



Transcending Boundaries

A Transformative Intercultural Storytelling Initiative

Designed for Australian Primary and Secondary Schools

transcend-boundaries@unimelb.edu.au

- ▶ *Transcending Boundaries* is a specialised intercultural learning program that uses storytelling as a powerful tool to address issues of identity, bias, representation, and inclusion. In a contemporary Australian context shaped by cultural diversity and global media influence, this program supports students to move beyond surface-level understanding, working closely with peers in Asia to develop contemporary stories that blend diverse cultural traditions.
- ▶ Drawing on Asialink Education's three-decade legacy, the program creates structured opportunities for students to engage in deep intercultural dialogue and critically examine narratives. This initiative centres on how stories are told, whose voices are heard, and how young people—including those from minority groups—can share their cultural traditions and contribute to a more inclusive society through ethical communication.

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) – incorporating four virtual sessions and six sessions of guided story development

Mode

Virtual via Zoom or Teams

Program Highlights

For Students

- Collaborate with peers across Asia to explore culture, identity and inclusion
- Critically deconstruct media representations and narratives to identify bias, framing and representation
- Strengthen storytelling skills using structured narrative frameworks to express identities and experiences confidently and creatively
- Develop a story reflecting contemporary themes with peers in Asia, blending diverse cultural perspectives
- Learn from guest experts with deep understanding of the interaction between storytelling, media representation, and intercultural dialogue
- Produce a high-quality, shareable artefact that demonstrates intercultural collaboration and creativity, and
- Strengthen empathy, self-awareness and the ability to engage respectfully with difference, moving beyond stereotypes and surface-level understanding

For Teachers

- A structured, creative program that integrates seamlessly with English, Humanities, Media and Civics curricula
- Professional facilitation that supports safe, thoughtful discussion of identity, bias and inclusion
- Tailored classroom-ready teaching resources to support story-telling evolution between virtual sessions
- Dedicated teacher preparation session prior to program delivery, and
- Modelling of partnered student learning opportunities with peers in schools across Asia.

For Decision-Makers

- A highly visible, values-driven program aligned with holistic wellbeing, school cohesion/inclusion and anti-racism priorities
- Enhanced student awareness of the value of diverse cultural traditions
- Strengthened student abilities in critical evaluation of media and representation
- Tangible student-creative outputs that can be showcased to the school community
- Full term of double-class sessions delivered by experts in global competence
- Suits individual schools or groups of schools, including regional and remote locations
- Delivered by qualified Asialink Education teachers and multi-lingual support staff, all holding relevant state or territory Working with Children Checks
- Asialink hand-picks Asian schools and guest speakers 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 partnership or creative exchange initiatives with partner schools in Asia.

2025 Program Feedback

“People have different perspectives - combining your thought with other peoples’ thought make the story BETTER!”

Primary School Student

“I learned that people from all over the world regardless of differences in their culture, language etc. when all working together can transcend these differences and unite with each other.”

Secondary School Student

“After the program, I observed my students becoming more confident in sharing their perspectives and engaging respectfully with different viewpoints.”

School Teacher

“Schools prepare our future thinkers and leaders. Classrooms are crucial places for igniting curiosity and shaping global citizens.”

Senior Federal Government Official

Program Delivery and Fees

The program will be delivered each term in 2026.

Program fee is \$225 per student (including GST) (\$22.5 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 transcend-boundaries@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 | Format | Core Learning Activity |
|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Briefing & Prep | Offline | In-class introductory activities guided by provided resources |
| 2 | Virtual Session 1 | Online | Storytelling and Culture: Exploring the link between narrative and cultural identity. Meeting their peers |
| 3 | Story Identification | Offline | Asynchronous Task - Guided student work to identify personal or cultural narratives |
| 4 | Virtual Session 2 | Online | Storytelling Components: Mastering communication techniques and representation |
| 5 | Story Development 1 | Offline | Asynchronous Task - Intensive draft phase for student storytelling projects |
| 6 | Story Development 2 | Offline | Asynchronous Task - Intensive draft phase for student storytelling projects |
| 7 | Virtual Session 3 | Online | Story Formatting: Multimodal delivery techniques |
| 8 | Final Prep | Offline | Asynchronous Task - Finalising the medium (digital, written, or oral) for presentation |
| 9 | Virtual Session 4 | Online/ Optional F2F event | Showcase: Story sharing and learning; a combined showcase and peer-learning finale |
| 10 | Evaluation | Offline | Asynchronous Task - Learning evaluation and review of other students' story outputs |