

Yes, you can. No, you don't need to fly to New York or know someone at Goldman. A phone, a funded account and a bit of patience will get you there. The first decision is the route. Most Malaysians go through a local broker that offers access to US exchanges, or through an international platform that accepts Malaysian clients. Some local houses, including a few bank-linked ones, let you buy Nasdaq and NYSE names from the same dashboard you use for Bursa shares. It's convenient. It's also usually pricier, with higher commissions and a minimum fee per trade that makes small purchases feel silly.



International brokers often charge less, sometimes nothing per trade, but then you're dealing with a company outside Malaysia. Check which regulator oversees it, and verify that on the regulator's own site. Also look at Securities Commission Malaysia's investor alert list before you deposit anything. The ringgit problem nobody mentions You're buying in US dollars. So your return has two parts: what the stock does, and what USD/MYR does while you hold it. A stock can rise 8% and you still end up flat if the ringgit strengthens enough. I've seen this happen, and it's a strange feeling, like winning a prize and being handed the receipt. Conversion costs matter too. Banks and some brokers add a spread on top of the exchange rate, and it can quietly eat 1% or more each way. Compare a few options before sending money across, especially if you plan to move larger sums. Taxes and paperwork, briefly Malaysia generally doesn't tax capital gains for individuals on shares, but dividends from US companies are different. The US usually withholds 30% from foreign investors unless you've filed the proper form (the W-8BEN) with your broker, which can reduce that. Most brokers walk you through it during signup. Fill it in properly. Skipping it costs real money. Estate rules are worth a quick look as well. US-situs assets above a modest threshold can create headaches for non-US investors' families, and most people never read this until it's too late. Timing, because you live in the wrong time zone The US market opens around 9:30pm Malaysian time and closes near 4am, shifting an hour with daylight saving. That's rough for anyone with a day job. Limit orders let you set a price and go to bed, which beats staring at a screen at 2am making emotional decisions. Fractional shares help if you're starting small, since one Amazon share isn't cheap. Spread your first purchases over several months rather than going all in on a Tuesday night because a video told you to. And consider a broad index fund before individual picks. It's dull, but [Major US stock exchanges](#) dull has a decent record. \*This is general information, not financial advice. Tax and regulatory rules change, so confirm details with a licensed professional before investing.\*