



USM

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA



Pusat Pengajian Sains Kesihatan

School of Health Sciences

Committed to Health

MASTER IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Mixed Mode Programme 2026/2027



SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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CANDIDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name	
Identification Number / Passport Number	
Current Address	
Permanent Address	
Email Address	
House Telephone Number	
Mobile Telephone Number	

CONTENT**PAGE****School of Health Sciences**

Background	1
Philosophy	2
Vision	2
Mission	2

Master in Forensic Science

Introduction	3
Programme Objectives	3
Programme Structure	3
Summary of Curriculum Revision (2026/2027)	4
Period of Study and Teaching Approaches	4
Entry Requirements	5
Application	6
Registration and Payment of Fees	6
Candidature Period	6
Evaluation, Marking and Examination	7-8
Graduation Criteria	8
Postponement of Study	8
Termination of Candidature	8
Degree Conferment	8
Interpretation	8
Academic Calendar	9

Appendices

Appendix A: Time Table	10-11
Appendix B: Course Contents	12-13
Appendix C: Administration	14

School of Health Sciences Universiti Sains Malaysia

Background of School of Health Sciences

The treatment and prevention of diseases have long been the foundation of conventional thoughts in matters of health. These thoughts have undergone changes, albeit slowly, towards the concept of a more holistic management of health, based not only on the biology of diseases but also incorporating aspects of sociological sciences, behavior and the environment. This concept of health gives cognizance not only to patients but to the healthy individual as well.

Rapid advancement in technology has helped to hasten these changes in concepts, methodologies and the way health services are disbursed. These facts are taken into account during the development of programmes at the School of Health Sciences with the expressed intention of producing graduates who would be able to compete in the job market both locally and at the international level.

With these principles as its foundation, the School of Health Sciences USM was established at the Health Campus in Kelantan on the 1st of November 1999. The School's main objective is to holistically expand the Health Sciences disciplines. Within the ambit of Health Sciences are included areas of specialties like Biomedicine, Dietetics, Nursing, Forensic Science, Medical Radiation, Exercise and Sports Science, Audiology, Speech Pathology, Nutrition and Environmental Health. In addition, several other potential health related subjects will also be offered in due course. Thus the establishment of the School of Health Sciences is a direct effort by USM to help fulfill the national requirement for manpower in the areas of health and paramedical disciplines which is currently experiencing a severe shortage of trained personnel.

The 2026/2027 academic session is the 25th for the School. Since the academic session 2002/2003, several batches of students have graduated from various first degree programmes. In the academic session 2007/2008, the School of Health Sciences reintroduced Diploma in Nursing which was previously offered under the School of Medical Sciences. The School saw another milestone with the introduction of Master of Biomedicine mixed mode programme in academic session 2014/2015 followed by Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme in academic session 2015/2016.

All undergraduate programmes offered at the School of Health Sciences will be of four (4) years duration (eight semesters). At the end of the undergraduate programmes, graduates will be conferred the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) [Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains Kesihatan) for their respective disciplines with the exception of the Forensic Science programme which will be conferred the Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science) [Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains (Sains Forensik)] degree. The graduates from the Diploma in Nursing Programme will be conferred a Diploma in Nursing. Meanwhile, the graduates from the Master mixed mode programme will be conferred their respective Master degree, i.e. Master in Forensic Science.

Philosophy

The School of Health Sciences has a philosophy that values education as the driving force behind the progress and development of mankind. We are committed to producing graduates who are able to pursue their own goals and direction while contributing to the development of an industrialised and civilised Malaysia. To fulfil the above aspiration, the School provides an education that is sustainable, futures-oriented and globally focused.

The School adopts a diverse and comprehensive interdisciplinary wellness-based programme for educational, scientific and human capital development. The curriculum provides the foundation for intellectual inquiry as well as a pragmatic contribution focused on the wellness of individuals and communities. As a consequence, the teaching-learning methods are focused on integrative problem-solving where students are encouraged to make group decisions that have a local emphasis with globalised consequences.

Thus, the School of Health Sciences is committed to the promotion of scholarship that has a foundation in scientific thinking, and professional interdisciplinary education supported by a strong research culture. This will enable our graduates to respond to the challenges of the 21st century with a sense of social consciousness and accountability. This effort is expected to uplift the nation status towards attainment of being an advanced nation. Excellence is regarded as the foundation of this noble effort.

Vision of School of Health Sciences

We are committed to be a centre of excellence in health sciences towards the wellness of society through intellectual inquiry, creativity, innovation and dissemination of knowledge.

Mission of School of Health Sciences

To achieve and maintain excellence in Health Sciences by:

- Producing graduates with a high level of intellectual inquiry and professionalism.
- Developing graduates with a strong sense of ethics and commitment to humanity.
- Transforming knowledge into an instrument for sustainable development and wellness of society.

MASTER IN FORENSIC SCIENCE MIXED MODE PROGRAMME

Introduction

Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme is offered to produce more forensic professionals to meet the demand of forensic science practitioners and law enforcement agencies. Based on the input from key stake holders, forensic practitioners, academics and stringent benchmarking against renowned forensic science institutions both locally and internationally, this programme has been designed to allow prospective candidates to specialise into forensic chemistry and forensic biology fields. This programme will equip prospective candidates with current knowledge, techniques and essential skills in forensic science which will be assimilated through well-designed theoretical and practical sessions. It also serves as a platform for prospective candidates to pursue PhD studies in forensic science. The programme is fully accredited by Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) with Malaysian Qualifications Register (MQR) reference number MQA/SWA10646.

Programme Objectives

In line with the mission of School of Health Sciences, the Master in Forensic Science provides exemplary forensic science education with the aims to

- nurture intellectual and professional graduates.
- produce graduates who are responsible and possess high ethical standards.
- augment knowledge for development of social well-being sustainability.

Programme Structure

Programme structure is designed to provide fundamental knowledge to prepare the students to become competent forensic science practitioners. Students discover important concepts, principles and essential skills to engage in forensic investigation and forensic analysis. This programme also provides integrated knowledge in various forensic science disciplines and research that is current and relevant at present time and in the near future.

Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme is conducted for a minimum period of one year (2 semesters + KSCP). Students are required to complete 40 credit units, including 6 core courses (20 units) and 20 units of a research project.

Note: KSCP is abbreviation for Kursus Semasa Cuti Panjang. It means the course is offered for 10 weeks during the long semester break (June-August).

Course component is comprised of taught course and research with a ratio of 50:50. Taught courses contribute 20 units and research for another 20 units. The distribution of credit unit and division of subjects are listed as follows:

Course	Unit	Contents
Core course	20	i. Ethics and Legislation in Forensic Science (GTF510/2) ii. Research Methodology for Forensic Science (GTF512/3) iii. Advanced Forensic Techniques and Applications (GTF513/3) iv. Forensic Chemistry and Practical (GTF514/4) v. Forensic Evidence and Investigation (GTF516/4) vi. Forensic Biology and Practical (GTF517/4)
Research Project	20	Forensic Research Project (GTF515/20)
Total	40	Core course (20 unit) Research project (20 unit)

Period of Study and Teaching Approaches

The study duration to complete a full-time Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme is one year (two semesters and KSCP; minimum period) or 3 years (maximum period). The total number of credit units to achieve is 40, which consist of 20 units Core Courses and 20 units of dissertation. The modes of teaching include face-to-face sessions, lectures, practical sessions, tutorials, seminars, assignments, case studies, dissertation and projects.

Entry Requirements

The admission requirements for the Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme are as follows:

- i. Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science, Biology, Chemistry, Health Sciences, or other related and recognized degrees) with CGPA ≥ 2.75 ; OR
- ii. Bachelor degree as in selection (i) with CGPA 2.50 – 2.74 and at least one (1) year research experience or working experience in related field OR one (1) academic publication in related field OR obtained at least a B in a major course OR at least B+ in final year research project; OR
- iii. Bachelor degree as in selection (i) with CGPA 2.00 – 2.49, and at least five (5) years research experience OR working experience in related field AND one (1) academic publication in related field OR obtained at least a B in a major course OR at least B+ in final year research project.
- iv. A foreign student has to produce a copy of English proficiency result. The minimum English language requirements are as follows:
 - IELTS min. Band 5; OR
 - TOEFL iBT min. score 35; OR
 - Cambridge English Advanced (CAE) min. score 154; OR
 - Cambridge Proficiency Advanced (CPE) min. score 154; OR
 - Pearson Test of English (PTE) min. score 36; OR
 - English is the candidate's mother tongue or National Language; OR
 - The candidate graduated from an Institution of Higher Learning in which the medium of instruction at Bachelor and Master level is English; OR
 - English courses offered by British Council (the level of qualification and the relevant courses are to be identified by the University Postgraduate Studies Council); OR
 - English courses from selected Malaysian public/private university or institution (the level of qualification and the relevant courses should be previously identified and approved by the University Postgraduate Studies Council).

Application

Admission application form is available at the official website of Institute of Postgraduate Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia (www.ips.usm.my). The final decision is subjected to the consideration of the University.

For further enquiries related to the programme, please contact Office of Postgraduate Studies at 09-7677525 or 09-7677529, or Coordinator, Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme at 09-7677834 (Dr. Helmi Mohd Hadi Pritam) or email helmi_mhp@usm.my.

Registration and Payment of Fees

Payment of fees by succeeded candidate has to be completed after course registration through campusonline system. The total tuition fee is subjected to the total registered credit units for that semester. Student should be aware that the courses should appear and are accessible on the student's e-learning site after registration is completed.

Fee payment can be completed at Bursary, in form of cash or bank draft. The fee paid cannot be refunded if the student withdraws from the course or fails or terminates the course.

Candidature Period

Candidature period is one year (two semesters and KSCP) and the maximum period is three years. After the completion of maximum candidature period, the candidate can apply to extend the study by issuing written application to the Dean, School of Health Sciences through the programme coordinator for the consideration of the University.

Evaluation, Marking and Examination

Students of the Master in Forensic Science mixed mode programme will be evaluated based on the evaluation system practised in USM that is via examination, course work, research project and dissertation.

Examination will be held at the end of every semester. Students have to sit for the examination of the courses that they have registered. Students have to settle all due fees and fulfill the standing requirements for lectures/tutorial/practical and other requirements before being allowed to sit for the examination of courses they registered. Course evaluation will be determined based on continuous assessments of coursework components and the final examinations. Coursework evaluation includes participation during tutorials and discussions, tests, projects, laboratory reports and assignments.

(a) Duration of Examination

Evaluated Courses	Examination Duration
2 units	1 hour for coursework of more than 40%
2 units	2 hours for coursework of 40% and below
3 units or more	2 hours for coursework of more than 40%
3 units or more	3 hours for coursework of 40% and below

(b) Barring from Examination

Students will be barred from sitting the final examination if they do not satisfy the course requirements, such as absence from lectures and tutorials, and have not completed/fulfilled the required components of coursework. Students will also be barred from sitting the final examination if they have not settled the academic fees. Courses that are barred will be graded as 'X'.

(c) Grade Point Average System

Student academic achievement for registered course will be graded as follows:

Grade	Grade Points	Marks
A	4.00	80-100
A-	3.67	70-79
B+	3.33	64-69
B	3.00	58-63
B-	2.67	52-57
C+	2.33	46-51
C	2.00	40-45
C-	1.67	36-39
D+	1.33	32-35
D	1.00	28-31
D-	0.67	25-27
F	0.00	0-26

Student achievement in each semester is calculated based on Grade Point Average (GPA) obtained from all courses registered in the semester. GPA is the indicator to determine the academic performance of students in any semester.

CGPA is the Cumulative Grade Point Average accumulated by a student from one semester to another during the years of study. CGPA is calculated as the total grade points accumulated for all the registered courses divided by the total number of the registered units.

Graduation Criteria

Candidate must fulfill the following criteria to graduate:

- Registered all required courses and passed with a minimum grade of C+.
- Passed the research project with a minimum grade of C+.
- Obtain a minimum CGPA of 3.0.

Postponement of Study

Candidate is allowed to postpone his/her study by providing reasonable justifications. However, whether the approval of the postponement will be accompanied with or without penalty is under the prerogative of the University.

Termination of Candidature

Candidate can withdraw from the programme by writing to Dean of the School of Health Sciences via Programme Coordinator to be considered by the University. Candidature shall be terminated by Universiti Sains Malaysia for the following reasons:

- Candidature has already exceeded the maximum allowed period; OR
- Candidate does not fulfill the graduation criteria as previously stated; OR
- Candidate has broken the rules and regulations of the university and disciplinary actions have been taken against him/her; OR
- Candidate has been confirmed to commit crime; OR
- Candidate fails to renew registration as a student for each semester without the approval of the university.

Degree Conferment

Candidate is qualified to be conferred degree in Master in Forensic Science after successfully completed the study and satisfy all the programme requirements as well as fulfill the graduation criteria as stated by the University.

Interpretation

All information stated in this Guide Book only serves as a guide. Amendments to the Guide Book will be made without notice subjected to the approval or endorsement that will be determined by the University from time to time.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR - ACADEMIC SESSION 2026/2027
FOR ALL HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMMES (EXCEPT FOR NURSING PROGRAMME)
***Registration for New Students (19 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21-26 September 2026)**

SEM	WEEK	ACTIVITY	DATE	REMARKS
ONE	1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Sunday, 27/09/26 - Saturday, 03/10/26	29 & 30/09/26, Tuesday & Wednesday – Sultan Kelantan's Birthday
	2		Sunday, 04/10/26 - Saturday, 10/10/26	
	3		Sunday, 11/10/26 - Saturday, 17/10/26	
	4		Sunday, 18/10/26 - Saturday, 24/10/26	
	5		Sunday, 25/10/26 - Saturday, 31/10/26	
	6		Sunday, 01/11/26 - Saturday, 07/11/26	
	7		Sunday, 08/11/26 - Saturday, 14/11/26	08/11/26, Sunday – Deepavali**
	8	Mid Semester I Break (1 Week)	Sunday, 15/11/26 - Saturday, 21/11/26	
	9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Sunday, 22/11/26 - Saturday, 28/11/26	25/12/26, Friday - Christmas
	10		Sunday, 29/11/26 - Saturday, 05/12/26	
	11		Sunday, 06/12/26 - Saturday, 12/12/26	
	12		Sunday, 13/12/26 - Saturday, 19/12/26	
	13		Sunday, 20/12/26 - Saturday, 26/12/27	
	14		Sunday, 27/12/27 - Saturday, 02/01/27	
	15		Sunday, 03/01/27 - Saturday, 09/01/27	
	16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Sunday, 10/01/27 - Saturday, 16/01/27	
	17	Examination (3 Weeks)	Sunday, 17/01/27 - Saturday, 23/01/27	06/02/27, Saturday - Chinese New Year
	18		Sunday, 24/01/27 - Saturday, 30/01/27	
	19		Sunday, 31/01/27 - Saturday, 06/02/27	
	20-23	Semester I Break/ Industrial Training (4 Weeks)	Sunday, 07/02/27 - Saturday, 06/03/27	07/02/27, Sunday - Chinese New Year 08/02/27, Monday - Replacement holiday Chinese New Year 24/2/27, Wednesday - Nuzul Al-Quran
TWO	24/1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Sunday, 07/03/27 - Saturday, 13/03/27	10 & 11/03/27, Wednesday & Thursday - Eid al-Fitr**
	25/2		Sunday, 14/03/27 - Saturday, 20/03/27	
	26/3		Sunday, 21/03/27 - Saturday, 27/03/27	
	27/4		Sunday, 28/03/27 - Saturday, 03/04/27	
	28/5		Sunday, 04/04/27 - Saturday, 10/04/27	
	29/6		Sunday, 11/04/27 - Saturday, 17/04/27	
	30/7		Sunday, 18/04/27 - Saturday, 24/04/27	
	31/8	Mid Semester II Break (1 Week)	Sunday, 25/04/27 - Saturday, 01/05/27	01/05/27, Saturday – Labor Day
	32/9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Sunday, 02/05/27 - Saturday, 08/05/27	02/05/27, Sunday – Replacement holiday Labor Day 16/05/27, Sunday - Arafah Day** 17 & 18/05/27, Monday & Tuesday, - Eid al-Adha** 20/05/27, Thursday - Wesak Day
	33/10		Sunday, 09/05/27 - Saturday, 15/05/27	
	34/11		Sunday, 16/05/27 - Saturday, 22/05/27	
	35/12		Sunday, 23/05/27 - Saturday, 29/05/27	
	36/13		Sunday, 30/05/27 - Saturday, 05/06/27	06/06/27, Sunday – Awal Muharram 07/06/27, Monday - Agong's Birthday
	37/14		Sunday, 06/06/27 - Saturday, 12/06/27	
	38/15		Sunday, 13/06/27 - Saturday, 19/06/27	
	39/16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Sunday, 20/06/27 - Saturday, 26/06/27	
	40/17	Examination (3 Weeks)	Sunday, 27/06/27 - Saturday, 03/07/27	
	41/18		Sunday, 04/07/27 - Saturday, 10/07/27	
	42/19		Sunday, 11/07/27 - Saturday, 17/07/27	
COURSE DURING SEMESTER BREAK	43/20	SEMESTER II Long Vacation/ Industrial Training (10/11 Weeks)	Sunday, 18/07/27 - Saturday, 24/07/27	
	44/21		Sunday, 25/07/27 - Saturday, 31/07/27	
	45/22		Sunday, 01/08/27 - Saturday, 07/08/27	
	46/23		Sunday, 08/08/27 - Saturday, 14/08/27	
	47/24		*T&L Sunday, 15/08/27 - Saturday, 21/08/27	15/08/27, Sunday - Maulidur Rasul
	48/25		Sunday, 22/08/27 - Saturday, 28/08/27	
	49/26		*Examination Sunday, 29/08/27 - Saturday, 04/09/27	31/8/27, Tuesday - National Day
	50/27		Sunday, 05/09/27 - Saturday, 11/09/27	16/9/27, Thursday - Malaysia Day
	51/28		Sunday, 12/09/27 - Saturday, 18/09/27	
	52/29		Sunday, 19/09/27 - Saturday, 25/09/27	

** This Academic Calendar is subject to change

Approved by the 72nd School of Health Science, School Board (12 February 2026)

TIMETABLE MSC (FORENSIC SCIENCE) MIXED MODE

Semester 1, Academic Session 2026/2027

Day/Time	9:00–10:00	10:00–11:00	11:00–12:00	12:00–1:00	1:00–2:00	2:00–3:00	3:00–4:00	4:00–5:00
Sunday		GTF516	GTF516	GTF513				
Monday		GTF517	GTF517	GTF512		GTF517 (MSF)	GTF517 (MSF)	GTF517 (MSF)
Tuesday			GTF514	GTF514		GTF514 (MSF)	GTF514 (MSF)	GTF514 (MSF)
Wednesday	GTF510	GTF510	GTF513	GTF513				
Thursday	GTF516	GTF516	GTF512	GTF512				

Note: This programme will be conducted face-to-face. All teachings are conducted in BB2 classroom except for practical sessions at MSF.

No.	Courses (code/units)	Course Coordinators (email/extensions)
1	ETHICS AND LEGISLATION IN FORENSIC SCIENCE (GTF510/2)	AP DR GESHINA AYU MAT SAAT (geshina@usm.my) phone no. 09-767 7773
2	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE (GTF512/3)	DR DZULKIFLEE ISMAIL (dzulkiflee@usm.my) phone no. 09-767 7820
3	ADVANCED FORENSIC TECHNIQUES AND APPLICATIONS (GTF513/3)	DR NOOR ZUHARTINI MD MUSLIM (zuhartini@usm.my) phone no. 09-767 7785
4	FORENSIC CHEMISTRY AND PRACTICAL (GTF514/4)	DR WAN NUR SYUHAILA MAT DESA (wannurs@usm.my) phone no. 09-767 7821
5	FORENSIC EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATION (GTF516/4)	AP DR NIK FAKHURUDDIN NIK HASSAN (nikf@usm.my) phone no. 09-767 7621
6	FORENSIC BIOLOGY AND PRACTICAL (GTF517/4)	DR NURHASLINDAWATY ABD RASHID (haslindawaty@usm.my) phone no. 09-767 7826

Note: All courses are core courses. No electives are offered.

Semester 2 & KSCP, Academic Session 2026/2027

This programme will be conducted face-to-face / blended learning.

Candidates acquire research knowledge and skills through activities coordinated in GTF515/20 (Forensic Research Project) course. The course coordinator is Dr. Nurasmah Mohd Shukri. She can be contacted by email at nurasmah@usm.my or by telephone at 09-767 7563.

A research supervisor will be appointed among the Forensic Science lecturers in which candidate performs research project under the supervision of the appointed supervisor. Date and time of research consultation will be decided by the research project supervisor. Discussion, meeting or consultation with research project supervisor should be conducted in minimum 3 hours per week, however students are strongly encouraged to be proactive and have own initiative to engage with their supervisor during the commencement of the research project. The total credit unit for GTF515 Forensic Research Project is 20 units. This means at least a total number of 40 hours of research work should be completed per week.

Course Content

A. Core courses

GTF 510/2	Ethics and Legislation in Forensic Science
	1. Malaysian Criminal Legislation System 2. Role of Forensic Science in Legislation 3. Legislation Relevant to Forensic Evidence 4. Criminal Procedure 5. Ethical and Professional Issues 6. Case Studies 7. Contemporary Trends
GTF 512/3	Research Methodology for Forensic Science
	1. Introduction to Research Methods 2. Research Designs 3. Qualitative Investigation 4. Quantitative Investigation 5. Data Management and Handling 6. Evidence Evaluation 7. Referencing 8. Dissemination of Research Outcomes
GTF 513/3	Advanced Forensic Techniques and Applications
	1. Chemical Analysis in Forensic 2. Microscopic Techniques in Forensic 3. Techniques and Applications in Forensic 4. Separation Techniques in Forensic Chemistry 5. Spectroscopic Techniques in Forensic Testing 6. Electroanalytical Techniques in Forensic Testing
GTF 514/4	Forensic Chemistry and Practical
	1. Forensic Chemistry Laboratory 2. Fingerprint Analysis 3. Shoe mark and tyre mark Analysis 4. Tool mark Analysis 5. Glass Analysis 6. Soil Analysis 7. Paint Analysis 8. Firearm Analysis 9. Fire and Explosive Analysis 10. Document Analysis 11. Trace Analysis 12. Alcohol Analysis 13. Drug Analysis

GTF 516/4	Forensic Evidence and Investigation
1. Forensic Science – Introduction and Scopes 2. Forensic Process 3. Forensic Evidence 4. Classification and Individualisation 5. Comparison and Identification; Positive and Negative Controls 6. The Roles of Crime Scene Officers and Analysts 7. Investigative Approach 8. Crime Scene Investigation 9. Exhibit Handling 10. Evidence Gathering Techniques 11. Reports and Statement Preparation 12. Statistics in Forensic Science 13. Case Studies, Current Trends in Forensic Science 14. Mock Crime Scene	

GTF 517/4	Forensic Biology and Practical
1. Forensic Biology Laboratory 2. Biological Fluids and non-Fluids Analysis 3. Hair and Fibre Analysis 4. DNA Analysis 5. Bloodstain Analysis 6. mtDNA Analysis 7. Skeletal and Odontology Analysis 8. Forensic Entomology 9. Forensic Botany and Forensic Microbiome	

B. Research Project

GTF 515/20	Forensic Research Project
1. Briefing on research project 2. Discussions with supervisor(s) (≥ 3 hours per week) 3. Seminar on the fundamental skills in research projects 4. Seminar on research proposal 5. Seminar on thesis writing and research publications 6. Presentation of research findings	

School of Health Sciences Administration

Personnel	Phone No. / Email Address
Dean, School of Health Sciences <i>Professor Dr. Wan Rosli Wan Ishak</i>	09-767 7784 wrosli@usm.my
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Notes

Editorial Committee:

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