

# The Access Group signs partnership with Heriot Watt University to nurture Malaysia's next generation of tech leaders

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[The Access Group](#), one of the largest UK-headquartered business management software providers, has announced a strategic partnership with [Heriot Watt University Malaysia](#), reinforcing its commitment to fostering local talent and innovation at its Kuala Lumpur Global Operations Centre (GOC).

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in The Access Group's mission to develop an agile, competent workforce and drive technological advancement in Malaysia and across the Asia Pacific region.

Heriot Watt is an integrated global university with strong links across Europe, Middle East and the rest of the world. The partnership will see The Access Group working closely with students from the University's Information Systems and Data Analytics programmes, offering hands-on experience through internships, academic development exchanges, and participation in industry-relevant projects. With an emphasis on blending academic learning with real-world application, the partnership aims to equip students with the skills necessary to excel in a competitive, technology-driven job market.

Lim Chee Gay, Managing Director of the Kuala Lumpur GOC, emphasised the importance of nurturing young talent: "This partnership with Heriot-Watt University Malaysia is a key step in building our GOC as a hub for technological innovation and development.

"At Access, we believe in investing in local communities and empowering young professionals to excel in the digital economy. By tapping into the enthusiasm and fresh perspectives of the country's young workforce, we aim to foster a culture of creativity and progress while providing students with meaningful

opportunities to contribute to Malaysia's digital economy, which is expected to [contribute 25.5% to Malaysia's GDP by 2025](#)."

The partnership will also extend beyond student development to include collaborative research projects that address real-world business challenges. Heriot-Watt students will have the opportunity to work alongside The Access Group's teams on initiatives designed to complement their learning and build the relevant skills needed to successfully kickstart their careers. This alignment of academic expertise and industry insight will ensure that both parties can stay ahead of market demands while shaping the future of business technology.

Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Provost and Chief Executive Officer of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, emphasised the value of this collaboration and added: "We have a proven track record of nurturing tomorrow's talent by producing highly employable graduates, while also fostering purpose-driven leaders. Companies like The Access Group are shaping and impacting the world - they are the kind of innovative organisations that our students aspire to work for.

"This partnership will not only support their career progression and access to real life challenges but also offer The Access Group the chance to take advantage of the pioneering products, technologies and processes that we are continually developing, giving them a competitive edge in their market."

This new collaboration complements The Access Group's ambitious growth plans following the launch of its GOC in Kuala Lumpur in November 2024. The new GOC is poised to become a global hub for innovation and operational excellence, with a focus on creating more than 1,000 jobs by 2027 and is aligned with Malaysia's modern services aspirations to build an agile and competent local talent pool and [create 500,000 high-value digital jobs by 2025](#).

By partnering with leading academic institutions like Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, The Access Group is investing in the future of Malaysia's digital economy while fostering a pipeline of skilled talent ready to shape the technology landscape. Both parties will now get the ball rolling on collaborative technology and research projects and firming up a calendar of events for students and Access Group employees to work together.