

Twenty UMS students receive China Ambassador Scholarship 2026

BY NANCY LAI ON MAY 12, 2026, TUESDAY AT 7:03 AM



Zhao (back, centre) with the recipients of the China Ambassador Scholarship 2026.

KOTA KINABALU (May 12): Twenty students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) received the China Ambassador Scholarship 2026 during the Sixth Chinese Bridge and China Ambassador Scholarship Awards' held recently.

The ceremony was performed by the Education Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia, Zhao Changtao, who represented Ambassador Ouyang Yujing.

The scholarship serves as a form of appreciation for the students' academic excellence, leadership and potential in strengthening friendship ties between Malaysia and China.

Ouyang, in a statement, hailed the establishment of this scholarship programme at the UMS as reflecting the increasingly close educational cooperation between the two countries, and also as an important platform for expanding cultural exchanges and people-to-people relations.

"This scholarship aims to encourage outstanding Malaysian students to continue excelling in academics and personal development, while also building professional competencies and a global outlook. UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH

"The Chinese Bridge programme also plays an important role in strengthening the understanding between the younger generations of Malaysia and China through language mastery and cultural exchange," he said in his speech, which was delivered by Zhao at the event held at the Council Gallery of UMS Chancellery Building.

Meanwhile, UMS vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor regarded the ceremony as not only a celebration of academic excellence, but also one symbolising the strong bilateral relationship between Malaysia and China.

"The collaboration between UMS and the Chinese Embassy in Malaysia continues to open wider opportunities for students in academic development, internationalisation and cross-cultural engagement.

"The achievements of these scholarship recipients prove their commitment and dedication towards excellence, and they have the potential to become a generation that strengthens Malaysia-China relations in the future," he said in his speech, read out by his deputy Rossita Shapawi.

The scholarship recipients from the UMS are Gayvin Rodell Lawkan and Tasha Latabu from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities; Lim Yong Tuck and Phang Xin Yen (Faculty of Science and Technology); Vanessa Eve Balton (Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences); Sia Hoe Jia, Mohd Hafiz Aftab Jimmy, Irene Caroline Ipai and Salina Ibrahim (Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy); Marlene Lai Meijyn, Teoh Kai En, Liana Syafiera Lai Chiu Hiung and Maniemalar Moneyual (Faculty of Computing and Informatics); Putri Noratiqah Syakirah Awang Said, Samantha Sia Wan Ling, Thanusha Ganesh, Tamilarasi Selvaraju and Amira Nurfarzanah Mohd Firdaus Hafiz Chan (Labuan Faculty of International Finance); and Dwell Thomes and Rayner Chia Sin Rong (Faculty of Engineering).

The ceremony was further enlivened with the organisation of Sixth Chinese Bridge Competition, which gathered talented participants in Mandarin language and cultural mastery, further strengthening the educational ties and cultural exchange between Malaysia and China.