Malaysia Tech Entrepreneur Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Q1	**What is the Malaysia Tech Entrepreneur (MTE) Programme?**	The Malaysia Tech Entrepreneur Programme (MTEP) is a government initiative managed by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) under the Ministry of Digital Malaysia. It is designed to attract foreign technology entrepreneurs — including founders and co-founders — to establish and grow innovative digital businesses in Malaysia. Eligible applicants may apply under two categories: New Entrepreneur or Established Entrepreneur, subject to programme requirements. *For more information visit: mdec.my/mtep*
Q2	**Who can apply?**	**New Entrepreneur** A non-Malaysian individual with an innovative business idea in the digital/technology space and a strong digital proposition. Applicants must subscribe to a recognised Malaysia Digital Hub (MD Hub) as their sponsor. **Established Entrepreneur** A non-Malaysian individual with a proven track record — minimum 3 years established — supported by the latest 2-year financial records (or 1 year audited).
Q3	**What types of passes are available and what is their duration?**	**New Entrepreneur** Professional Visit Pass (PVP-MTE) — valid for 1 year, renewable once for an additional 1 year. After completing 2 years with achievement, you may apply for the Established Entrepreneur category. **Established Entrepreneur** Residence Pass (RP-MTE) — valid for up to 5 years, renewable once for a further 5 years.
Q4	**Do I need to be in Malaysia to apply?**	No. You are not required to be physically present in Malaysia to submit your application. All processes are conducted online. ℹ **Note: For New Applicants:** Both the principal applicant and any dependents can remain in Malaysia during the application process. However, once your application is approved while you are in Malaysia, you will be required to exit the country. If applicable to your nationality, you must obtain a Visa with Reference (VDR) before re-entering Malaysia. Upon re-entry, you may proceed with the endorsement process to receive your ℹ **Note: For Renewals:** Must remain in Malaysia throughout the renewal process while maintaining a valid pass to be in Malaysia - may seek advise from the assigned Business Analyst.
Q5	**Is this open to all nationalities?**	Applications for PVP-MTE and RP-MTE are open to foreign applicants of all eligible nationalities with the exception of citizens of Israel, subject to Malaysian Government immigration regulations and approval.
Q6	**Can I submit my application in my own language?**	No. All application forms and supporting documents must be submitted in English. Documents in another language must be: • Translated into English by a certified translator / agency • Certified as a true copy by the nearest Malaysian consulate.

☑ ELIGIBILITY

Q7	**Is MTEP open only to tech entrepreneurs?**	Yes. MTEP is specifically intended for technology entrepreneurs — technical founders and co-founders — of digital and technology-driven ventures, including artificial intelligence (AI) ventures, which are a priority under the National AI Action Plan 2026–2030. ℹ **Note:** Non-technical founders may apply, but eligibility is subject to approval by the MTEP Panel Meeting
Q8	**Can multiple members of a founding team apply?**	Yes, multiple founders may apply, subject to the following category limits: • New Entrepreneur: maximum 2 founders per application • Established Entrepreneur: maximum 3 founders per application All applicants must demonstrate their shareholding in the company. Proof of shareholding is required for renewal applications.
Q9	**What is the minimum age requirement?**	Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time of application.
Q10	**Should I already have a company established in Malaysia before applying?**	No. Company incorporation is not required at the point of application. **New Entrepreneur** Your product must be at least at the beta stage, and you must provide a clear plan to incorporate a company in Malaysia within 1 year. **Established Entrepreneur** If bringing an existing product into Malaysia, it must demonstrate enhancement features for the Malaysian market. If introducing a new product, it must be at least at the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage. ℹ **Note:** Individuals who already have an established *Sendirian Berhad* (Sdn. Bhd /Private Limited) and wish to apply as an employee (not founder) it is encouraged to explore the Employment Pass pathway (refer to Q21)

FAMILY & DEPENDENTS

Q11 Can I bring my family?

Only immediate family members of Established Entrepreneur are eligible to apply for RP- Dependent:

- Husband / Wife;
- Child, adopted child or stepchild under the age of 18 years old;
- Disabled child (no age limit) verified by experts;
  and
- Biological children of 'Common Law Marriage' (different gender) who have a relationship with the principal pass holder under the age of 18years old.

The following family members of Established Entrepreneur can be considered for RP – SVP (Social Visit Pass) (i.e. 12 months and renewable):

- Parents (father/mother);
- Parents-in-laws (father/mother);
- Child, adopted child or stepchild between the age of 18 to 25 years old must submit a sworn statement certified by Commissioner of Oaths confirming that the applicant is still unmarried, unemployed and still dependent (during each submission/extension);
- Biological children of 'Common Law Marriage' (different gender) who have a relationship with previous partner under the age of 7 years old;
- Common Law Marriage' (different gender). New Entrepreneur are not eligible to bring the family members.

Q12 Can my spouse work in Malaysia under the dependent pass?

Spouses holding a Dependent Pass under MTEP are NOT automatically permitted to work in Malaysia. If the spouse intends to seek employment, they must obtain the appropriate work authorisation or Employment Pass from the relevant authorities, subject to prevailing immigration regulations.

> **Note:** Please consult the Immigration Department or a qualified immigration agent for the latest requirements on work authorisation for dependents.

FEES & PAYMENTS

Q13 What is the fee structure?

A non-refundable application fee of RM540.00 per applicant is payable upon submission (all categories). Upon approval, the following fees are payable upon passport submission for pass issuance:

New Entrepreneur (PVP-MTE)

- Processing Fee: RM2,160
- Immigration Pass Fee: RM360.00
- Multiple Entry Visa (if applicable): Charges vary by country

Established Entrepreneur (RP-MTE)

- Processing Fee — Principal/Spouse: RM4,860
- Processing Fee — Dependents under 18: RM2,160
- Processing Fee — Other dependents (SVP) per year: RM1,080
- Immigration Pass Fee: RM500
- Multiple Entry Visa (if applicable): Charges vary by country

Note: All fees include 8% SST and are payable to Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn Bhd via online payment only.

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

Q14 What is a sponsor and who can be a sponsor?

A sponsor is an approved entity or individual who supports the applicant's stay in Malaysia in accordance with programme and immigration requirements.

New Entrepreneur

Must be a recognised Malaysia Digital Hub (MD Hub). The hub must complete the sponsorship/personal bond document (with stamp duty). Applicants must subscribe to hub services with a minimum hot desk arrangement for 1 year.

Find a recognised MD Hub: mdec.my/md-location-recognition/md-hub

Established Entrepreneur

Must be a Malaysian citizen aged 21 years and above. The sponsor signs a Declaration Form and provides a front and back copy of their NRIC.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q15 How long does the application process take?

- **Business Analyst assignment**: within 3 working days after complete submission as confirmed by the assigned business analyst
- **Application processing**: within 4 weeks from date of complete submission (incl. documentation and payment) - subject to MTEP Panel Meeting date as per Immigration Department of Malaysia's availability
- **After approval by MTEP Approval Committee, pass issuance by Immigration Department of Malaysia**: within 2 weeks (subject to Immigration Department of Malaysia discretion)

Q16 What is the validity of the approval letter?

The MTEP approval letter is valid for 6 months from the date of issuance and is non-extendable. Immigration endorsement procedures must be completed within this period.

Q17	**What happens if my application is rejected?**	All application decisions are final. There is no formal appeal process once a decision has been made. If your application is unsuccessful, you may explore other work permit pathways via *MDEC Expat Services: www.mdec.my/expats*
Q18	**What is a Letter of Good Conduct?**	A Certificate/Letter of Good Conduct verifies that the individual has no criminal or misdemeanor record. It must be issued by an authorised authority in the applicant's country of origin or current residence. **Note:** This is a compulsory requirement for new applicants. MDEC may issue an Acknowledgement Letter to assist applicants in obtaining this document from the relevant authority.
Q19	**Where do I submit documents and hard copy materials?**	Initial applications must be submitted online through the official MTEP Application system. No physical submission is required for the initial application. Upon receiving the official approval letter, hard copy documents (passport, payment) for pass issuance must be submitted to: **Expats Service Centre** 2nd Floor, Prima 8, Block 3508, Jalan Teknokrat 6, Cyber 5, 63000 Cyberjaya, Selangor, Malaysia (Google Map) **Service Hours** • Monday to Friday: 8.00am – 4.30pm • Lunch Break (Mon–Thu): 1.00pm – 2.00pm • Lunch Break (Fri): 12.00pm – 2.45pm

COMPANY SETUP & BUSINESS SUPPORT

Q20	**Can my company be set up anywhere in Malaysia?**	**New Entrepreneur** Must be located at a recognised Malaysia Digital Hub. A minimum hot desk subscription for 1 year is typically required. **Established Entrepreneur** Can set up a company anywhere in Malaysia. There is no mandatory requirement to be at a Malaysia Digital Hub.
Q21	**How can I bring in my team from abroad?**	Once your company is set up in Malaysia, you may apply for an Employment Pass for your foreign team members. *Malaysia Digital status companies:* *mdec.my/expats/pre-application-process-for-msc* *Non-MSC/non-MD status companies:* *mdec.my/expats/pre-application-process-for-non-msc*
Q22	**How can MDEC support my business venture?**	MDEC offers soft-landing support to assist entrepreneurs in establishing businesses in Malaysia through its ecosystem network of partners and various programmes. *Explore MDEC programmes: mdec.my*

RENEWAL

Q23 What happens after my pass expires?

- **New Entrepreneurs**: 1-year pass renewable once for 1 year. After completing 2 years with demonstrated achievement, you may apply for Established Entrepreneur status.
- **Established Entrepreneurs**: 5-year pass renewable once for a further 5 years.

Important: Renewal submissions open 2 months before pass expiry. Submit at least 6 weeks before expiry to ensure compliance with Immigration Department of Malaysia timelines.

Alternatively, you may apply for an Employment Pass to continue business activities in Malaysia. (refer to Q21)

Q24 How long does the renewal process take?

Please refer to Q15

Q25 What documents are required for renewal?

New Entrepreneur

- Copy of all passport pages (minimum 6 empty pages)
- 1-year tenancy agreement from a Malaysia Digital Hub
- Personal/security bond document with stamp duty endorsed by IRB
- Processing fee payment (refer to Q13)
- Latest 3 months personal bank statement — minimum RM50,000 balance for 3 consecutive months (Demand Deposit only - current, savings & checking account)
- Product/Project Milestone for previous and current year, including validation
- Company Incorporation Form (eSSM)

Established Entrepreneur

- Copy of all passport pages (minimum 6 empty pages)
- Malaysian Sponsor Form (template available in MTEP system)
- Company Incorporation Form (eSSM)
- IRB Monthly Deduction Document — latest month (CP39)
- EPF Statement (Form A) or copy of employees' employment contract
- Latest certified true copy of audited financial report
- Processing fee payment (refer to Q13)
- Latest 3 months personal bank statement — minimum RM50,000 balance, 3 consecutive months (Demand Deposit only - current, savings & checking account)
- Product/Project Milestone for previous and current year, including validation
- Proof of in-force/active health insurance for applicant and all dependents

Note: A survey will be sent 3 months before pass expiry. You must respond as part of the renewal assessment process.

Q26 How do I collect my pass after approval?

Submit your passport and payment to the Expats Service Centre (see Q19). Your pass will be processed and ready within 14 working days.

TAX & FINANCIAL

Q27	**Do MTE pass holders need to file tax in Malaysia?**	Yes. MTEP pass holders are subject to Malaysian tax laws and regulations and must comply with applicable tax filing obligations. ℹ **Note:** For guidance, consult the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (IRB) or a qualified and licensed tax agent.
Q28	**Are there tax exemptions, car or house purchase exemptions, or other special benefits?**	No. MTEP does not provide specific tax exemptions, vehicle purchase exemptions, house purchase incentives, or similar financial benefits as part of the programme. If you are seeking tax incentives for your technology business, consider establishing a company with Malaysia Digital status — a separate national initiative. *Learn more: mdec.my/malaysiadigital*
Q29	**What is the minimum bank balance requirement?**	All applicants — both New and Established Entrepreneur — must demonstrate a minimum personal bank balance of RM50,000 maintained consistently for 3 consecutive months. This must be in the form of demand deposit - current, savings & checking accounts. ℹ **Note:** The following asset forms are NOT accepted: shares, bonds, gold, cryptocurrency, fixed deposits, or other investment instruments.

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