

MOHE: Wider Access To Higher Education, Not Recognition Of Foreign Systems

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PUTRAJAYA—The decision to open admission pathways for students from foreign education systems, including the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC), to public institutions of higher learning (IPTA) does not imply recognition of those systems, the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) said. Higher Education director-general Datuk Prof Dr Azlinda Aman said the move was a government initiative to widen access to higher education across all identified levels.

She said the move was an opportunity to widen access to higher education, not recognition of other education systems. The government wants to provide students from foreign or alternative education systems with opportunities to continue their studies. She stressed that Malaysia is inclusive in providing access to education. This is in line with the Malaysian Higher Education Blueprint 2026–2035. She made the statement at a special press conference on admission pathways for students outside the national education system. Azlinda explained that these pathways are only open to students from tahfiz institutions, private schools, and Chinese Independent Secondary Schools (SMPC). She rejected claims that tahfiz graduates were being used to justify recognition of the UEC. Instead, the government aims to provide tahfiz students with opportunities for higher education. She added that all admission requirements to public universities are determined by each university senate. There is no outside interference in admission standards. Each university has its own assessment methods, including interviews or special requirements. The admission pathways were introduced without affecting the integrity of the national education system. Students from UEC or tahfiz backgrounds with full SPM qualifications may apply to any programme. Applications are made through UPUOnline based on SPM merit. She reaffirmed that Bahasa Melayu and History in SPM remain compulsory for admission to IPTA.

