

# Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program - FAQ



## About the Program:

- **Q: What is the Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program?**
  - **A:** It's an initiative of the Australian Government, implemented by Asialink Education, to strengthen intercultural relationships and educational collaboration between Australia and ASEAN nations (excluding Indonesia and Myanmar, including Timor-Leste). The program connects schools, teachers, and students for a two-year partnership.
- **Q: What is the program's philosophy?**
  - **A:** The program is reciprocal (enhancing skills and outlooks), sustainable (building lasting connections), dynamic (ongoing opportunities for connection, learning, and exchange), and focused on whole-school benefits (extending benefits beyond the 8 students and 1 teacher directly involved). It aims to establish active partnerships with regular activities linking schools.
- **Q: What is the context for the program?**
  - **A:** The program celebrates 50 years of the Australia-ASEAN relationship and builds on the 2024 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit's emphasis on people-to-people connections. It provides opportunities for future leaders to learn about and engage with each other across the region.

## Participation:

- **Q: What types of schools are eligible?**
  - **A:** Primary, middle, and secondary schools, urban, regional, and rural schools. Schools with diverse student populations (backgrounds, socio-economic status, learning needs, Indigenous) and a commitment to diversity and inclusion and nurturing global competence amongst students and educators.
- **Q: What are the requirements for a nominated teacher?**
  - **A:** Advanced English language skills, a formally recognized teaching qualification and registration within their country, and at least 5 years of teaching experience (though less may be considered). The program aims for a mix of male and female teachers. Ideally the nominated teacher is a person

# Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program - FAQ



of some authority in the school, who can share key learnings and insights from the program with colleagues, as well as influence and make change. In terms of the teacher's professional registration (or teacher licence), this is any official, recognised national or sub-national registration to teach system (which usually includes criminal history check) applicable in their respective country, which we may require evidence of as part of the teacher nomination following the school selection.

- **Q: How many schools can participate per country?**
  - **A:** Two schools per Southeast Asian country (excluding Indonesia and Myanmar but including Timor-Leste). 18 schools from Australia.
- **Q: Will the program prioritize public schools?**
  - **A:** Public schools will be prioritized; however, the selection is merit-based and commitment-based. A highly committed private school may be selected over a less committed public school. If required, interviews may be organised as part of the selection process.

## Program Logistics:

- **Q: What is the timeline?**
  - **A:** Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been extended until Sunday 15 December 2024 to ensure that schools from across Australia and Southeast Asia have sufficient time to consider this opportunity. School selection will be taking place in December 2024/January 2025. Nominated teacher confirmation & pairing occurs in January/February 2025. Program orientation & initial activities will start in February/March 2025. ASEAN educators visit Australia will be on a personalised basis in consultation with their partner teachers and schools across June-August 2025. Virtual activities and collaboration will continue from September-December 2025. Australian educators will visit their ASEAN partner countries on a personalised basis in consultation with their hosts during January-April 2026. Final reporting is in May/June 2026. Partnership activities are expected to continue beyond July 2026.
- **Q: What are the program inclusions?**
  - **A:** All professional learning and student activities, access to a Canvas LMS, pre-departure webinars and guides, flights, accommodation, most meals (lunches

# Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program - FAQ



provided by host school), visa costs (not required for all countries, but support provided), and comprehensive travel insurance (including health cover) for the reciprocal visits. *Please note that passport costs and any document translation costs are not covered by the program.*

- **Q: Will travel time for visiting teachers be extended for those in regional locations (e.g., Coffs Harbour)?**
  - **A:** Yes, the program will aim for a full five days at the partner school, with additional time to account for travel. Ideally, it will encompass a seven-day visit including a weekend for cultural and social activities.
- **Q: Will the costs associated with the visit and hosting an educator from Australia be covered by partner schools or the BRIDGE programme?**
  - **A:** The costs for professional development and student activities are covered by the program. Flights, accommodation and most meals for the weeklong immersion are also covered. Lunches during the school visit are to be provided by the host school.
- **Q: What activities are expected during the one-week school visit? Are you going to set the activities for us or we set them?**
  - **A:** We will provide some guidance regarding activities to include during the one-week school visit, with a focus on classroom observations, meeting with school leadership, participating in any professional development and/or school community activities, co-teaching if applicable, etc. The schedule will be established in consultation between the host teacher/school and the visiting partner teacher.

## Student & Teacher Activities:

- **Q: What are examples of past student collaborative projects?**
  - **A:** Projects have varied from creating a digital portfolio on an environmental issue affecting both schools to a simple pen-pal exchange. Some examples can be found on the [Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE program website](#) under Program Summary. Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE is Asialink Education's flagship and award-winning school partnerships program supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australia Indonesia Institute. Other examples can be found in our [What Works Report on](#)

# Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program - FAQ



[School Partnerships on a Digital Age](#) published in June 2023 as part of the Australia-China Digital BRIDGE program commissioned by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations.

- **Q: Are there formal guidelines for collaborations?**
  - **A:** Yes, guidelines will be provided. The student forums offer an existing platform for interaction and collaboration.

## Other:

- **Q: Is it possible to see all the questions of the EOI form before filling in the survey?**
  - **A:** Yes, a PDF copy of the EOI form has been added – [see here](#)
- **Q: Will the recording from the information session be available?**
  - **A:** Yes, the recording and slides have been shared with attendees via email and are available online - the [recording can be accessed here](#) (Passcode: fbG!7kqM) and [the slides presented here](#).

Further information can be found on the [program flyer here](#).

For all enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us via [asean-bridge@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:asean-bridge@unimelb.edu.au).