

Netherlands – Southeast Asia Semiconductor Talent Programme 2026: Building Semiconductor Talent Capabilities for Southeast Asia's Advanced Manufacturing Sector,

3-14 August 2026, Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia

Programme Description

Nuffic Southeast Asia, in collaboration with the Dutch government, Dutch technical universities, and Netherlands Embassies in the region initiated a semiconductor talent programme in 2025. This programme aims to strengthen collaboration between universities in Southeast Asia, Dutch knowledge institutions, and industry partners in the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing sectors. The initiative is designed to support talent development and expose high-performing undergraduate students to the semiconductor ecosystem, cutting-edge technologies, and international career opportunities. Following its success, the programme is offered again in 2026. More information about the programme can be found in the [info deck for universities](#)

Schedule and Locations

The programme will be hosted across two of Malaysia's premier semiconductor hubs:

Week 1: Kuala Lumpur (hosted by Universiti Malaya and the Advanced Semiconductor Academy of Malaysia)

Week 2: Penang (hosted by Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Key Highlights:

- **Participating Countries:** Open to students from Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore
- **Focus:** An intensive program focusing on advanced manufacturing, systems integration, mechatronics, and semiconductor technologies, delivered in close collaboration with industry partners.
- **Learning Experience:** participants will benefit from learning from expert-led seminars, and networking opportunities with industry partners.

Eligibility Criteria:

Participants should meet the following criteria:

- Active final-year Bachelor students in STEM-related majors (e.g. electrical engineering, mechatronics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or related disciplines)
- Have a GPA at least 3.00 (in index of 4.0 form) or equal.
- Applicants should have been exposed to or have sufficient knowledge on at least 3 (three) subjects from the following list. a. Integrated Circuit (IC) Design; b. Microelectronics; c. Semiconductor Manufacturing process, including back-end and front-end, wafer fabrication, assembly, testing, and packaging; d. Semiconductor equipment; e. Artificial Intelligence; f. Control System Design; g. Power Systems; h. High Voltage Testing Process; i. Software Engineering; j. System Engineering; k. Material Science; l. Advanced Optics; m. Optomechatronics; n. Mechatronics design; o. Photonics; p. Quantum computing
- Applicants should have at least a working level of English proficiency, equal to: TOEFL IBT 80/ITP 550, or IELTS 6.0
- Below 30 years old at the time of participating in the programme

Step-by-Step Process for Participating Universities

1. Confirmation of Participation (Deadline: 14 May 2026)

Please sign the 'Letter of Consent' and Return to:
Oktavia Sidharta (osidharta@nuffic.nl); cc: nl-sea.semicon@nuffic.nl

2. Student Nomination (Deadline: 31 May 2026)

Participating universities are requested to nominate up to three (3) active final-year Bachelor students based on the programme's eligibility criteria. The nomination and application period runs from **15 May to 7 June 2026**, but nominations should be finalized no later than **31 May 2026** to allow students sufficient time to apply.

3. Issuance of Nomination Letter

Each university must provide its nominated students with an official Nomination Letter. Universities may use their own template, or the template provided by us, which can be found [here](#).

4. Submission of Nomination List

Please send the list of nominated students via email to osidharta@nuffic.nl; and cc to: nl-sea.semicon@nuffic.nl

5. Inform Nominated Students about the Application Submission

Nominated students must submit their applications via the Nuffic online application system by **7 June 2026**. The link will be provided by Nuffic Southeast Asia to your university, upon receipt of university nomination letter.

5. Application Requirements for Students (Application Deadline: 7 June 2026)

Nominated students should prepare and upload the following documents:

- Copy of **passport** (valid through at least February 2027) or **national ID card**
- **Academic transcript** (original and English translation if not in English)
- **Motivation letter** (max. 1 page), including:
 - Reason for joining the programme
 - Relevant background in semiconductor-related subjects (min. 3 areas)
 - Expectations from the programme and post-programme contribution
- Curriculum Vitae (CV):
Include the academic and professional background. Optional but recommended: Highlight any leadership roles, participation in R&D or international programs, and community engagement related to the semiconductor field.
- **Nomination Letter** from home university
- **Other supporting documents** (if applicable)

6. Application Review & Interviews (8 –30 June 2026)

Nuffic Southeast Asia will review applications for eligibility. Shortlisted students may be invited for an **interview or focus group discussion**.

7. Announcement of Selection Results (by 7 July 2026)

Final results will be shared with participating universities via email **by 7 July 2026**, as well as to the selected students by Nuffic Southeast Asia

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply for this programme?

The Netherlands–Southeast Asia Semiconductor Short Talent Programme is open to **active final-year Bachelor's students** enrolled in **STEM-related fields**, preferably those with prior exposure to **semiconductor-related subjects**.

2. Are there any nationality restrictions?

Yes. Students must hold the **nationality of the country where their home university is located**.

Example: A Malaysian student enrolled at Universiti Malaya in Kuala Lumpur is eligible.

Nomination & Application

3. Do nominated students need to submit their own applications?

Yes. Nominated students must submit their individual applications through the Nuffic **application platform** by **7 June 2026**.

4. Who is responsible for preparing the Nomination Letter?

The **home university** prepares and issues the **Nomination Letter** using the provided template. This letter must be shared with the nominated student for upload during the application process.

Logistics & Financial Responsibilities

5. Are travel expenses, such as flight tickets, travel insurance, and students' meal, covered by the programme?

No. These costs are **not covered** by the programme.

Universities are responsible for ensuring students are ready and eligible to travel safely and attend the programme.

Programme Participation

6. Can faculty members participate or accompany students during the programme?

No. This programme is designed **exclusively for students**. Faculty or academic staff are not part of the agenda and cannot join.

7. Is proof of English proficiency required?

While **not mandatory**, proof of English proficiency (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS) is **recommended** to ensure students can follow the programme effectively.