

JOIN US IN MALAYSIA FOR THE VU MASTER COURSE "ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD"



WHEN: JUNE 2019

WHERE: SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

WHAT: 6 ECTS ELECTIVE MASTER COURSE, JOINTLY GIVEN BY VU AND UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS).

YOU WILL BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN KUCHING, SARAWAK FOR A PERIOD OF 4 WEEKS. THE COURSE INCLUDES ICT4D FIELD WORK IN A "KAMPUNG" COMMUNITY. THE COURSE IS OPEN FOR SELECTED MASTER STUDENTS OF INFORMATION SCIENCES, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

VU AWARDS SEVERAL STUDENT GRANTS FOR THIS COURSE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING AND IN RECEIVING A GRANT, PLEASE SEND A MOTIVATION LETTER TO ANNA BON (A.BON@VU.NL), BEFORE 1 MARCH 2019.



Community Service Learning Abroad

In June 2019 the VU master course "ICT for Development In The Field" will be given on location, in Sarawak, Malaysia, jointly with UNIMAS, the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

This course (XM_0008) offers master students a unique experience abroad, as it takes place on location in Malaysia, involves close collaboration with local rural and often poor communities, and aims for a full cycle of design, development and deployment/roll-out *in the field* of an ICT project, information system or service that is demonstrably valuable for local communities.

It is a follow-on course related to the existing course ICT4D (X_405101). The latter will (a.o.) include various possibilities for studying the community use cases and their implementation in Malaysia, so that students are well prepared for the field work to be done.

The course takes place in June 2019 in Malaysia (period 6). Students will be accommodated near the university campus in Kuching, Sarawak for a period of 4 weeks in June 2019.

The course will be affordable for participating students, although an own contribution (of about 500 EUR) is to be expected. VU strongly encourages engagement in societally important research and education, and therefore awards (a limited number of) VU student grants for participation in this course.

Course content

ICT4D addresses problems of and solutions for the "unconnected people in the world". Currently, this is about 47 % of the world's population, of whom the majority lives in poor, remote, often rural, regions of the world. The course has a Community Service Learning character, and gives students the opportunity to carry out and learn from a field-based ICT development, implementation and deployment project in and with a local rural community.

The main body of this course consists of 2-3 weeks of field work in a local "kampung" community in Sarawak, Malaysia, related to an ICT development project on a specific use case, and aiming for a real-world implementation, roll-out and test. As a preparation to the field work, there is a first week of introductory lectures and assignments, including (i) context, use case and requirements elicitation and analysis; (ii) conceptual modelling of information

systems; (iii) selected technical aspects of ICT4D projects; (iv) value modelling and economic sustainability analysis; (v) guidelines and protocols for working with local communities.

In the last week, a final plenary conference is held, in which all course participants present, share and discuss their ICT4D project results and experiences.

The course is taught and supervised jointly by academic staff from the VU Informatics Department and academic staff from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology of UNIMAS.



Figure 1: Last year's course: VU and UNIMAS students doing user evaluations for an educational ICT4D project in Sarawak, June 2018.



Figure 2: VU master students at the UNIMAS campus during the opening conference of last year's ICT4D course, Sarawak, June 2018.

Entry requirements

(1) The ICT4D-1 course X_405101 is strongly recommended (or demonstrable knowledge equivalent to it); (2) A motivation letter and interview is required. Students interested in participating in the course in Malaysia are asked to contact Anna Bon (a.bon@vu.nl), and provide a motivation letter, before 1 March 2019.