



ASEAN - Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program 2026 - 2027

Build rewarding partnerships with schools in Australia and Southeast Asia. Express your interest in becoming one of the 30 schools to participate in the third cohort of the program.

The ASEAN - Australia Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE) School Partnerships Program is an initiative of the ASEAN-Australia Centre and implemented by Asialink Education (formerly the Asia Education Foundation) at the University of Melbourne.



About the ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE Program

The ASEAN-Australia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program 2026 - 2027 will facilitate people-to-people connections between educators and students across Australia and ASEAN Member States (excluding Indonesia and Myanmar).

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 to visit partner schools and learn about their host country
- ▶ sustained partnerships between schools that benefit students and educator
- ▶ opportunities for students to engage with their peers through interactive activities.
- ▶ 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 ASEAN - Australia BRIDGE Program will:

Nominate one representative teacher to:

- participate in 4 (2 online + 2 in-person) professional learning workshops.
- 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 teacher-led, locally designed collaborative projects — with students from their partner 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 (ASEAN-Australia) engagement
- ▶ Commitment to sustained engagement with one partner school
- ▶ Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in nominating participating teachers and students
- ▶ 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)
- ▶ 18 month commitment, including participation in professional learning workshops, reciprocal immersion experiences and school partnership collaborative activities
- ▶ Adhere to reporting requirements
- ▶ Advanced English language skills: minimum IELTS score of 6 or equivalent
- ▶ 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 86 schools across ten countries - Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, the 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:

- ▶ **15 school partnerships:** The program will establish 15 new school partnerships between Australian and Southeast Asian schools
- ▶ **4 workshops:** The program includes four (2 online + 2 in-person during Melbourne Immersion) professional learning workshops for nominated educators.
- ▶ **4 school partnership sessions:** The program includes a school matching ceremony, a school partnership establishment session, a student engagement session and a school partnership showcase
- ▶ **30 journeys:** All 30 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' digital literacy
 - supporting students to use problem-solving skills to address real-world climate change challenges
 - fostering student curiosity through innovative pedagogy 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 2027, and Australian educators will travel to ASEAN during January 2027 or April 2027.*

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 teacher-led student collaborative activities. Highlights include:

- ▶ opportunities to strengthen 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

Aug - Sept 2026: Schools Expressions of interest

Sept - Oct 2026: School selection

Oct - Nov 2026: Confirmation of nominated educators & pairing

November 2026: Nominated teachers start planning partnership activities

February 2027: Nominated teachers attend professional learning workshops

March 2027: Nominated teachers are supported to facilitate collaborative student projects.

Jan/Apr 2027: Australian teachers spend one week in their ASEAN partner schools

June 2027: Australian and ASEAN teachers meet in Melbourne for a two-day immersion and ASEAN teachers spend one week in their Australian partner schools

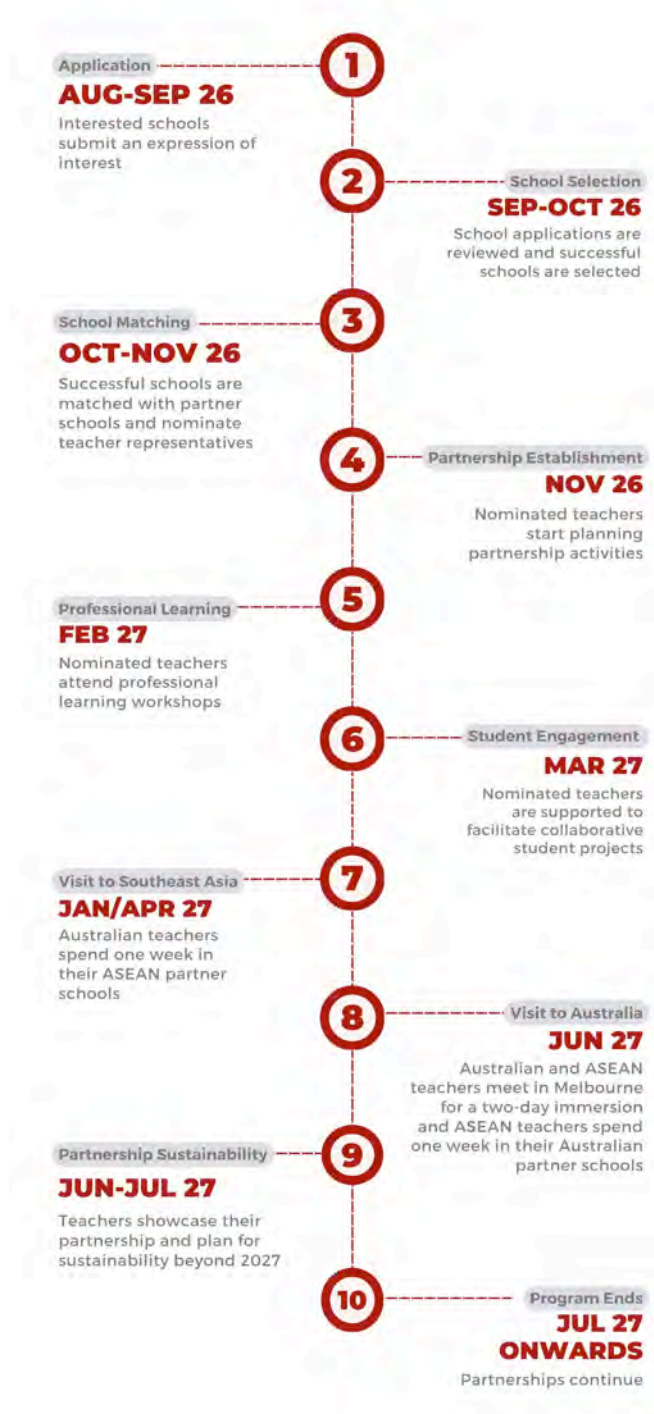
June - July 2027: Teachers showcase their partnerships and plan for sustainability beyond 2027

July 2027 onwards: Partnerships continue

Next steps

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

<https://go.unimelb.edu.au/t8eh>



For more information:

Contact the ASEAN BRIDGE team at Asialink Education



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