



# IMMERSION PROGRAM: CROSS-BORDER ENGINEERING TALENT DEVELOPMENT WITH D. Y. PATIL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, INDIA 7 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

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In an era where engineering is no longer confined by borders, meaningful collaboration has become the currency of innovation. The Cross-Border Engineering Talent Development Bootcamp, hosted by Program Pemerkasaan Kompetensi Akademik Siswa (PKAS), Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment (FKAB), UKM, and supported by the Department of Electrical, Electronic & Systems Engineering, was not just a mobility programme, it was a reflection of what purposeful academic partnership can accomplish.

From the moment the students of D. Y. Patil College of Engineering & Technology, India, arrived in Malaysia on 7 September, the programme set in motion that extended beyond classrooms and laboratories. What made this bootcamp impactful was not the number of sessions organised, but the way students connected knowledge with experience, technology with culture, and ambition with opportunity.

Rather than positioning the programme as a checklist of expected outcomes, its success was embedded in what participants became throughout the immersion. Through workshops, discussions, and shared problem-solving with UKM academics and peers, students developed the confidence to think beyond disciplinary and geographical lines. The programme created an environment where Malaysian and Indian students could engage deeply and learning not only about systems, automation, and digital solutions but also about collaboration as a lifelong engineering asset.

Industry exposure to institutions like the Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC) and MRANTI reinforced this growth. Students were not passive observers; they witnessed how ideas evolve into innovation and how research links to national development. These visits helped ground their academic curiosity in real-world relevance, connecting the theory they learn with the ecosystems that advance it.





PKAS, as the host, played a pivotal role in giving the programme its human and developmental dimension. Guided by values of empowerment, interdisciplinary learning, and technopreneurship, PKAS ensured that the experience nurtured leadership, adaptability, and initiative, qualities that cannot be taught through lectures alone. The support from the Department of Electrical, Electronic & Systems Engineering further anchored the technical integrity and academic strength of the programme. Together with the Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment, the initiative gained institutional support and an enabling ecosystem, reinforcing the programme's academic credibility and strategic direction.



By the time the delegation departed on 12 September, the transformation was visible, not in certificates or closing remarks, but in the way, participants spoke, collaborated, and envisioned their future roles as engineers. The bootcamp demonstrated that talent development is not realised through exposure alone, but through immersion, mentorship, and shared commitment to growth. The collaboration between UKM and D. Y. Patil College did more than bridge countries; it bridged perspectives, aspirations, and capabilities. In doing so, it advanced a larger goal: cultivating young engineers who carry not only technical knowledge, but also the cultural intelligence, confidence, and humility to serve a world that increasingly depends on cross-border cooperation. This programme was not a showcase, it was a statement of possibility, and a step towards shaping engineers who will lead with purpose, awareness, and a global sense of belonging.

