, values and principles, methods and processes, as well as practice skills for providing effective intervention. Theories related to group work and community work and their application, will be discussed thoroughly.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to expose students to the theories, methods, and models of group work and community work emphasised in social work practice when providing direct intervention to communities.

SSW503 - SOCIAL POLICY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Synopsis:

This course explores the formulation, implementation, and functioning of welfare and social services policies. It emphasises the analysis of social, economic, and cultural contexts to ensure effective and inclusive policy development, with a focus on community inclusion in both Malaysian and global settings.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to provide an understanding of the formulation, functions, and implementation of welfare policies and social services, with an emphasis on integrating stakeholders to address social issues and problems, both in Malaysia and globally. It will cover knowledge in social work, socio-economic background, welfare policies, social services, and the functions of stakeholders.

SSW504 - INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR

Synopsis:

This course will allow students to critically examine and discuss current social issues within the context of social work. Students will identify and analyse the relationship between current social issues and the social environments of individuals, families, groups, and communities in greater depth. The application of social work values, ethics, theories, methods, and skills learned throughout the social work programme will be discussed continuously, particularly in relation to students' ability to conduct effective assessments and interventions related to social issues.

Course Objectives:

This course enables students to explore and examine current social issues within the context of social work practice. Students will identify and analyse the relationship between current social issues and the social environments of individuals, families, groups, and communities in depth.

SSW505 - SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Synopsis:

Social work education plays a vital role in promoting democratic values and ethical service delivery to individuals, families, groups, and communities. This course emphasizes the importance of teaching and learning the philosophy, principles, and values of social work. It also focuses on developing effective educational skills essential for professional practice and knowledge dissemination.

Course Objectives:

This course delves into the essence of professional social work education. Emphasis is placed on the core components that form the foundation of the philosophy, rationale, and development of a comprehensive and professional social work education curriculum. This course aims to assist future educators in the field of social work in producing competent social workers.

SSW506 - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Synopsis:

This course will expose students to local and global health and well-being issues from a social work perspective. Students are expected to understand public health issues in Malaysia and globally, analyse current global situations related to health and well-being, and address these issues in collaboration with the public sector, NGOs, and global organisations.

Course Objectives:

This course will focus on health and well-being issues at both national and global levels. It will emphasise knowledge related to policies, health promotion, and global public health issues. It will prepare students to assess, analyse, and resolve global health and well-being issues based on evaluations of socio-economic backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures within diverse local and global communities.

SSW507 - SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Synopsis:

This course is designed to enable students to identify various theories in management, their strengths and weaknesses, and their applicability in the local environment. Students will be able to determine the most suitable and relevant management method for each distinctive human service agency. Topics will focus on developing skills in management and evaluation in order to foster innovations that are relevant and realistic.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to prepare and train social workers to perform their roles as managers or leaders of social service organisations or human service agencies.

SSW590 - INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Synopsis:

This course allows students to research any social issues of their interest and will be placed under the supervision of academic staff. Students will have to conduct thorough research beginning with the development of a research proposal, data collection, analysis, and discussions of study findings, taking into account the body of social work knowledge as a whole. The student's work will take the form of a fully completed study. This course can be registered for in any semester convenient to the candidate.

Course Objectives:

This course provides students with the opportunity to conduct an in-depth investigation of a specific social issue under the supervision of an academic staff member or faculty member.

SSW591 - ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Synopsis:

The purpose of this course is to strengthen students' knowledge of social work research. The course will enhance understanding of the scientific research process. This course will focus on the use of statistics in data analysis. The following topics will be discussed: theory building in social work settings, discussions on hypotheses and research questions; the research process from problem statement formulation to data collection; application of statistics; and the protocol for writing a research report.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to develop a deeper understanding of research methods that can be applied in the context of social work.

SSW599 - DISSERTATION

Synopsis:

The dissertation is linked to the practicum component and is designed to provide students with valuable research experience during their practicum, which begins at the end of the second semester of the first year. All students are required to conduct research and a practicum to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned. Students are free to choose their own topics and target groups (individuals, families, groups, or communities).

Course Objectives:

This course aims to connect academic learning with practicum experience by allowing students to conduct research based on real issues encountered in the field. Students will apply their knowledge and skills to address practical challenges in social work practice.





**ACADEMIC STAFF,
RESEARCH INTEREST
AND EXPERTISE**

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Social Work

HIV and AIDS, Harm Reduction, Drug Addiction, Social Work with Families



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Violence in Family, Gender Equality, Culture and Gender Role, Social Development, Elderly



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Social Work in School, Community Health, Community Development, HIV & AIDS



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Community Mental Health, Women's Well Being, Qualitative Study and Research Management



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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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To graduate from the MSW programme, students must fulfil the following requirements:

- (a) Fulfil the minimum duration of candidature
 - (b) Achieve a CGPA of at least 3.00 out of 4.00.
 - (c) Complete a minimum of 600 hours of practicum.
 - (d) Pass a dissertation comprising 20,000 to 25,000 words.
 - (e) Accumulate a total of 44 credits.
 - (f) Obtain a minimum grade of C for Malaysian Culture and Malay Language (LKM111).
- This course is compulsory for all international students.

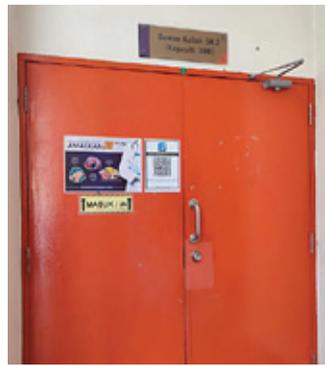
PTJ FACILITIES

“Social Science Matters!”

Facilities



Building C 23



Computer Lab

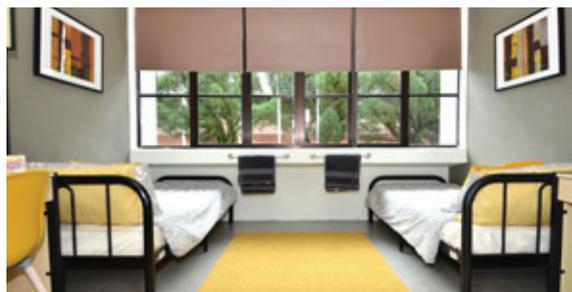




Sport Facilities



Accommodation



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

“Social Science Matters!”



ACADEMIC CALENDAR - ACADEMIC SESSION 2025/2026

FOR ALL SCHOOLS (EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCES)

Main Campus : Registration for New Student (26 - 28 September 2025) / **Orientation Week (29 September - 04 October 2025)
 Engineering Campus : Registration for New Student (28 September 2025) / **Orientation Week (29 September - 04 October 2025)
 Health Campus : Registration for New Student (30 September 2025) / **Orientation Week (30 September - 04 October 2025)

SEM	WEEKS	ACTIVITIES	DATE	REMARKS
ONE	1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 06.10.2025 - Sunday, 12.10.2025	
	2		Monday, 13.10.2025 - Sunday, 19.10.2025	
	3		Monday, 20.10.2025 - Sunday, 26.10.2025	20.10.2025, Monday - Deepavali**
	4		Monday, 27.10.2025 - Sunday, 02.11.2025	
	5		Monday, 03.11.2025 - Sunday, 09.11.2025	
	6		Monday, 10.11.2025 - Sunday, 16.11.2025	
	7		Monday, 17.11.2025 - Sunday, 23.11.2025	
	8	Mid Semester Break (1 Week)	Monday, 24.11.2025 - Sunday, 30.11.2025	
	9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 01.12.2025 - Sunday, 07.12.2025	
	10		Monday, 08.12.2025 - Sunday, 14.12.2025	
	11		Monday, 15.12.2025 - Sunday, 21.12.2025	
	12		Monday, 22.12.2025 - Sunday, 28.12.2025	25.12.2025, Thursday - Christmas Day
	13		Monday, 29.12.2025 - Sunday, 04.01.2026	01.01.2026, Thursday - New Year of 2025
	14		Monday, 05.01.2026 - Sunday, 11.01.2026	
	15		Monday, 12.01.2026 - Sunday, 18.01.2026	
	16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Monday, 19.01.2026 - Sunday, 25.01.2026	
	17	Examination (3 Weeks)	Monday, 26.01.2026 - Sunday, 01.02.2026	01.02.2026, Sunday - Thai Pusam
	18		Monday, 02.02.2026 - Sunday, 08.02.2026	02.02.2026, Sunday - Replacement leave for Thai Pusam (Main & Engineering Campus)
	19		Monday, 09.02.2026 - Sunday, 15.02.2026	
	20	Mid Semester Break / Industrial Training (4 Weeks)	Monday, 16.02.2026 - Sunday, 22.02.2026	17 & 18.02.2026, Tuesday & Wednesday - Chinese New Year 19.02.2026, Thursday - 1st day of Ramadhan
	21		Monday, 23.02.2026 - Sunday, 01.03.2026	
	22		Monday, 02.03.2026 - Sunday, 08.03.2026	
	23		Monday, 09.03.2026 - Sunday, 15.03.2026	07.03.2026, Saturday - Nizul Al-Quran
241	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 16.03.2026 - Sunday, 22.03.2026	21.03.2026 & 22.03.2026, Saturday & Sunday - Eid al-Fitr**	
25/2		Monday, 23.03.2026 - Sunday, 29.03.2026	23.03.2026, Monday - Replacement leave for Eid al-Fitr****	
26/3		Monday, 30.03.2026 - Sunday, 05.04.2026		
27/4		Monday, 06.04.2026 - Sunday, 12.04.2026		
28/5		Monday, 13.04.2026 - Sunday, 19.04.2026		
29/6		Monday, 20.04.2026 - Sunday, 26.04.2026		
30/7		Monday, 27.04.2026 - Sunday, 03.05.2026	01.05.2026, Friday - Labour Day	
31/8	Mid Semester Break (1 Week)	Monday, 04.05.2026 - Sunday, 10.05.2026		
32/9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 11.05.2026 - Sunday, 17.05.2026		
33/10		Monday, 18.05.2026 - Sunday, 24.05.2026		
34/11		Monday, 25.05.2026 - Sunday, 31.05.2026	27 & 28.05.2026, Wednesday & Thursday - Eid al-Adha** 31.05.2026, Sunday - Wesak Day	
35/12		Monday, 01.06.2026 - Sunday, 07.06.2026	01.06.2026, Monday - Replacement leave for Wesak Day (Main & Engineering Campus) 01.06.2026, Monday - Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday	
36/13		Monday, 08.06.2026 - Sunday, 14.06.2026		
37/14		Monday, 15.06.2026 - Sunday, 21.06.2026	17.06.2026, Wednesday - Awal Muharram	
38/15		Monday, 22.06.2026 - Sunday, 28.06.2026		
39/16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Monday, 29.06.2026 - Sunday, 05.07.2026		
40/17	**Examination (2 Weeks)	Monday, 06.07.2026 - Sunday, 12.07.2026	07.07.2026, Tuesday - Georgetown World Heritage City Day 11.07.2026, Saturday - Penang Governor's Birthday	
41/18	Examination (3 Weeks)	Monday, 13.07.2026 - Sunday, 19.07.2026		
42/19		Monday, 20.07.2026 - Sunday, 26.07.2026		
43/20	Long Semester Break / Industrial Training (10/11 Weeks)	Monday, 27.07.2026 - Sunday, 02.08.2026		
44/21		Monday, 03.08.2026 - Sunday, 09.08.2026		
45/22		Monday, 10.08.2026 - Sunday, 16.08.2026		
46/23		Monday, 17.08.2026 - Sunday, 23.08.2026		
47/24		*T&L	Monday, 24.08.2026 - Sunday, 30.08.2026	25.08.2026, Tuesday - Maulidur Rasul
48/25		Examination	Monday, 31.08.2026 - Sunday, 06.09.2026	31.08.2026, Monday - National Day
49/26			Monday, 07.09.2026 - Sunday, 13.09.2026	
50/27	Monday, 14.09.2026 - Sunday, 20.09.2026		16.09.2026, Wednesday - Malaysia Day	
51/28		Monday, 21.09.2026 - Sunday, 27.09.2026	29 & 30.09.2026, Tuesday & Wednesday - Sultan of Kelantan's Birthday (Health Campus)	
52/29		Monday, 28.09.2026 - Sunday, 04.10.2026		

**This Academic Calendar is subject to change



PTJ DIRECTORY

“Social Science Matters!”

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School of Social Sciences

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Administration and Technical Staff Directory
School of Social Sciences

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Dikemaskini oleh: Norhasliza Mohd Ilias / 10.4.2025

TUITION AND OTHER FEES

“Social Science Matters!”

One-Off Fees		
	Malaysian (MYR)	International (USD)
Registration fee	330.00	225.00
Personal Bond	N/A	1000.00
Convocation Fee	200.00	50.00

	Malaysian (MYR)		International (USD)	
	Full Time/sem	Part Time/sem	Full Time/sem	Part Time/sem
Master of Social Work	22,000.00		9,240.00	

Disclaimers:

- 1) The above rates are effective from Academic Session 2025/2026.
- 2) Fees are subject to change.
- 3) Final fees should be confirmed before any commitment to be made.
- 4) Any discrepancies on the fees, the correct amount by USM Bursary are to be used.

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For information on admission requirements and fees, please visit <http://www.ips.usm.my/>

@Jun 2025