

## Getting My Second Sabbatical

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I got my sabbatical the sixth time I applied. I applied 5 times and they rejected it. My sabbatical started spring, i.e. February 2002 and ends February 2003 (Spring, Summer and Fall semester). It is a sabbatical without any benefits like tickets. I had to ask for a leave to be spent within Riyadh and that's how I get it. Some of my colleagues were so mad at me because of that because they think I gave up some of my privileges, but I thought about it and had to do what I did. I was planning to go to the states and I was thinking of Oregon. But because of September 11, my plans changed. I did not go anywhere in the first few months because my family would worry about me. I was thinking of another option. So I decide to go to Malaysia because it is a Muslim country, I do not need a visa, they would treat me nicely and my family would not worry about me. Their educational system is also different. So I searched the internet and finally decided to affiliate with the International Islamic University. I sent an e-mail to the dean towards the end of Ramadan and in 2 days, he e-mailed me back and said that I was welcome and asked for what I needed.