



Intention to Migrate Among International Muslim Students in Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Objective – The primary objective of this study is to examine the association of the push-pull factors, perceived job prospects for students following graduation, religious considerations, and adaptability of international students with their intention to migrate.

Methodology/Technique – A total of 373 international students, enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate university programs in Malaysia, participated in the study. An online self-assessment and questionnaire was used to collect the results, using a series of questions and responses from the students.

Findings – The empirical findings of the study reveal that the intentions of international students to migrate to Malaysia are mainly aroused by the Muslim environment in Malaysia, and other religious factors. On the other hand, economics and development were the primary considerations of international students intending to migrate elsewhere (excluding Malaysia).

Novelty – Malaysia should continue to promote and market itself more efficiently to international students, especially those from Asia and Africa, to position itself as an “Educational Hub” (eduhub) within South-east Asia. In addition, international students’ intentions to migrate were perceived to be closely connected to the actual numbers for future migration to Malaysia, and mobility of skilled labour; this may be identified as an area for further study.

Type of Paper: Empirical.

Keywords: Transnational Migration, Intention, Migrants, Push-pull, Student Mobility, Religion.

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1. Introduction

Studying overseas is continuing to rapidly evolve as a stepping stone for trans-national migration. For many years, there has been a rising trend of tertiary educated migrants and the global mobility of

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