



## Home Sweet Home

Making a decision to return to Malaysia was an easy enough decision to make for Dr Maya Nagaratnam despite her being abroad for over many years. She explains why.

For over 20 years, Anaesthesiologist & Pain Management Consultant, Dr Maya Nagaratnam has made London her home. But now after having been in the UK since her days of being a medical student, she's made the decisive step to return home to Malaysia. "I always felt that I should come back," Maya reveals. "My friends and family are here and I still have roots in the country, but I always found an excuse to stay in London." Eventually though, her family spurred her eventual home coming. Still despite being a more personal move rather than a professional one, she eventually found out that Malaysia has abundant opportunity for professionals such as herself. "I feel Malaysia is still evolving and it presented an opportunity for me to be a part and contribute towards that evolution."

### As a returning Malaysian, what do you think about the Returning Expert Programme?

I think it's a great concept and I personally think that it has worked very well in grabbing the attention of people overseas. I think now it's sort of entering phase two, as it should, with more and more Malaysians returning under the programme.

I guess now we have to focus on how we can go about making the change or help supporting individuals to make that change.

### What would you advise someone, in a similar position such as yours, who wants to or is thinking of coming back?

I think it would be good to just come back for a visit first and

perhaps speak to someone who has already done it and gauge their experience. It also helps to talk to people who are living here to generally get a better idea. Ultimately, it should be that person's decision if he or she wants to return or not, and it shouldn't be based on other opinions or attractions.

### How has returning back to Malaysia been for you so far?

I've been here nearly a year now and I have to say, the first few months were the toughest as I wondered if I made the right decision. That said, I've thoroughly enjoyed my time back here, although it might take a while for me to fully find my footing and settle back in completely. But I'm getting there and sooner than I thought too.

### Bio

**Name:**  
Maya Nagaratnam  
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Anaesthesiologist &  
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20

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