



**UTMy**  
University of Tsukuba,  
Malaysia



**University of Tsukuba, Malaysia** DULNO11 (W)

# SCHOOL OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE AND DESIGN



筑波大学マレーシア校 2025-2026  
学際サイエンス・デザイン専門学群



## Welcome to UTM<sub>y</sub>, the cutting-edge global educational environment!



**MAKI TSUJIMURA**  
Dean

### To the Challengers Forging the Future

Welcome to UTM<sub>y</sub>. As the first faculty-level organisation established overseas by a Japanese university, we offer you a new learning environment distinct from traditional university education. UTM<sub>y</sub> cultivates individuals capable of contributing to solving global challenges by applying knowledge and techniques from natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, and environmental sciences, all grounded in data science. In Malaysia, a land where diverse peoples, cultures, and religions coexist and various challenges are becoming apparent, we too will learn alongside you.

UTM<sub>y</sub> seeks individuals such as those who wish to solve everyday problems and difficulties, those who want to help people in need but don't know how, and those who aspire to contribute to resolving international issues in the future.

We offer a curriculum centred on PBL (Problem-Based Learning). In PBL, you begin by defining the problems you wish to solve. To acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for resolution, you will research and deliberate independently, supported in diverse ways by our faculty and a wide range of local corporate and organisational partners. UTM<sub>y</sub> is a university embedded within society.

You are the first generation to create a sustainable and spiritually rich future society alongside us at UTM<sub>y</sub>. We sincerely look forward to learning with you at UTM<sub>y</sub>.

## Japan's First Overseas Campus: It's a "Truly Open University"!

### Japan-Malaysia Prime Ministerial Meeting

UTM<sub>y</sub> came into being following talks between former Japanese Prime Minister Abe and former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir in 2018. This marked Japan's first overseas branch campus of a national university, enabling Japanese degrees to be awarded abroad for the first time. UTM<sub>y</sub> has attracted significant attention in both Japan and Malaysia, and was referenced by both leaders during the Japan-Malaysia summit in January 2025.

The opening ceremony for UTM<sub>y</sub> in September 2024 was attended by numerous government officials from both Japan and Malaysia. A special lecture was also delivered by former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir, who offered a powerful congratulatory address to UTM<sub>y</sub>.

### From Asia Gateway to the World

UTM<sub>y</sub> is pioneering a wholly new form of education by extending the University of Tsukuba's distinctive interdisciplinary and international character across the Asian region. Consequently, UTM<sub>y</sub> is expected to serve as a hub for a network of highly skilled professionals in Japan-Asia relations – an Asian gateway.

Through co-creation between its diverse, multidisciplinary faculty team and multinational student body, UTM<sub>y</sub> is forging a globally unique, genuinely open educational environment. UTM<sub>y</sub> is a globally acclaimed project that significantly advances the founding spirit of the University of Tsukuba as an "open university" into the future world.



# Professors

## Truly Transdisciplinary Faculty: covering from humanities to sciences

UTMy is characterized by its large, diverse faculty organized to tackle complex, interdisciplinary problems like global challenges. Currently comprising 15 faculty members, it is a unique organization with roughly equal numbers of science and humanities faculty. Students gain extensive knowledge while fascinating projects emerge within the faculty itself. This makes it an exceptionally powerful organization enabling education that cultivates advanced problem-solving capabilities.



**MAKI TSUJIMURA**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Natural Science)



**SHIGETADA KUDO**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Biomechanics)



**IWANE SUZUKI**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Agricultural Chemistry)



**TARO TEZUKA**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Informatics)



**KEN NISHIMURA**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Medicine)



**NORIKO HIRAISHI**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Comparative Literature)



**HIROMI MOCHIYAMA**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Information Science)



**LESLIE TKACH-KAWASAKI**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (International Political Economy)



**YOICHI YAMADA**  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Engineering)



**TAKANORI UEDA**  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Education)



**KEIICHI ZEMPO**  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Acoustics)



**NATSUE HIEDA**  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Linguistics)



**EBBE DAIGO**  
ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Sports Sciences)



**KOHKI WATABE**  
ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Cinema and Media Studies)



**DAMASO FERREIRO POSSE**  
ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR  
PhD (Literature)



## “Problem-Solving Oriented” Education System: Specializing in Cultivating Global Problem-Solving Talent

The University of Tsukuba Malaysia, (UTMy), the first overseas branch campus of a Japanese university, houses the School of Transdisciplinary Science and Design. This specialized school focuses on cultivating globally-minded, problem-solving professionals equipped to address global challenges. To realize this educational vision, UTMy has organized a truly interdisciplinary teaching team integrating arts and sciences, composed of faculty from diverse fields. This structure is highly unique even among universities in Japan, enabling efficient education to address diverse global challenges.

Furthermore, UTMy has developed an advanced curriculum centered on Problem-Based Learning (PBL). UTMy's curriculum, including PBL, is designed based on “design thinking.” It focuses on data science as its core, leveraging both liberal arts and sciences to teach cutting-edge problem-solving technologies.

UTMy awards the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Science (Japanese name: 学士 (學術)) This is a Japanese degree, guaranteeing the same quality as graduation from the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

### Philosophy of “late specialization” and “Design thinking”

The UTMy curriculum is designed based on the principles of Design Thinking and the philosophy of late specialization.

Design Thinking is a fundamental problem-solving methodology for tackling complex issues like global challenges. It consists of four stages: problem discovery, problem definition, solution exploration, and solution implementation. These processes are represented by a diagram of two diamonds placed side by side (the Double Diamond). UTMy's PBL, as shown below, is also designed following this sequence.

Furthermore, while students' specializations are determined during their fourth-year graduation research at UTMy, all students engage in broad, interdisciplinary learning through their third year. This is the most suitable approach for tackling rapidly evolving problems like global challenges. The problem-solving skills efficiently acquired through this unique educational process are valuable abilities that will serve students well, regardless of the field they pursue in the future.



# Problem Based Learning (PBL)

## Three Key Features of Our Curriculum:

### “Problem-Based Learning (PBL)”, “Data Science”, “Interdisciplinarity”

#### 1. Full Implementation of PBL

The most distinctive feature of the UTMy curriculum (left diagram) is undoubtedly its central focus on Problem-Based Learning (PBL). PBL is a form of active learning where students set their own problems and learn by devising solutions. In this approach, the value lies not in the final deliverable produced by solving the problem, but in the process of learning new things independently—that is, “learning how to learn.” At UTMy, PBL classes are conducted year-round, from the first to the fourth year (center section of the left diagram). Such a thoroughly PBL-centered curriculum is an extremely rare practice, hardly found anywhere else in the world. Many PBL themes involve teamwork, where discussions with teammates, faculty, and various stakeholders are key to defining problems appropriately and finding solutions. Therefore, honing communication skills, primarily in English, is essential. Furthermore, UTMy's PBL is guided by a diverse team of faculty navigators and covers themes spanning all fields, from natural sciences to humanities and social sciences. This allows students to approach PBL with a consistently fresh perspective. Through this permanent PBL framework, students develop the ability to learn independently and enhance their communication skills, cultivating the power to continuously tackle unprecedented global challenges.

#### 2. Unique Process for Learning Data Science

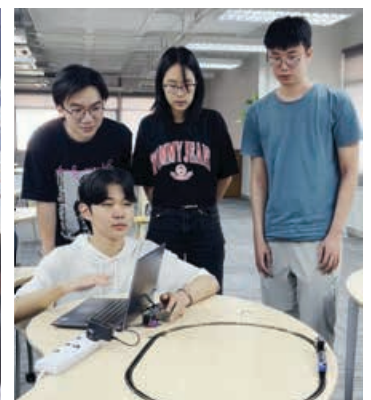
Solving global challenges requires analyzing global data and predicting the impact of solutions based on data. Therefore, mastering data science is essential. The key to deeply understanding and fully utilizing data science lies in grasping the mathematics involved. Consequently, UTMy has developed a mechanism distinct from conventional science curricula to effectively acquire data science skills within constrained learning time.

First, in the first year, students learn information literacy and the fundamentals of probability and statistics alongside programming. Subsequently, in the second year, they broadly study the foundations of natural sciences and humanities/social sciences while learning about their connections to data science .

At this stage, they recognize that many scientific problems are linked to mathematics, increasing their motivation for mathematical learning. Building on this foundation, third-year students learn the mathematical foundations relevant to data science (linear algebra and calculus) . Thus, at UTMy, we thoroughly cultivate the mathematical readiness necessary for data science before providing opportunities for mathematical study, thereby deepening understanding of data science. Furthermore, through PBL, students progressively acquire practical skills over four years, applying their data science skills according to their level of understanding.

#### 3. Transdisciplinary Learning

Solving global challenges requires examining problems from every angle and selecting the optimal approach from a range of feasible solutions. To achieve this, it is essential to cultivate interdisciplinary thinking that transcends disciplinary boundaries. Indeed, interdisciplinarity is one of the University of Tsukuba's greatest strengths, and this wisdom is embodied in the UTMy curriculum. First, in their first year, students learn about the University of Tsukuba's interdisciplinary approach through university-wide common courses (lower right in the left diagram). In their second year, they thoroughly study foundational knowledge spanning from natural sciences to humanities and social sciences (middle section in the left diagram). Furthermore, in their third year, building on this broad foundation, they advance to more advanced academic studies (upper section in the left diagram). The ability to deploy a diverse faculty to implement such courses is precisely the strength of the University of Tsukuba. This enables students to acquire broad interdisciplinary literacy. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, PBL addresses a wide range of themes spanning natural sciences to humanities and social sciences, making it another mechanism for cultivating interdisciplinary skills.



# Admission

## Desired Students

1. Strongly interested in and motivated to study global issues and their resolutions in Malaysia and South-East Asia
2. Clearly enthusiastic about using interesting knowledge from the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences to solve complex global issues
3. Keenly determined in judging information applicability based on objective data and materials, and who can logically communicate their ideas
4. Genuinely interested in the Japanese language and culture, and who can respect different values and ways of thinking

## Screening Method

	School Recommendation Scheme *	Aptitude-based Scheme
Admission Policy	Applicants will be comprehensively evaluated based on their excellent academic performance in secondary or post-secondary education, ability to learn in Japanese, and high interest and motivation to learn and solve global issues.	Applicants will be comprehensively evaluated based on their basic academic competence, advanced comprehension skills required for learning data science, critical thinking skills, and interest and expressiveness to global issues.
Quota	10	30
Screening	Document screening Individual interview (Mainly conducted in English, with some simple Japanese.)	Document screening Group interview (Conducted in English)
Japanese	Equivalent to JLPT N3	Not compulsory

\* School Recommendation Scheme is exclusively for those who have completed or who are expected to complete a secondary school course with a 12-year curriculum of formal education in ASEAN countries.

## Entry Requirements

\* Other Year 12 qualifications/English test score or equivalent will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Qualification (Must include Mathematics)

STPM	UEC	A Levels	IB Diploma	EJU	Foundation Matriculation Diploma	Japanese High School
3C+s	5Bs	3Cs	27 points with EE, TOK	Above average	CGPA 2.3/4.0	6/10 (3/5)

## English

MUET	IELTS (Academic)	TOEFL iBT	PTE Academic
Band 3	5.0	61	41

## Annual Tuition

Malaysian students RM 35,000	International students RM 38,000
* A 6% service tax will be added for international students.	

## Application Guidelines



# Voices from UTM

## Learning with a wealth of originality



**Ryusei Yoshida**  
2nd-year Student

We challenge modern society's complex issues on a daily basis by combining scientific knowledge, techniques, and data from basic scientific perspectives.

We students can freely choose the problems that we want to resolve, using realistic scientific methods to produce actual solutions.

Acquiring the ability to advance the future through this type of unique learning experience attracts me!

**“Choose experiences that hone your skills by crossing” boundaries, not just sticking to your specialty!**



**Kei-ichi Zempo**  
Institute of System and Information Engineering

Many people probably think that to enter university, you have to choose one specific academic field! At UTM, you won't be bound by such constraints. I myself have moved between physics, business administration, and engineering at the University of Tsukuba, yet I still constantly feel that my knowledge and skills are insufficient to tackle cutting-edge research.

The progress of digital technology is particularly remarkable, and the world is changing at an accelerating pace. Academic fields also rise and fall, constantly undergoing reorganization. Relying solely on domestic or a single field will make it difficult to thrive in the coming era. To shape what will become commonplace in the future, why not tackle the world's social challenges head-on with today's technology? At UTM, let's unlock your full potential!

## A new and stimulating environment



**Marin Ono**  
2nd-year Student

UTM has a multinational student body with students from many different backgrounds. We can speak four different languages (English, Malay, Chinese, and Japanese) in this stimulating and refreshing environment.

Immersion within this multicultural society is a valuable opportunity to encounter diverse values. Through this, students can broaden their perspectives and have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of different cultures.

I firmly believe that learning through PBL and polishing my language skills will be great advantages in my future career.

## “Discover a New World in a Salad Bowl”



**Noriko Hiraishi**  
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences

In Malaysia, a multi-ethnic society, diverse religions, languages, and cultures coexist, mutually respecting each other while cherishing their own values. This is why the country is called *Rojak* (a Malaysian fruit and vegetable salad) rather than a *Melting Pot*. It's only natural that the papaya in the salad is different from the cucumber.

What truly matters is not “reading the air,” but continuing dialogue while acknowledging differences—a place where you can experience this firsthand. At UTM, students pursue their individual interests and passions. University life in an environment where diversity is the norm will broaden your horizons and provide an opportunity to reexamine the cultures and societies you grew up in. We look forward to seeing what new worlds you discover at UTM.

## Student Support



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Scholarship
- Deferment / Monthly Pay



### WELL-BEING SUPPORT

- Free Counselling
- Annual Health Check-up
- Group Insurance
- Support finding off-campus accommodation

\* No on-campus accommodation



### CONNECTION TO JAPAN

- Snow sports practice
- Graduation Researches
- Intensive Courses

## What is Arts and Science?

The degree awarded by UTMY is a Bachelor of Arts and Science.

Because it includes the word “Arts,” many people might assume it involves studying fine arts, music, or other arts disciplines.

Looking up the dictionary, “Art” carries the meaning of execution or implementation—the act of actually creating or performing something. At UTMY, the word “Art” embodies our commitment to nurturing challengers who not only think about global issues intellectually but also execute ideas and implement them in society.

This degree is conferred as a degree from the University of Tsukuba in Japan (Bachelor of Arts and Science). In fact, this marks the first time a Japanese university degree is being awarded overseas, making UTMY itself a challenger implementing Japanese university education abroad!

## Educational Purpose

We cultivate talent who, grounded in data science, broadly apply the concepts and techniques of natural sciences and humanities and social sciences to environmental and social issues, and creatively contribute to solving global challenges while incorporating design thinking.



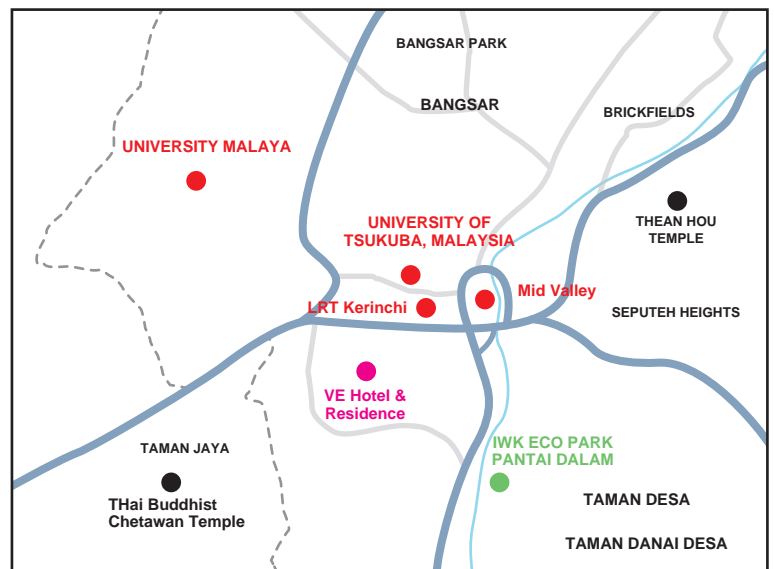
The double diamonds of the design thinking (UK Design Council)



## Access

UTMY currently collaborates with the prestigious University of Malaya in Malaysia, sharing its campus and facilities. Its base is located within the University of Malaya's “Wisma R&D,” in the prime location of Bangsar South, central Kuala Lumpur. It is just a 1-minute walk from the nearest LRT station, Kerinchi, making commuting extremely convenient.

Students have access to UM's libraries, gymnasiums, and laboratory facilities. Additionally, UTMY is developing its own facilities to support creative learning, such as a Japanese-style lounge and dance space.



## University of Tsukuba, Malaysia DULN011 (W)

Levels 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14 and 16, Wisma R&D, Universiti Malaya, Jalan Pantai Baharu 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Monday to Friday (Closed on public holidays): 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM | 1:15 PM - 5:00 PM

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