

USIM

NEWSLETTER

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USIM Named Employer's Preferred University

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) continues to make its mark by being named the Employer's Preferred University in graduate marketability by a prestigious industry body, Talentbank.

This award was received by USIM's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Professor Dato' Dr. Nik Salida Suhaila, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, at a grand ceremony held at EQ Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, on April 22, 2025. The award was presented by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud.

According to the Director of the USIM

Career and Alumni Centre, Professor Dr. Mahazan Abdul Mutalib@Taib, this success reflects the strong synergy between the government, industry players, faculties, and departments across USIM.

"This recognition is proof of our collective commitment and collaboration in enhancing the marketability of USIM graduates. It motivates us to continue producing exceptional human capital who are ready for the real-world workforce," he stated.

The award is based on recruitment data from prestigious employers across the country such as PETRONAS, Public

Bank, CIMB, Maybank, Hartalega, and others. These employers assessed USIM's ability to produce highly skilled, quality, and competitive graduates.

In line with USIM's mission to produce Islamic knowledge-based human capital for the well-being of society, this achievement demonstrates that the integration of naqli (revealed) and aqli (rational) knowledge practised at USIM has earned the full trust of the industry.

Furthermore, it places USIM on par with other leading universities in Malaysia as a top choice for major companies seeking quality graduates.

"This recognition is proof of our collective commitment in enhancing the marketability of USIM graduates"

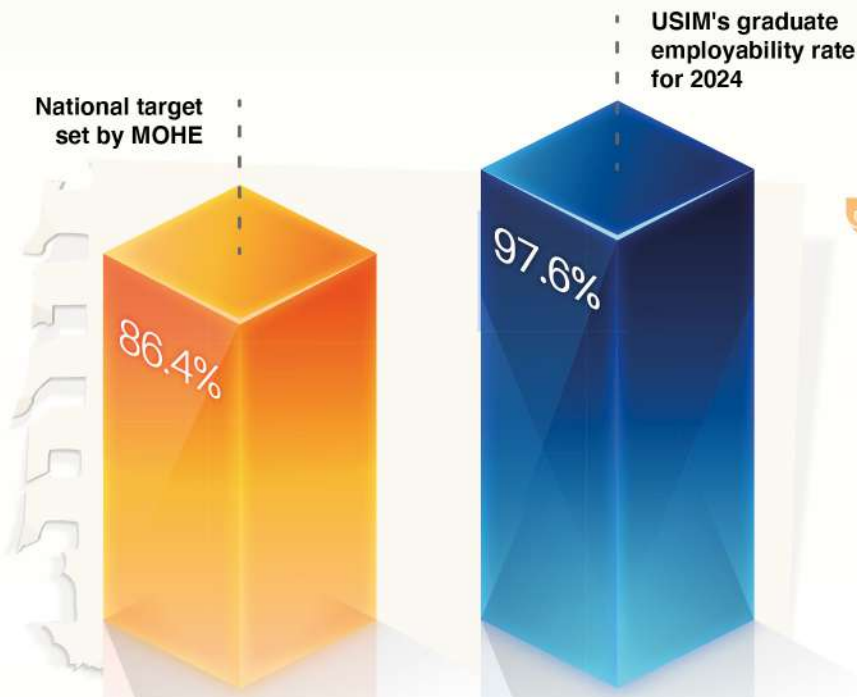


The prestigious ceremony was also held in conjunction with Talentbank's Hari Raya Open House and 15th Anniversary Celebration, which gathered representatives from various public and private universities across the country.



USIM Records **97.6%**

Graduate Employability Rate for 2024



“This shows a positive trend positioning USIM among universities that successfully produce quality graduates who are ready for the workforce.”

- Professor Dato’Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani
USIM Vice-Chancellor

USIM has recorded an impressive achievement with a Graduate Marketability (GM) rate of 97.6% for the year 2024, surpassing the national target of 86.4% set by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE).

This achievement reflects four employability indicators: employed, furthering studies, skills enhancement, and awaiting placement, with a response rate of 99.5%, equivalent to 2,937 Malaysian graduates.

In line with new operational definitions, USIM's Graduate Employment (GE) rate also recorded 97.6%, referring to the proportion of graduates employed within the labour force.

The Graduate Tracer Study was conducted through the MOHE's Graduate Tracer Study System (SKPG), and data collection ran from October 2024 to February 2025 for graduates who attended convocation in 2024.

This study allows the Government and the Ministry to develop strategic initiatives and policies aligned with the objectives of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015–2025 (Higher Education).



USIM Launches Intensive Arabic Language

The dream of enrolling at the prestigious Al-Azhar Al-Sharif University in Egypt is now within reach for 74 outstanding students who have begun their Intensive Arabic Language Course at the Institute of Arabic Language Studies, USIM.

The course, which commenced on April 13, 2025, is part of an academic preparatory programme for the pioneer cohort of students who will pursue their studies at one of the oldest and most esteemed Islamic institutions in the world.

Uniquely, this programme is conducted entirely online, enabling students from various locations to participate in learning sessions without geographical constraints. The duration of the course depends on each student's proficiency level based on their results from the Imtihan Tahdid Mustawa placement test. Overall, the programme consists of six learning levels, with each level requiring one month to complete.

According to the Director of the Institute of Arabic Language Studies, Dr. Hj. Sulaiman Ismail, the course is a product of strategic cooperation between the Malaysian Government and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif University, channeled through USIM.

"Students who achieved the Mutawassit Thani (Level 4) will undergo three months of training, those at Mutaqaddim Awwal (Level 5) will have two months, and those in Mutaqaddim Thani (Level 6) only need to complete one month before they qualify to be sent to Al-Azhar University, Egypt," he explained.

Based on the placement test results from Imtihan Tahdid Mustawa No. 1/2025 held on March 24 at two main examination centre, the Faculty of Major Language Studies (west coast) and Kulliah Al-Lughah Waddin As-Sultan Abu Bakar in Pekan, Pahang (east coast), all students were placed according to their Arabic proficiency level: 30 students at Level 4, 24 students at Level 5, and 20 students at Level 6.

"This impressive performance proves that all participants have achieved at least intermediate to advanced Arabic language proficiency, aligning with the academic requirements at the international level," he added.

USIM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md. Shaarani, also reaffirmed the university's commitment to strengthening the Institute as a national reference centre for Arabic language education.

"The course is a product of strategic cooperation between the Malaysian Government and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif University, channeled through USIM."

"This institute not only prepares students for Al-Azhar but also leads the development of a modern Arabic language curriculum that meets contemporary needs. USIM is committed to making this institute a centre of excellence capable of producing Arabic language experts and educators who can serve at regional and international levels."

Each level of the intensive course lasts one month and includes comprehensive modules covering listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in both academic and contemporary Arabic.

This initiative marks a significant step in nurturing a new generation of credible Malaysian scholars and intellectuals. Strong Arabic proficiency not only facilitates their learning at Al-Azhar but also opens doors to careers in diplomacy, education, and international relations.

The collaboration between USIM and Kulliah Al-Lughah Waddin As-Sultan Abu Bakar in implementing the placement test also provides logistical convenience for students across the country, reinforcing an inclusive and holistic education approach.

USIM Shines at

EURIE 2025

Strengthens Role in Academic Diplomacy



USIM has marked a historic milestone in its internationalisation agenda by participating for the first time in the 10th Eurasia Higher Education Summit (EURIE) 2025, held over three days in Istanbul, Türkiye. USIM joined nine other Malaysian higher education institutions under the banner of Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), drawing significant attention from universities across Türkiye and the wider European region participating in this year's summit.

USIM's presence at EURIE 2025 was also fully leveraged to highlight the university's role as a world-class centre of excellence in Islamic education. Among the key highlights were Islamic studies programmes infused with technology, research in the field of Maqasid Syariah and Islamic finance, and the development of smart applications for digital da'wah.

USIM's involvement in EURIE 2025 proved fruitful, successfully enhancing the university's visibility as a Malaysian higher education institution that upholds the integration of Naqli (revealed) and Aqli (rational) knowledge on the global stage.

Over the course of three days, from 7 to 10 April 2025, USIM explored strategic collaborations with 14 institutions from Türkiye, Poland, and Pakistan, which expressed interest in partnerships in various academic fields. These include Erasmus+ programmes involving student and staff mobility, joint research grants, and academic publications. Among the notable institutions showing keen interest were Istanbul University, Marmara University, and Uskudar University — some of the most prominent universities in Türkiye.

The USIM delegation, led by Dr. Sofia Hayati Yusoff, Director of USIM Alamiyyah (International Office), seized the opportunity to showcase USIM's academic strength, founded on the integration of Naqli and Aqli knowledge, to more than 300 delegates from various international higher education institutions and agencies attending the summit.

In addition to the physical exhibition at the Malaysian Pavilion coordinated by EMGS, USIM also engaged in several bilateral discussions and strategic networking meetings. A key outcome of these engagements was the signing of Letters of Intent (LoIs) and agreements to formalise Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several prospective universities interested in long-term collaboration. These include joint research, co-hosting international conferences, and student and academic staff exchanges with USIM.



Also gaining attention were USIM's initiatives to promote intercultural and interfaith relations through international student mobility programmes, as well as the university's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in quality education and global partnership.

According to Dr. Sofia Hayati Yusoff, this participation was more than just international exposure—it was a strategic move by USIM to strengthen its position in the global education landscape.

"EURIE not only opened doors for collaboration but also gave USIM a platform to present the narrative of contemporary Islamic education to the world in a progressive and inclusive mould," she said.

With this success, USIM remains optimistic about expanding its international network, in line with the USIM Strategic Plan 2022–2025, which emphasises internationalisation, research quality, and the global marketability of its graduates.

USIM Cares

Unified Support for Gas Explosion Victims in Putra Heights



USIM continued to uphold its commitment to humanitarian efforts through a dual response following the gas pipeline explosion in Putra Heights on April 1, 2025. Under the USIM Cares initiative, both medical and welfare support were extended to those affected by the tragic incident.

The medical response was led by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FPSK), with a team of ten medical personnel deployed to the Temporary Evacuation Centres (PPS) on Monday, April 7, 2025. The mission was coordinated by Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Radzniwan A Rashid, in collaboration with the Petaling District Health Department at PPS Camellia.

“We received the alert on the night of Saturday, April 5, and immediately mobilised the team the following day. The mission was part of our social responsibility commitment to provide health services and emergency care to communities in distress,” said Dr. Radzniwan.

The USIM team focused on assessing victims’ health conditions and providing basic medical treatment, particularly for

those suffering from mild symptoms of gas inhalation such as minor injuries, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, elevated blood pressure, panic attacks, and emotional distress.

“This was a valuable real-life experience for our medical professionals to serve in a large-scale emergency. It further strengthened their empathy and professionalism as Islamic medical practitioners,” he added.

Also involved in the operation were staff members from USIM’s Student Affairs Centre, who coordinated psychosocial support for affected families.

Through this coordinated response, USIM reaffirmed its core values of compassion, service, and responsibility—standing with the community not only in times of learning but also in times of crisis.

Meanwhile, USIM’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md. Shaarani, paid a visit to a USIM student who was directly impacted by the explosion. The student, Ainaa Syazana Mohamad Asnawi, 22, was a third-year Bachelor of Aqidah and Religious Studies student at the Faculty of Leadership and Management (FKP).

At the time of the incident, Ainaa was at home with her family. “When the tremor occurred, we immediately ran out to save ourselves. Praise be to Allah, we were all safe and uninjured,” she said.

However, their home was not spared. One side of the family vehicle melted, and the roof of the house was damaged by the force of the explosion and falling embers.

The family took shelter at the Temporary Evacuation Centre at the Putra Heights Mosque Multipurpose Hall, set up by the authorities. During his visit, the Vice-Chancellor presented a donation from USIM’s Waqf and Zakat Center (PWZ) as a gesture of the university’s support and concern for the student’s welfare.



USIM – Tabung Haji Develops Hajj and Umrah Guide for the Visually Impaired

USIM, through the Ibnu Ummi Maktum Research Centre (UMMI), has been appointed as a consultant for the development of a Hajj and Umrah Guide tailored for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by the Hajj Guidance Division of Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH).

This project aims to enhance the understanding and practical knowledge of Hajj and Umrah rituals among the PWD community, particularly those who are visually impaired. It marks the first collaboration between a public university and TH in catering to the needs of the visually impaired PWD community.

According to Associate Professor Dr. Haji Norakyairee Mohd Raus, Director of UMMI, this initiative is a noble effort that supports the global inclusivity agenda through the 'No One Left Behind' approach and aligns with the Malaysia MADANI vision by advancing innovation and inclusive research development tailored to the strengths and unique abilities of this special community.

"The project scope includes identifying, developing, and producing a Hajj and Umrah guidebook for the visually impaired PWD community, with the mutual agreement of both USIM and TH. The transcription process has been completed, and the final draft has been submitted to TH for review," he stated.

workshops focused on preparing an accessible Hajj and Umrah guide for this group."

"This project also supports the 2024–2028 Religious Agency Action Plan for Muslim PWDs, aimed at fostering a more inclusive and empowered society," he added.

Meanwhile, Ustaz Shahrin Awaludin, Head of the Hajj Guidance Division at Tabung Haji, said that Tabung Haji is committed to ensuring that PWD pilgrims receive the necessary attention, understanding, and support to fulfil their pilgrimage. Continuous service improvement remains a priority and will be enhanced from time to time.

"This collaboration is expected to be fully leveraged and expanded to include not only the visually impaired but all PWD categories. The outcome of this project serves as a key platform for this special community to realise their dream of becoming guests of Allah SWT," he further stated.

Lembaga Tabung Haji is an Islamic institution committed to providing comprehensive and well-organized services to ensure the welfare of Malaysian pilgrims is preserved. This transcription project is a meaningful gift from TH to the special needs community, involving a cost of RM19,997.00.



"The proposal to develop this guide for the visually impaired began in 2024 through a series of discussions with Tabung Haji and

TH-USIM Collaboration

Strengthens Hajj Ritual Guides

Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) continues its strategic partnership with USIM in developing competent Hajj guidance personnel through the second edition of the Executive Hajj Guidance Programme (EPIH).

A total of 116 participants, comprising *Pengkursus Ibadah Haji Tanah Air* (PEKTA), religious teachers from Hajj Organising Companies (PJH), TH officers, officials from the Department of Waqf, Zakat and Hajj (JAWHAR), USIM staff, and individual applicants successfully completed the programme on April 14, 2025.

In his address, USIM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, congratulated all participants on successfully completing the programme.

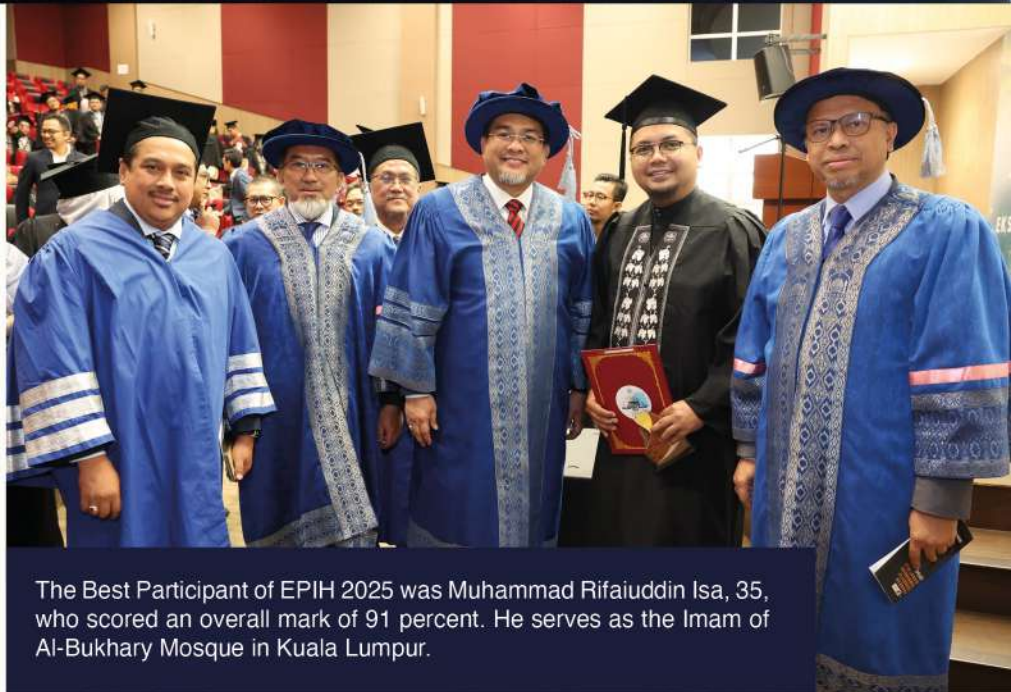
"Through modules such as Tafaqquh Fid Din, Hajj and Umrah Management Competency, and Hajj and Umrah Executive Leadership, participants are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to become excellent Hajj and Umrah guides," he stated.

Meanwhile, TH's Head of Hajj Department, Haji Mohd Hisham Harun, explained that EPIH 2025 emphasized deep understanding, knowledge enhancement, and leadership competency development through training and education.

"EPIH supports the mission of producing pious and transformative pilgrims who not only fulfill the fifth pillar of Islam perfectly but also serve as agents of positive change in society and the nation," he said.

"The structured curriculum and training are comprehensive in meeting the programme's goal of producing highly knowledgeable Hajj guides who can explain contemporary issues in religious rituals and communicate effectively with the community," he added.

The EPIH programme was conducted in a hybrid format, comprising online learning sessions from January 13 to February 17, 2025, and intensive face-to-face classes from April 22 to 24, 2025. The programme covered 18 subjects under three core components: Tafaqquh Fi Din, Hajj and Umrah Management



The Best Participant of EPIH 2025 was Muhammad Rifaiuddin Isa, 35, who scored an overall mark of 91 percent. He serves as the Imam of Al-Bukhary Mosque in Kuala Lumpur.

Competency, and Hajj and Umrah Executive Leadership.

The EPIH instructors included USIM lecturers, senior TH officers, members of the TH-JAKIM Hajj Guidance Advisory Committee, and senior PEKTAs with extensive experience in Hajj operations and religious studies.

"TH has received international recognition through the Labaittom Award from the Government of Saudi Arabia for three consecutive years in the categories of Best Hajj Guide in the Muslim World and Best Customer Service. This achievement reflects our high commitment, and the quality of training provided to Malaysia's Hajj guides," said Mohd Hisham.

"The EPIH programme also lays the foundation for upgrading the certification to diploma level or higher, with recognition from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), making it a strategic investment in developing the country's Hajj human capital," he concluded.

The EPIH 2025 graduation certificates were presented by the Head of TH Hajj Department, Haji Mohd Hisham Harun, and USIM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, in a ceremony held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, USIM.

USIM Grants Work-from-Home Privilege on Staff Birthdays

USIM has introduced a new initiative to enhance staff welfare and promote work-life balance by granting a Work-from-Home (WFH) privilege on employees' birthdays. The announcement was made by USIM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, following its approval by the University Management Committee (JKPU) in Meeting No. 12/2025 held on April 8, 2025.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the WFH privilege will take effect starting May 1, 2025, and will apply to all USIM staff, except those in essential service roles. "This initiative reflects the university's ongoing commitment to improving staff well-being, while fostering greater motivation, productivity, and excellence in service delivery," he stated.

Further information on the implementation of this benefit will be communicated by the Human Resource Division (BSM), Registrar's Department, in due course.

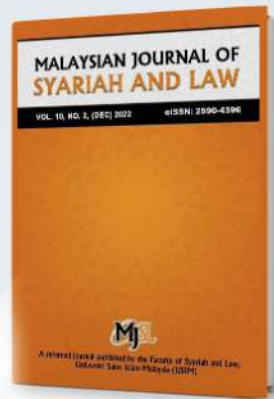
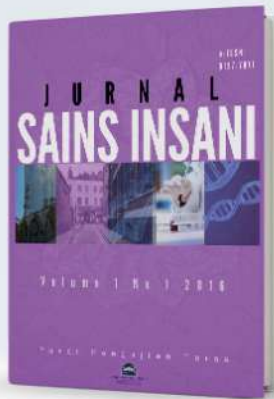


The announcement was made during USIM's Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1446H/2025M Celebration held on April 9, 2025, at the Tuanku Canselor Hall. The event was graced by Her Royal Highness the Chancellor, Tuanku Aishah Rohani binti Almarhum Tengku Besar Mahmud, and His Highness Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, USIM Pro-Chancellor, whose presence reflected the royal family's continued support for the university's community and values.

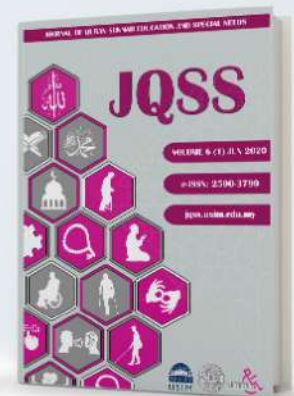
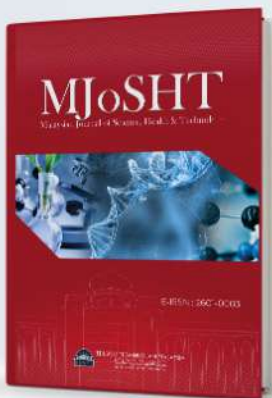
Held under the theme "USIM Raya Nostalgia #EratSilaturrahim", the celebration gathered nearly 2,300 USIM staff and strategic partners. It featured over 22 food stalls serving traditional delicacies, cultural performances, lucky draws, and nostalgic-themed attire—further enriching the festive atmosphere and strengthening bonds within the USIM family.



Pusat Komunikasi Strategik USIM



Our Journals



IKLA

Imtihan Al-Kafaah Li Al-Lughah Al-Arabiyyah

IKLA is made up of **Four (4)** competencies

- Listening Skill
- Reading Skill
- Writing Skill
- Speaking Skill

REGISTER NOW

- IKLA test registration closing date: **5 May 2025 (Monday)**
- Date for IKLA test: **21 May 2025 (Wednesday)**

For more information about IKLA, visit <https://admission.usim.edu.my/ikla/>

For any inquiries, please email zumaiahhisam@usim.edu.my or contact **067980292** or **Whatsapp 011-1317 6773**

