



Leading with Asia

Foundational Asia Literacy & Global Awareness Program

Designed for Australian Primary and Secondary Schools

leadingwith-asia@unimelb.edu.au

- ▶ *Leading with Asia* is a foundational, whole class/year level program delivered over one school term (10 weeks) that builds students' Asia engagement, intercultural understanding, and global awareness through structured online learning and live interaction with their peers from partner schools across Asia.
- ▶ Aligned with the Cross-Curriculum Priority *Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia*, the program embeds intercultural communication, empathy, and perspective-taking into regular classroom learning. Students apply a design thinking process to address a real school or community challenge aligned with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals or Good Life Goals, while developing leadership skills and confidence and enhancing their communication skills. The program culminates in a virtual showcase and structured reflection on learning and next steps.

Snapshot

Student Year Levels

Customised for Years 5–6 | Years 7–8 | Years 9–10

Student Groupings

Whole class participation

Student Capacity

Between 200 and 500 students

Timing

1.5 hours per week across one school term
(10 weeks)

Mode

Virtual via Zoom or Teams

Program Highlights

For Students

- Develop intercultural understanding and communication skills through real-life collaboration with peers from schools across Asia
- Demonstrate empathy, confidence, and respect when engaging with diverse perspectives and cultures
- Apply leadership skills to identify and respond to community challenges using a global perspective
- Strengthen critical thinking, collaboration, and creative problem-solving skills through project-based learning
- Gain insight and inspiration from guest speakers to inform learning and future pathways, and
- Build effective presentation and communication skills by showcasing co-designed projects in a virtual setting

For Teachers

- A structured, ready-to-deliver program that reduces teacher planning load while building confidence in teaching Asia-related and intercultural content across key learning areas (e.g. Humanities, English, Civics and Citizenship, Geography)
- Explicitly aligned with the Australian Curriculum Cross-Curriculum Priority: Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia, the Intercultural Understanding (ICU) General Capability, and relevant state or territory curriculum requirements (as requested)
- A dedicated teacher preparation session prior to program delivery
- Tailored classroom-ready teaching resources to support extension activities, and
- Opportunities for teachers to learn from experts about effectively integrating perspectives related to the Asia region into curriculum planning and classroom teaching

For Decision-Makers

- Full term of double-class sessions delivered by experts in global competence
- Suits individual schools or groups of schools, including regional and remote
- A scalable, low-risk approach to embedding the Australian Curriculum Asia priority
- Delivered by qualified Asialink Education teachers and multi-lingual support staff, all holding relevant state or territory Working with Children certificates
- Asian schools and guest speakers are hand-picked by Asialink to match student learning needs
- Professional development opportunity for teachers
- Evidence-based reporting on student learning and engagement outcomes, and
- A strong foundation for future leadership, partnership or language exchange initiatives with partner schools in Asia.

2025 Program Feedback

“I enjoyed learning about different cultures and how different their schools are and how their problems differ.”

Primary Student

“[The Program] was a great opportunity to learn about new ideas and global issues. I got to meet people from different countries and understand the problems they face and their various perspectives. It really helped me grow personally and broaden my worldview”.

Secondary Student

“The program allowed an avenue for our students to reflect and raise issues that they normally had not in the past. This enabled our school to continue the conversation and further improve multiculturalism within our school.”

Teacher

“The professionalism, commitment and thoughtful facilitation demonstrated by Asialink Education ensured a high-quality and truly enriching learning experience, leaving a lasting and positive impact on participating students... Through online collaboration with peers from across the Asia-Pacific region, students strengthened their leadership, communication and teamwork skills while developing global competence and intercultural understanding.”

Senior State Government Official

Program Delivery and Fees

The program will be delivered each term in 2026.

Program fee is \$250 per student (including GST) (\$25 per student per week for a 10 week program). A minimum of 200 students in total is required for this program to take place.

The program is designed for large individual schools, groups of schools or educational jurisdictions in Australia, Asia or the Pacific. Please contact leadingwith-asia@unimelb.edu.au to clarify your students' learning needs.

Express Your Interest

Please complete this form to indicate your interest:

https://q.surveys.unimelb.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_3OhojEda6DeE1q6



Optional Extras

- Program tailoring to special focus areas, e.g. particular learning area curriculum alignment or Asian languages.
- Concluding face-to-face session in a state capital or regional centre (at additional cost)

Sample Program Schedule

Week	Phase	Core Learning Activity
1	Prepare	Unpacking assumptions: Exploration of current views of Asia Introduction to program framework(s)*
2	Connect	Intercultural understanding basics: First interactions to Asian peers What is a global citizen?
3	Empathise	Solving problems: Empathise with peers in your school community Introduction of design thinking
4	Define	Addressing community challenges: Developing a problem tree Inspiration from a Guest Speaker
5	Youth Leadership	Being a Leader: Questioning assumptions about leadership Focus on identification of personal values
6	Ideate	Divergent & Convergent thinking Inspiration from a Guest Speaker
7	Prototype	Progressing plans: Students work on project artefacts (This week is offline, and classroom based)
8	Presentation Skills	Presenting solutions: Presentation skills Giving constructive feedback
9	Grand Showcase	Groups of students present projects to the whole cohort Reflection on strengths and areas to improve
10	Reflect	Learning Synthesis: Summative activities to recap and reinforce Focus on next steps for implementation