



# Australia–ASEAN BRIDGE Program 2024 - 2026

**Build rewarding partnerships with schools in Australia and Southeast Asia - Express your interest in becoming one of the 36 schools to participate**

The 2024-2026 Australia-ASEAN Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE) School Partnership Program is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, funded through the ASEAN-Australia Centre and implemented by Asialink Education (formerly the Asia Education Foundation) at the University of Melbourne.



## About the Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program

**The Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program 2024 - 2026 will facilitate people-to-people connections between educators and students across Australia and ASEAN Member Countries (except Indonesia and Myanmar) and Timor-Leste.**

**We invite schools to submit an expression of interest to participate in this exclusive opportunity to gain the following benefits:**

- ▶ people-to-people connections for educators and students in primary and secondary schools
- ▶ a chance for educators and students to visit partner schools and learn about their host country
- ▶ sustained partnerships between schools that benefit students and educators
- ▶ opportunities for students to engage with their peers through interactive forums
- ▶ build relationships with peers, learn about social and cultural dynamics and enhance connections across the region.

## Participating schools involvement

Each school selected to participate in the 2024-2026 Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE Program will:

▶ **Nominate one representative teacher to:**

- participate in eight two-hour virtual professional learning sessions
- share what they have learned during professional learning sessions with other teachers in their school
- coordinate partnership activities between their school and the partner school
- visit their partner school for one week\*
- host a visiting teacher from their partner school for one week.

▶ **Select a group of 8 students to:**

- participate in a series of four virtual forums with students from all participating schools
- work with their peers on project activities for sharing with other schools.

*\* If possible, teachers will visit their partner school during a vacation period.*



## Program outcomes

- ✔ Stronger relationships with peers in Australia and throughout Southeast Asia
- ✔ Professional opportunities to exchange know-how and good practices between schools
- ✔ People-to-people connections for educators and students that add regional contexts to their learning
- ✔ A stronger global focus in the learning opportunities offered to your students

## Program requirements



### School requirements

- ▶ Interest in and commitment to global and regional (Australia-ASEAN) engagement
- ▶ Commitment to sustained engagement with one partner school
- ▶ Ability to host one educator for a one-week school visit
- ▶ Supportive school leadership
- ▶ Reliable internet access



### Participants

- ▶ Suitable teaching qualification and registration (bachelor's degree or equivalent)
- ▶ Two-year commitment, including participation in professional learning workshops, reciprocal immersion experiences and school partnership collaboration
- ▶ Adhere to reporting requirements
- ▶ Advanced English language skills
- ▶ Sound computer skills

“Strong people-to-people ties will remain a foundation of our partnership.”

ASEAN-AUSTRALIA LEADERS' VISION STATEMENT 2024

## Program highlights

By participating in the program, your school will:

- ▶ join a dynamic network of 36 schools across ten countries - Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
- ▶ be matched with a partner school in Southeast Asia (for Australian schools) or Australia (for Southeast Asian schools)
- ▶ gain opportunities for teacher and student connections and learning across the region
- ▶ host a visiting educator from a partner school and enable one teacher from your school to travel to their partner school overseas
- ▶ establish foundations for ongoing school partnership that enhance learning opportunities for your students into the future
- ▶ help prepare your students for greater cross-regional collaboration in their future lives

### Program inclusions

- ▶ **18 school partnerships:** The program will establish 18 new school partnerships between Australian and ASEAN+ schools
- ▶ **8 workshops:** The program includes 8 virtual professional learning workshops for nominated educators
- ▶ **4 student forums:** The program includes 4 virtual student forums for up to 8 selected students per school
- ▶ **36 journeys:** All 36 educators will travel to their partner school for a week-long in-country immersive learning experience

## Educator peer relationships

In the dynamic context of ever-changing expectations for schools, this program offers educators in your school unmatched opportunities to enhance their professional practices through engagement with peers around the region.

Program components include:

- ▶ vibrant communities of practice that enable educators to showcase achievements and share resources and know-how
- ▶ quality professional learning workshops in which expert input will expand the awareness of educators on key topics including:
  - developing students' global competence and intercultural understanding
  - supporting students to use design thinking and problem solving to address real-world challenges
  - leveraging the arts to encourage student collaboration in creative projects
  - fostering student curiosity to enhance learning outcomes
- ▶ wrap around support in establishing and maintaining school partnerships through an ongoing program of guidance and support
- ▶ exciting school partnership activities that involve the whole school community in regional partnership
- ▶ international experiences for one teacher in each school, gaining exposure to different cultural practices and expectations around learning that they can share with their colleagues, and can inform school innovations
- ▶ recognition as a school that places preparation of students for an integrated global future at the forefront of their endeavours.

## International exchange

Southeast Asian educators will travel to Australia during June-August 2025, and Australian educators will travel to ASEAN during January 2026 or April 2026.\*

Pre-departure guides and webinars will help teachers plan and prepare for in-country immersive experiences.

*\* If possible, teachers will visit their partner school during a vacation period.*

## Students learn together

Each school will be able to nominate a group of outstanding students to join their peers from around the region in a unique series of student forums. Highlights include:

- ▶ opportunities to strengthen global competence, intercultural understanding and regional relationships
- ▶ a focus on leadership, and the chance to design and implement practical projects that lead to meaningful change in schools and communities
- ▶ the chance to hear from inspiring speakers and to discuss important contemporary challenges with peers from other countries
- ▶ collaborating on projects and showcasing their achievements in a virtual exhibition space.

## Partnership projects

Participating educators will work with their partners to engage students in their respective schools in projects around a theme. Examples from previous BRIDGE projects include:

- ▶ collaborative cultural exchange activities where students link up virtually and exchange information about cultural traditions
- ▶ wellbeing activities where students work together to develop anti-vaping campaigns in their schools
- ▶ environmental projects where students plant trees in both schools and share photos.

To support ongoing partnerships beyond the program, schools will be provided with guidance, support and resources to encourage long-term school partnerships, collaboration and engagement.



# Timeline

October - November 2024: Schools Expressions of Interest (close **Friday 29 November**)

December 2024: School selection

January - February 2025: Confirmation of nominated educators & pairing

February - March 2025: Orientation and commencement of learning activities

April - May 2025: Preparation for ASEAN educators' travel to Australia and continuation of learning activities

June - August 2025: ASEAN educators in Australia

September - December 2025: Preparation for Australian educators' travel to ASEAN and continuation of learning activities

January - April 2026: Australian educators in ASEAN and conclusion of learning activities

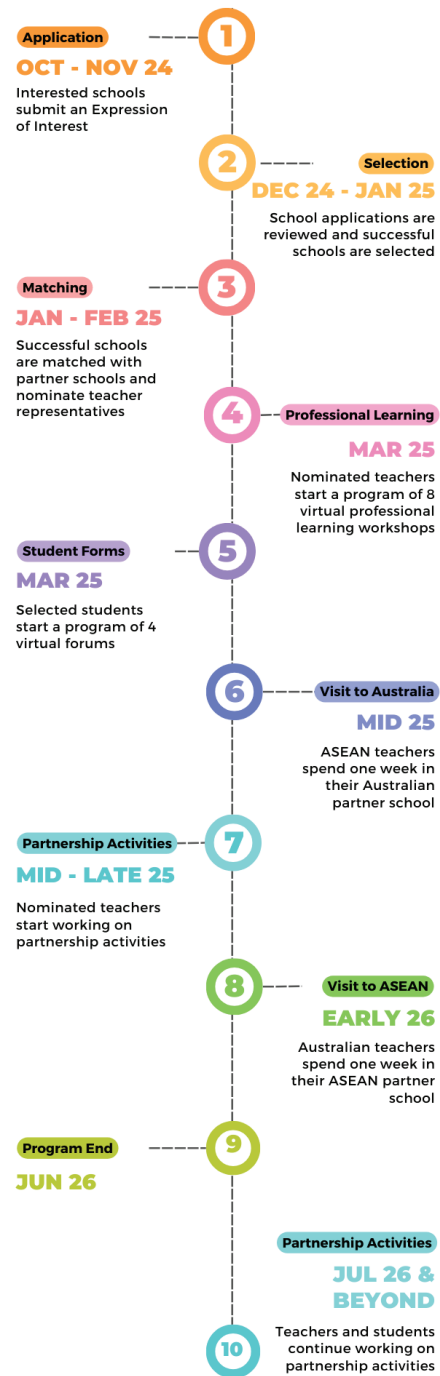
May - June 2026: Reporting

July 2026 and beyond: Schools, teachers and students continue collaborative activities

## Next steps

To submit an Expression of Interest for your school to participate in the 2024-2026 ASEAN BRIDGE program, please complete the form here:

<https://shorturl.at/NRETi>



For more information:

Contact the ASEAN BRIDGE team at Asialink Education



+61 (3) 8344 3590



[Asean-bridge@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Asean-bridge@unimelb.edu.au)



[asialink.unimelb.edu.au/](http://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/)



Level 4, Sidney Myer Asia Centre  
The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010 Australia