University of Putra Malaysia ([Malay](#): *Universiti Putra Malaysia*), abbreviated as **UPM**, is a [Malaysian](#) public research university located in [Serdang](#), [Selangor](#). Formerly it was named Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Agricultural University of Malaysia), focusing on [agricultural sciences](#) and related fields. Since the 1990s, the fields of study have expanded to include [human ecology](#), [languages](#), [architecture](#), [medicine](#), [computer science](#) and [biotechnology](#). Currently there are 15 faculties, 11 institutes and 2 schools covering these as well as [agriculture](#), [forestry](#), [veterinary medicine](#), [economics](#), [engineering](#), [sciences](#), and [education](#).

UPM has been recognised as a [research university](#) since 2006, one of five present in Malaysia.[6] In 2010, self-accreditation status was awarded by [Malaysian Qualifications Agency](#)[7] to simplify the procedure of accrediting academic programs, strengthening its own Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) system to compete among local universities.[8]

History

[[edit](#)]

Anjung Putra, the main entrance of UPM

On 21 May 1931, UPM was established as School of Agriculture, located on Serdang with 22 acres (9 hectares) of land. The only two programmes offered were a three-year diploma programme and a one-year certificate course in agriculture. On 23 June 1947, the school was upgraded to the College of Agriculture Malaya, as declared by the then Governor of [Malayan Union](#), [Sir Edward Gent](#).[9]

On 29 October 1971, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (literally Agricultural University of Malaysia) was officially established through the merger of College of Agriculture Malaya and the Faculty of Agriculture, [University of Malaya](#). UPM began with three faculties in the fields of [agriculture](#), [forestry](#) and [veterinary medicine](#). On 23 July 1973, UPM had its first academic session with intake of 1,559 students. On 30 July 1977, UPM held the first convocation ceremony, which also declared the appointment of UPM's first Chancellor, [Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah](#).[10]

On 3 April 1997, UPM changed its name to Universiti Putra Malaysia, declared by Mahathir Mohamad, the then Prime Minister of Malaysia. The reason for changing name was to indicate UPM's diversification of the fields of study it offered, especially in Science and Technology. The word "Putra" is taken from Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first Prime Minister of Malaysia. One of the reasons the word "Putra" was chosen is because the location of UPM near to Putrajaya. To correspond with the new name, UPM changed the logo as well.[11]