

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

MSc. Mixed Mode



Edition: 2025/2026

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This guide contains information that is accurate as of the date of publication. The Collaborative Microelectronic Design excellence Centre (CEDEC) reserves the right to make changes or updates as necessary without prior notice. It is intended as a reference for students enrolled in the 2025/2026 academic session and will remain valid throughout their period of study.

Please be informed that all course synopses provided by CEDEC are presented in English, which is the official language of instruction for these courses.

For further inquiries, please contact:

Director

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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Master of Science (Mixed Mode) programme for the Academic Year 2025/2026. As you embark on this academic journey, you are joining a community dedicated to fostering advanced knowledge, research excellence, and professional growth.

This programme is designed to offer the best of both worlds: the depth of a research-based degree and the structure of coursework. The Mixed Mode structure allows for a flexible yet rigorous academic experience, equipping you with critical thinking skills, research capabilities, and practical knowledge relevant to your field. Whether you are seeking to deepen your expertise, advance your career, or pursue further academic opportunities, this programme offers a solid

foundation for your aspirations.

As postgraduate students, you are not only learners but contributors to the creation of knowledge. We encourage you to approach your studies with curiosity, commitment, and a collaborative spirit. Make full use of the resources available—your supervisors, lecturers, peers, and the broader university ecosystem.

This handbook serves as your guide throughout your time in the programme. It contains essential information on academic regulations, programme structure, and expectations. I urge you to read it carefully and refer to it regularly.

On behalf of the faculty and academic staff, I wish you every success in your studies and future endeavors. May your time here be intellectually enriching, professionally and personally rewarding.

Prof. Dr. Asrulnizam Bin Abd Manaf

Director of CEDEC

OUR VISION

To become a regional referral center for microelectronics



OUR MISSION

To be a center for the dissemination and generation of knowledge in the field of integrated circuit design through:

- Conducting and fostering interdisciplinary research capabilities that are relevant to the development of the country's electronics industry
- Producing quality human capital to meet the demands of the industry in line with the latest technological development
- Strengthening industrial linkages and establishing collaboration with research institutes at national and international levels

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

Collaborative Microelectronic Design Excellence Centre (CEDEC) was established at Universiti Sains Malaysia in 2007 with budget approval from the Ministry of Finance in 2005. However, efforts to empower universities in this field were initiated even earlier. The development of CEDEC's infrastructure, which included a computer network for accessing microelectronic design software (EDA tools) nationwide, was completed in November 2006. CEDEC continued to gain publicity when it was included in the 3rd Industrial Master Plan (IMP3) 2006–2020 (pages 262–265), the National Economic Report 2007/2008 (pages 45–46), during the launch of the NCER in 2008, and it later received approval to be placed under the Senate in 2015.

CEDEC began operating at USM as a research center in 2007 with 14 staff members. Six fellows from Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, and Multimedia University were appointed by the CEDEC Director, and the projects undertaken were collaborative in nature. These appointments lasted for three years, until 2010.

In 2014, CEDEC underwent a restructuring process in which it was transferred to Sains@USM and taken over by the new CEDEC Director, Prof. Dr. Mohd Zaid Bin Abdullah. Following this relocation, collaboration in PSM (Human Resource Centre) among industries, public sector organizations, and academia was further strengthened.

Additionally, CEDEC serves as an interface between the academic engineering world and industry, with the aim of enhancing teaching, research, and industrial applications through shared facilities. This initiative was implemented through the signing of a collaboration agreement with Silterra Malaysia for the MPW (Multiproject Wafer) program and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with several industries and universities for a 3D program to be launched this year.

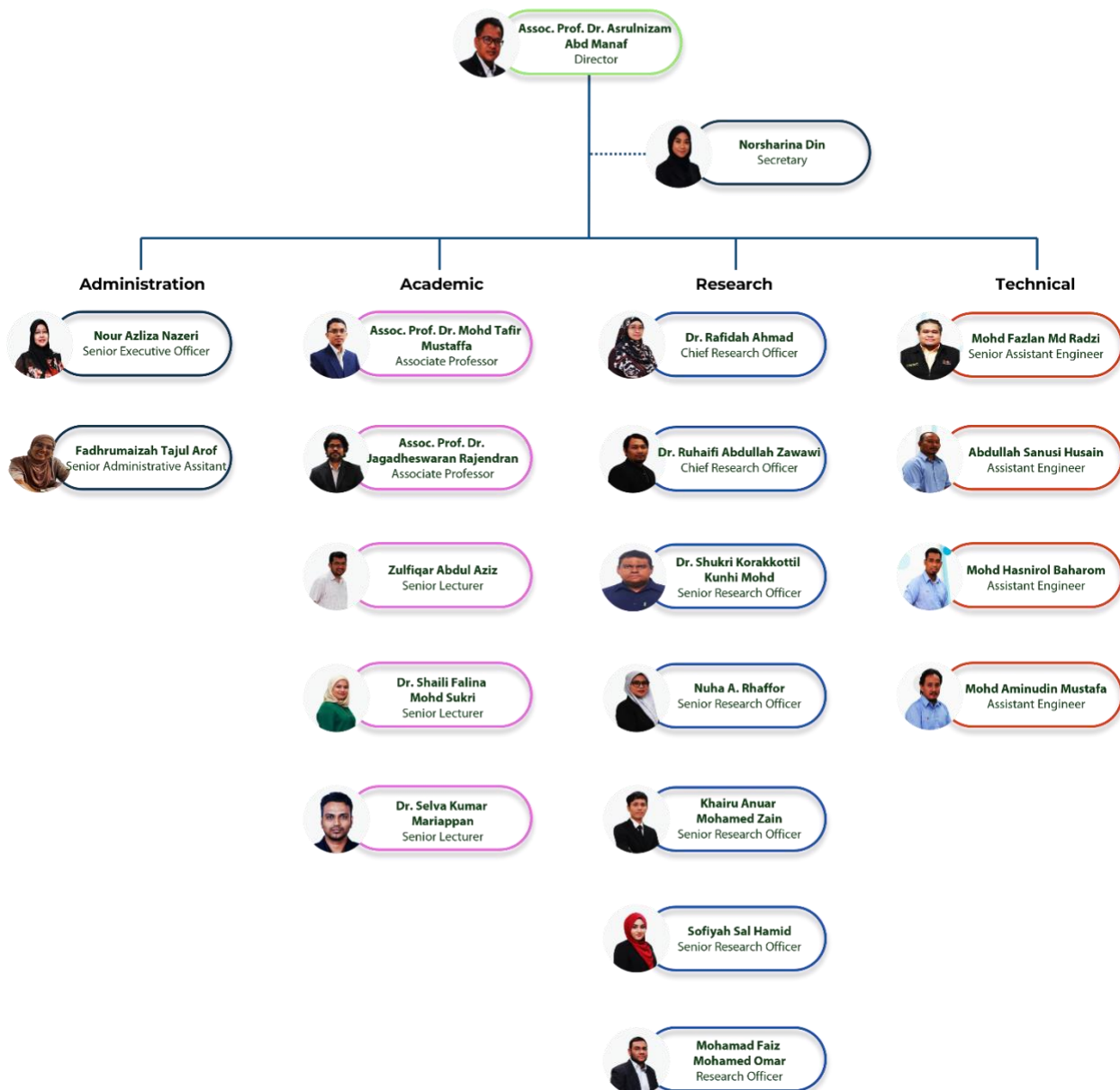
In line with this, CEDEC is able to produce highly skilled design engineers and researchers to meet the needs of the rapidly growing global semiconductor industry.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COLLABORATIVE MICROELECTRONIC DESIGN EXCELLENCE CENTRE (CEDEC)

ORGANIZATION CHART



MSc. MIXED MODE PROGRAM

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In response to the increasing demand for skilled talent in Microelectronic Engineering, the Collaborative Microelectronic Design Excellence Centre (CEDEC) offers a well-rounded and industry-focused MSc in Microelectronic Engineering, delivered through a flexible mixed-mode format. This postgraduate programme is crafted to provide students with in-depth and specialized technical knowledge in critical areas such as analog, digital, and mixed-signal integrated circuit (IC) design, fields essential to meeting current and future technological challenges in the electronics industry.

The programme is designed to build a solid theoretical foundation in the first semester through a set of well-structured and selected courses. This is followed by a six-month dissertation project in the second semester, allowing students to apply their knowledge either through an industry-based assignment or an in-house project at CEDEC, bridging academic learning with practical, real-world application.

Designed to accommodate both recent graduates and working professionals, the programme offers a full-time study mode that supports upskilling and career transition for engineers seeking to specialize in IC design. Ultimately, this MSc programme aims to develop highly capable and industry-ready engineers who can make impactful contributions to the electronics and semiconductor sectors.

PROGRAM EDUCATION OUTCOMES (PEO)

PEO1: To produce a skilled workforce with advanced degrees specializing in microelectronics

PEO2: To develop competent scholars and scientists in the field of microelectronics

PEO3: To drive the advancement of knowledge in microelectronics through continuous research.

PEO4: To position Universiti Sains Malaysia at the forefront of the global microelectronics field, in line with its role as an APEX university.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO)

PLO1 (Knowledge and understanding)	Apply theoretical knowledge in Microelectronic Engineering.
PLO2 (Critical thinking)	Perform practical work, procedure and research related to Microelectronic Engineering while adhering to standard requirements and quality control.
PLO3 (Psychomotor skills)	Utilize skills to identify, interpret, evaluate, apply, adapt and solve problems critically and scientifically in Microelectronic Engineering practice.
PLO4 (interpersonal skill)	Demonstrate interpersonal skills, social responsibilities, and teamwork in coordinating activities of Microelectronic Engineering practice.
PLO5 (Communication skill)	Communicate effectively in verbal and written forms to deliver information, findings and results within Microelectronic Engineering context.
PLO6 (Digital skill)	Demonstrate skills in ICT in various digital application involving technology and data to obtain, process and support information for Microelectronic Engineering practice.
PLO7 (Data analysis skill)	Demonstrate skills in using and interpreting numerical, visual and graphic data for presentation of information, findings and results in Microelectronic Engineering.
PLO8 (Leadership, interpersonal and social skills)	Apply leadership knowledge and skills effectively to drive progress and contribute to the advancement of Microelectronic Engineering.
PLO9 (Personal skill)	Use lifelong learning skills in academic and career development.
PLO 10 (Entrepreneurship skill)	Apply managerial and entrepreneurial skills in everyday activities and planning by considering the actual scenario and from different perspectives.
PLO11 (Ethics and professionalism)	Exhibit strong moral values, ethics, and professionalism by upholding ethical principles, codes of conduct, laws, and regulations in Microelectronic Engineering practices, in accordance with established standards and quality assurance frameworks.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Evaluation Components: 60 % Coursework, 40 % Examination

Total units : 40

Duration : 1 year

SEMESTER	COURSE OFFERED
I	<p><u>CORE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EEC 510/4 - ADVANCE ANALOUGUE CIRCUIT DESIGN2. EEC 554/4 - DIGITAL INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DESIGN <p><u>ELECTIVE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EEC 553/4 - SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND SOLID-STATE TECHNOLOGY <p><u>PRE-REQUISITE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EKC 500/3 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
II	<p><u>CORE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EEC555/28 - DISSERTATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. EEC 510/4 - ADVANCE ANALOUGUE CIRCUIT DESIGN (4 unit)

Course synopsis: This course is designed to provide the knowledge in analysis of analogue circuit design such as voltage reference circuits, amplifier circuits, operational amplifier circuits, applications of amplifier and operational amplifier circuits, low noise amplifier circuits, voltage-controlled oscillators in receiver system and phase locked loop.

Course Syllabus

- a. Single Stage CMOS amplifiers
- b. CMOS Differential Amplifiers
- c. CMOS Current Mirrors
- d. CMOS Operational Transconductance Amplifier (OTA)
- e. CMOS Voltage Controlled Oscillators
- f. CMOS Phase Locked Loop
- g. CMOS Operational Amplifiers Frequency Response
- h. CMOS Feedback Circuit

Teaching Staff:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jagadheswaran A/L Rajendran (Course Leader)

jaga.rajendran@usm.my

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Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bin Abd Aziz

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2. EEC 554/4 - DIGITAL INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DESIGN (4 unit)

Course synopsis: This course is designed to describe the advanced IC design, in terms of levels, strategies, methods, challenges, economics and trends. Subsequently incorporating this knowledge along with the ability to encapsulate the use of EDA design tools and Verilog in the digital electronic design application.

Course Syllabus

- a. Introduction to Digital Integrated Circuits
- b. Digital Integrated Circuit Design Using Verilog
- c. Logical Synthesis
- d. Gate and Test Level Simulation
- e. Library
- f. Planning Framework
- g. Placement
- h. Routing
- i. Validation
- j. VLSI Economics and Project Management

Teaching Staff:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Muzlifah Bt. Mahyuddin (Course Leader)

eemnmuzlifah@usm.my

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Dr. Selva Kumar A/L Mariappan

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3. EEC 553/4 - SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND SOLID-STATE TECHNOLOGY (4 unit)

Course synopsis: This course is designed to provide the concept of advanced semiconductor devices and solid-state technology which applied in designing the nano scaling integrated circuitry. Concept of advance semiconductor in fabrication process mechanism will be exposed to the student. Simulation and modelling technique of devices will be implemented during the class.

Course Syllabus

- a. Introduction of CMOS: Design and analyze
- b. Characteristic of CMOS
- c. Analyze and simulation of characteristic of C-V CMOS
- d. Effect of C-V CMOS with Advanced Node Fabrication
- e. Semiconductor Fabrication Technology and Analysis of Advanced Device
- f. Application of Process Recipe Parameter Based on Process Fabrication Specification
- g. Packaging Technology and Failure Analysis Method
- h. Explanation on Current Advancement in Process Fabrication Technology

Teaching Staff:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asrulnizam Bin Abd Manaf (Course Leader)

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Ts. Dr. Zatil 'Ismah Bt. Hashim

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4. EEC555/28 - DISSERTATION (28 unit)

Course synopsis: This course is designed to introduce students to the problems in the field of Microelectronic Engineering, investigative work and problem-solving as well as writing and presentation of research results in the form of a dissertation and presentation.

Course Syllabus

- a. Writing research proposal
- b. Independent research/design and technical work
- c. Regular supervision meetings (bi-weekly)
- d. Writing dissertation and Project Presentation

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Shaili Falina Bt. Mohd Sukri (Course Leader)
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RESEARCH FIELD AND SPECIALIZATION

 <p><i>Director</i> ASSOC. PROF. DR. ASRULNIZAM ABD MANAF</p>	<p>Academic Background: B.Eng. Toyohashi University of Technology, JAPAN Msc. Toyohashi University of Teknology, JAPAN Ph.D. Keio University, Tokyo, JAPAN</p> <p>Research Interest / Area of Specialization: Analog Integrated Circuitry (PMU IC, BGR, LDO, Rectifier, Switch Capacitor Circuitry, CMOS Sensing Interface), MEMS, Lab On PCB, Printed Stretchable Electronic, IOT Device, Smart Sensor.</p> <p>eeasrulnizam@usm.my https://experts.usm.my/cvitaee/eeasrulnizam +604-6535619</p>
 <p><i>Program Chairman MSc. Mixed Mode/ Postgraduate Studies</i> DR. SHAILI FALINA MOHD SUKRI</p>	<p>Academic Background: B.Eng.(Hons) Universiti Malaysia Perlis, MALAYSIA Ph.D. Waseda University, Tokyo, JAPAN</p> <p>Research Interest / Area of Specialization: Surface chemistry Wide bandgap materials Carbon-based biosensor Electrochemical Sensors Field-Effect Transistor Devices AlGaIn/GaN HEMT Devices</p> <p>shailifalina@usm.my https://experts.usm.my/cvitaee/shailifalina +604-6535703</p>



Assoc. Professor
**ASSOC. PROF. DR. JAGADHESWARAN
 RAJENDRAN**

Academic Background:

B Eng (Hons) Universiti Sains Malaysia, MALAYSIA
 M.Eng , Multimedia University, MALAYSIA
 Ph.D University of Malaya, MALAYSIA

Research Interest / Area of Specialization:

CMOS Radio Frequency Integrated Circuit (RFIC Design)
 CMOS Analog Integrated Circuit Design
 CMOS Phase Locked Loop (PLL)
 CMOS 5G Transceiver
 GaAs Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (MMIC)
 Radio Frequency Energy Harvester (RFEH)
 Antenna

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 CMOS Analog Integrated Circuit Design
 CMOS Digital Integrated Circuit Design

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Senior Lecturer
MR ZULFIQAR ALI BIN ABD. AZIZ

Academic Background:

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MSc. University of Southampton, UNITED KINGDOM

Research Interest / Area of Specialization:

Microelectronics (VLSI & Analog IC)

Field Mixed Signal Data Converters, Analog design

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Senior Lecturer
DR. SELVA KUMAR A/L MARIAPPAN

Academic Background:

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Ph.D University Sains Malaysia, MALAYSIA

Research Interest / Area of Specialization :

CMOS Radio Frequency Integrated Circuit
(RFIC Design)

CMOS Analog Integrated Circuit Design

CMOS 5G Transceiver

Radio Frequency Energy Harvester (RFEH)

Radio Frequency Antenna

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MSc. MIXED MODE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A Coursework/Mixed Mode student must comply with the following graduation requirements:

- a. Pass all courses and examination determined by the respective School/Centre/Institute;
- b. Pass dissertation/research project;
- c. Obtain at least a CGPA of 3.00;
- d. Fulfill the minimum duration of candidature;
- e. Must obtain minimum grade C for Malaysian Culture and Malay Language (LKM111).
This course is compulsory for all international students;

CEDEC'S FACILITIES

1. Computer Laboratory

The Computer Laboratory at CEDEC is a dedicated facility that plays a crucial role in supporting both teaching and research activities in the field of IC design and semiconductor advancement. It serves as a central hub for hands-on learning, providing students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge through practical design and simulation work.

The lab is equipped with 18 high-performance workstations, each installed with fully licensed, industry-standard Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools such as Cadence, Synopsys, Mentor Graphics, and Silvaco. These tools enable the complete IC design workflow, from schematic capture and simulation to layout design, verification, and design rule checking, mirroring real-world engineering practices.

Designed to support both undergraduate and postgraduate students, the facility bridges the gap between classroom learning and industry-relevant experience, making it an essential component of CEDEC's mission to produce competent, industry-ready graduates in the field of microelectronics.



2. Integrated Circuit (IC) Design Laboratory

In addition to software, Integrated Circuit (IC) Design laboratory in CEDEC is equipped with all the essential hardware and infrastructure required for IC design, providing a comprehensive and professional-grade environment for design, simulation, testing, and validation. This complete setup supports both academic and industrial design workflows.

The facility is actively used for postgraduate research, final-year projects, and collaborative research with industry partners, both locally and internationally. It also plays a strategic role in national development by supporting training and talent development. Through CEDEC's partnerships and long-standing reputation, students have opportunities to participate in cutting-edge design projects and gain experience aligned with industry expectations.





3. Lab-on-Chip and Printable Electronic Laboratory

The Lab-on-Chip and Printable Electronics Laboratory at CEDEC is a multidisciplinary research facility that supports the development of miniaturized analytical devices and flexible electronic systems. It plays a crucial role in advancing research in biosensing, microfluidics, and printed electronics, with applications in healthcare, environmental monitoring, and point-of-care diagnostics.

The laboratory is equipped with essential tools for the development of integrated sensing platforms. Key equipment includes two potentiostats for electrochemical sensor development and characterization, along with a microfluidic setup that enables precise handling and manipulation of fluid samples within micro-scale channels.

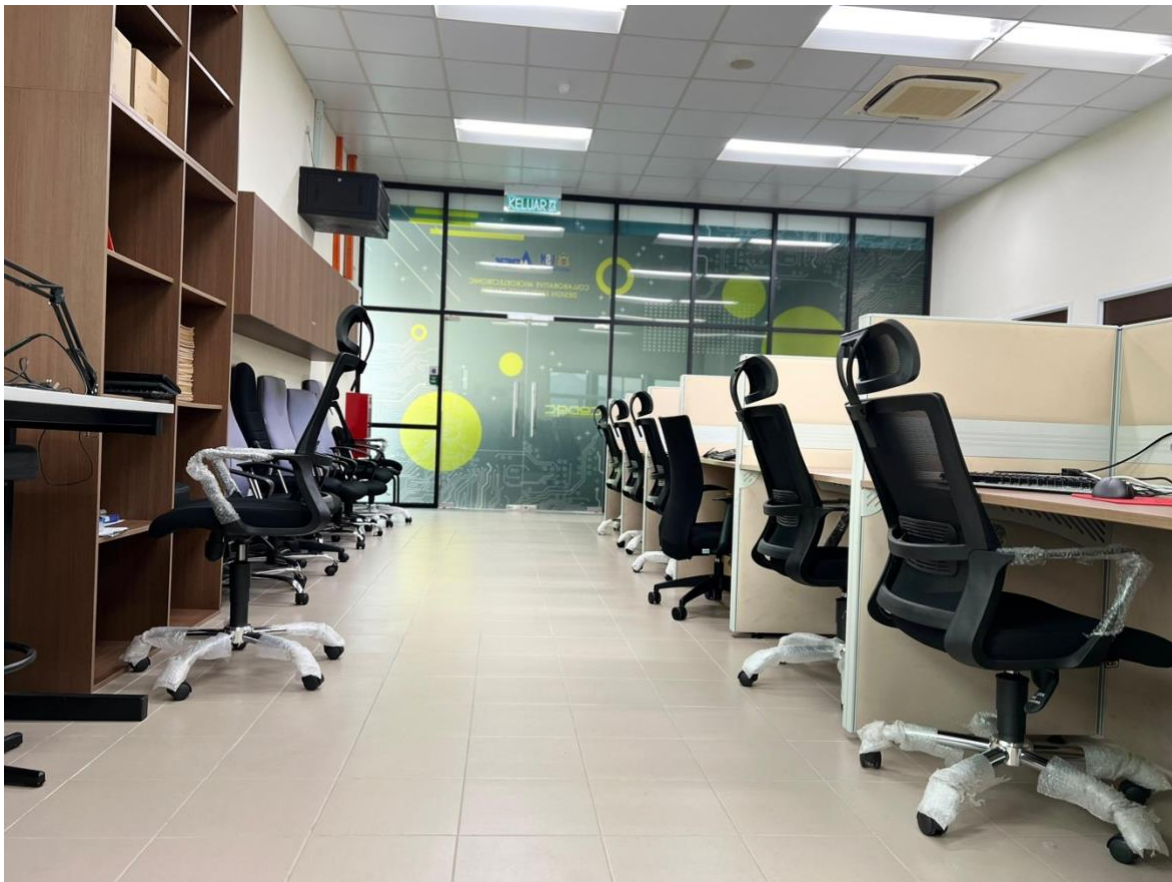
In addition, the laboratory supports the fabrication of low-cost, flexible, and scalable electronic components. A screen printer is available for depositing conductive inks onto flexible substrates such as plastic or paper, enabling the production of printed sensors, circuits, and electrodes. This capability facilitates ongoing research in wearable technologies, disposable diagnostics, and sustainable electronics.



4. Postgraduates Room

The Postgraduate Room on the 7th floor of the I2U Building provides a quiet and comfortable space for CEDEC postgraduate students to focus on their studies and research. The room is equipped with basic workstations and seating, making it suitable for writing, reading, and light computing tasks.

A pantry area is also available for students to take short breaks and refresh themselves. While simple in design, the space offers a cozy environment that supports both individual work and a sense of community among students.



CEDEC'S DIRECTORY

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR - ACADEMIC SESSION 2025/2026

FOR ALL SCHOOLS (EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCES)

Main Campus : Registration for New Student (26 - 28 September 2025) / **Orientation Week (29 September - 04 October 2025)

Engineering Campus : Registration for New Student (28 September 2025) / **Orientation Week (29 September - 04 October 2025)

Health Campus : Registration for New Student (30 September 2025) / **Orientation Week (30 September - 04 October 2025)

SEM	WEEKS	ACTIVITIES		DATE	REMARKS
ONE	1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)		Monday, 06.10.2025 - Sunday, 12.10.2025	
	2			Monday, 13.10.2025 - Sunday, 19.10.2025	
	3			Monday, 20.10.2025 - Sunday, 26.10.2025	20.10.2025, Monday - Deepavali**
	4			Monday, 27.10.2025 - Sunday, 02.11.2025	
	5			Monday, 03.11.2025 - Sunday, 09.11.2025	
	6			Monday, 10.11.2025 - Sunday, 16.11.2025	
	7			Monday, 17.11.2025 - Sunday, 23.11.2025	
	8	Mid Semester Break (1 Week)		Monday, 24.11.2025 - Sunday, 30.11.2025	
	9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)		Monday, 01.12.2025 - Sunday, 07.12.2025	
	10			Monday, 08.12.2025 - Sunday, 14.12.2025	
	11			Monday, 15.12.2025 - Sunday, 21.12.2025	
	12			Monday, 22.12.2025 - Sunday, 28.12.2025	25.12.2025, Thursday - Christmas Day
	13			Monday, 29.12.2025 - Sunday, 04.01.2026	01.01.2026, Thursday - New Year of 2025
	14			Monday, 05.01.2026 - Sunday, 11.01.2026	
	15			Monday, 12.01.2026 - Sunday, 18.01.2026	
	16	Revision Week (1 Week)		Monday, 19.01.2026 - Sunday, 25.01.2026	
	17	Examination (3 Weeks)		Monday, 26.01.2026 - Sunday, 01.02.2026	01.02.2026, Sunday - Thaipusam
	18			Monday, 02.02.2026 - Sunday, 08.02.2026	02.02.2026, Sunday - Replacement leave for Thaipusam (Main & Engineering Campus)
	19			Monday, 09.02.2026 - Sunday, 15.02.2026	
	20	Mid Semester Break / Industrial Training (4 Weeks)		Monday, 16.02.2026 - Sunday, 22.02.2026	17 & 18.02.2026, Tuesday & Wednesday - Chinese New Year
	21			Monday, 23.02.2026 - Sunday, 01.03.2026	19.02.2026, Thursday - 1st day of Ramadhan
	22			Monday, 02.03.2026 - Sunday, 08.03.2026	
	23			Monday, 09.03.2026 - Sunday, 15.03.2026	07.03.2026, Saturday - Nuzul Al-Quran
TWO	24/1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)		Monday, 16.03.2026 - Sunday, 22.03.2026	21.03.2026 & 22.03.2026, Saturday & Sunday - Eid al-Fitr**
	25/2			Monday, 23.03.2026 - Sunday, 29.03.2026	23.03.2026, Monday - Replacement leave for Eid al-Fitr****
	26/3			Monday, 30.03.2026 - Sunday, 05.04.2026	
	27/4			Monday, 06.04.2026 - Sunday, 12.04.2026	
	28/5			Monday, 13.04.2026 - Sunday, 19.04.2026	
	29/6			Monday, 20.04.2026 - Sunday, 26.04.2026	
	30/7			Monday, 27.04.2026 - Sunday, 03.05.2026	01.05.2026, Friday - Labour Day
	31/8	Mid Semester Break (1 Week)		Monday, 04.05.2026 - Sunday, 10.05.2026	
	32/9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)		Monday, 11.05.2026 - Sunday, 17.05.2026	
	33/10			Monday, 18.05.2026 - Sunday, 24.05.2026	
	34/11			Monday, 25.05.2026 - Sunday, 31.05.2026	27 & 28.05.2026, Wednesday & Thursday - Eid al-Adha**
	35/12			Monday, 01.06.2026 - Sunday, 07.06.2026	31.05.2026, Sunday - Wesak Day
	36/13			Monday, 08.06.2026 - Sunday, 14.06.2026	01.06.2026, Monday - Replacement leave for Wesak Day (Main & Engineering Campus)
	37/14			Monday, 15.06.2026 - Sunday, 21.06.2026	01.06.2026, Monday - Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday
	38/15			Monday, 22.06.2026 - Sunday, 28.06.2026	17.06.2026, Wednesday - Awal Muharram
	39/16	Revision Week (1 Week)		Monday, 29.06.2026 - Sunday, 05.07.2026	
	40/17	**Examination (2 Weeks)	Examination (3 Weeks)	Monday, 06.07.2026 - Sunday, 12.07.2026	07.07.2026, Tuesday - Georgetown World Heritage City Day
	41/18			Monday, 13.07.2026 - Sunday, 19.07.2026	11.07.2026, Saturday - Penang Governor's Birthday
	42/19			Monday, 20.07.2026 - Sunday, 26.07.2026	
COURSES DURING LONG BREAK / SEMESTER BREAK	43/20	Long Semester Break / Industrial Training (10/11 Weeks)		Monday, 27.07.2026 - Sunday, 02.08.2026	
	44/21			Monday, 03.08.2026 - Sunday, 09.08.2026	
	45/22			Monday, 10.08.2026 - Sunday, 16.08.2026	
	46/23			Monday, 17.08.2026 - Sunday, 23.08.2026	
	47/24			Monday, 24.08.2026 - Sunday, 30.08.2026	25.08.2026, Tuesday - Maulidur Rasul
	48/25		*T&L	Monday, 31.08.2026 - Sunday, 06.09.2026	31.08.2026, Monday - National Day
	49/26		Examination	Monday, 07.09.2026 - Sunday, 13.09.2026	
	50/27			Monday, 14.09.2026 - Sunday, 20.09.2026	16.09.2026, Wednesday - Malaysia Day
	51/28			Monday, 21.09.2026 - Sunday, 27.09.2026	29 & 30.09.2026, Tuesday & Wednesday - Sultan of Kelantan's Birthday (Health Campus)
	52/29			Monday, 28.09.2026 - Sunday, 04.10.2026	

