



Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program

2027 SCHOOL SELECTION INFORMATION

Applications Open: Monday, 5th October 2026

Applications Close: Friday, 6th November 2026

Application Link: <https://www.bridge-program.org/australian-applicants>

The Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program is supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and implemented by Asialink Education at The University of Melbourne.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

 **Asialink**
EDUCATION

Contents

About the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program	3
Program Information	3
Program goal	4
Program outcomes.....	4
Program Funding	4
Applying for the 2027 Indonesia BRIDGE Program.....	5
2027/2028 BRIDGE Program Dates for Australian Schools	6
BRIDGE Grant Opportunities	7
Next steps	7
Alignment to the Australian Curriculum.....	8
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Standards	8
Building Asia Capability.....	8
Cross-Cutting Priorities.....	8



About the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program

The BRIDGE (Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement) Program establishes school partnerships between Australia and Indonesia. The Program provides professional learning (online, in-person and in-country immersion) and connects students through global classroom activities.

Program Information

Location

In Australia schools for the 2027 BRIDGE Program will be selected from **Queensland and Victoria**. In Indonesia, schools will be selected from the provinces of **Banten, Yogyakarta, South Kalimantan, North Sulawesi, South Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara**.

Curriculum

Participation in the BRIDGE Program is open to teachers from across all learning areas. BRIDGE is not restricted to teachers or schools that teach Bahasa Indonesia.

Program inclusion

Ten Australian schools will be selected for the 2027 program:

- Seven new schools will be matched with an Indonesian school.
- Three BRIDGE alumni school (inactive partnerships).

Since 2008, the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program has established 263 school partnerships and provided professional learning to 987 teachers across Australia and Indonesia. The BRIDGE Program is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government and implemented by Asialink Education, University of Melbourne.

Key program commitments

- Participate in an in-person professional learning program to be facilitated in Melbourne with Indonesian partners from the 12 – 15 August 2027.
- Host two Indonesian educators from 15 – 20 August 2027 as part of the school visit and homestay program.
- Travel to Indonesia for an in-country 10-day Immersion Program and partner school visit program 13 – 23 January (incl) 2028.
- Following participation, schools and educators become part of the BRIDGE alumni network, with opportunities to participate in ongoing professional learning, stakeholder engagement activities and grant opportunities.

**Dates may be subject to change.*

“For me every aspect of the school visit was extraordinary. Being able to visit the school in person, meet the students, teachers and parents was an invigorating experience... Overall, it has reinforced how important our partnership is and how effective and useful it can be to broaden our students' and teachers' intercultural understanding.”

2024 Australian BRIDGE Teacher

Program Goal

To support stronger people-to-people relationships between Australia and Indonesia through enhancing teacher skills and mutual understanding.

Program Outcomes

1. Participating educators demonstrate sustained improvements in pedagogical skills, including applying digital and student-centred teaching practices.
2. Participating educators establish and sustain partnerships between Australia and Indonesia.

Program Funding

The BRIDGE Program covers the following school / teacher participation costs:

Indonesian teacher school visit / homestay in Australia

- Return domestic flights (where required) and accommodation for the Australian teacher to Melbourne where in-person professional learning program will be facilitated.
- A per diem for the Australian teacher hosting an Indonesian teacher as part of school visit/home stay program. In 2026 this was \$350 for each Indonesian teacher hosted.

Australian teacher school visit in Indonesia

- Return International flight to Indonesia departing from the nearest Australian international airport.
- Accommodation in Indonesia
- Group meals
- Ground transport
- Site visits
- Per diem for Australian teachers to pay for: e visa, international roaming package of their choice, meals during school visit program and incidentals. In 2026 the per diem was \$350.
- Guest Travel insurance for Australian teacher is provided through the University of Melbourne.

The Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program does not cover costs related to:

- Teacher replacement costs for program participation

Applying for the 2027 Indonesia BRIDGE Program

The Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program selection process is managed by Asialink Education. Australian school applications will be ranked according to the quality of school and teacher responses in the application form. As part of the selection process, Asialink Education seeks to establish a diverse and representative cohort of schools that reflects different school contexts, locations, leadership structures and educational communities. Final school selection also takes into consideration matching Australian schools with Indonesian schools.

School Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a registered Australian primary or secondary school;
2. Located in Queensland or Victoria.
3. Nominate one (and a maximum of two) teacher to represent their school and engage with the matched Indonesian partner educators for two years and;
4. Commit to hosting two Indonesian partner teachers within the school community for the duration of the six-day school visit/homestay program.

School Selection Criteria

1. Describe your school's goals for participating and the benefits you expect to gain from the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program;
2. Describe how your school will demonstrate sustained commitment to partnering with a school in Indonesia as part of the BRIDGE program;
3. Identify one way in which your school can promote collaboration with a prospective Indonesian partner school and;
4. Describe any initiatives, activities, or priorities for your school in promoting Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (e.g., school programs that support students with disabilities, demographic profile, professional learning programs, collaboration with allied health workers, respectful relationships programs)

Teacher Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a qualified teacher in Australia (hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent);
2. Employed at the applying school (ongoing or fixed-term contract);
3. Two-year commitment, including participation in professional learning workshops, reciprocal immersion experiences and school partnership collaborative activities and
4. Endorsed by the school principal to participate in the program.

Teacher Selection Criteria

1. Why do you want to participate in the BRIDGE Program?

Please note that other information provided in the application and interview process will be used to support establishing the school partnership.

2027/2028 BRIDGE Program Dates for Australian Schools

Date	Event
5 October 2026	Australia Indonesia BRIDGE Program applications open Application Link: https://www.bridge-program.org/australian-applicants
13 October 2026	Online Information session: Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm AEST 5:00pm – 6:00pm AEDT Registration Link: https://tinyurl.com/BRIDGE-Online-Info-Session
6 November 2026	Australian school applications close for the 2027 cohort
16 – 18 November 2026	Online interviews with shortlisted Australian schools / educators
By 1 March 2027	School selection process completed. Selected schools will be notified following assessment and partnership matching with an Indonesian school.
1 May 2027	Virtual welcome ceremony for the 2027 Australia–Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships.
5 May – 5 June 2027	One-to-one Australia–Indonesia partnership meetings supported by Asialink Education.
8 – 11 June 2027	Pre-Departure Training program for Indonesian teachers facilitated in Indonesia.
12 – 22 August 2027 (incl)	Indonesian teachers travel to Australia for the Immersion Program in Melbourne.
12 – 15 August 2027 (incl)	Australian (Queensland and Victoria) teachers travel to Melbourne to participate in an in-person professional learning program to be facilitated in Melbourne with Indonesian partners.
1 June – 30 November 2027	Preparation for Australian teachers' travel to Indonesia, including applying for teacher state government international travel approvals.
13 – 23 January 2028 (incl)	Australian teachers travel to Indonesia for the cultural immersion and partner-school visit program.
2028 onwards	Schools continue partnership activities, global classroom initiatives, professional learning and eligible BRIDGE grant opportunities.

Please note that dates are subject to change.

BRIDGE Grant Opportunities

Following participation in the BRIDGE Program, alumni will have the opportunity to apply for BRIDGE grants to support ongoing partnership activities.

BRIDGE Collaborative Projects Grant

Value: \$5,000

The BRIDGE Collaborative Projects Grant aims to support partnerships in developing and facilitating global classroom programs that focus on:

- a) student engagement through peer collaboration and digital pedagogy, or
- b) professional learning with partner schools emphasizing Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion and Climate Change.

The BRIDGE Collaborative Projects Grants will be advertised annually through an online application process.

Lighthouse School Partnerships Grant

Value: \$5000

The Lighthouse School Partnership Grant will identify and recognize high-performing BRIDGE partnerships by awarding them Lighthouse School status. This designation acknowledges outstanding educators and enables these schools to contribute to professional learning networks, host visiting dignitaries, and serve as role models for new and existing partnerships. Teachers from Lighthouse Schools will be appointed as BRIDGE Ambassadors, a new initiative for 2026 – 2029.

BRIDGE Ambassadors roles include:

- supporting professional learning activities, as trainers/facilitators
- contributing to Professional Learning Network events, by sharing knowledge and experiences
- promoting the BRIDGE program to stakeholders and other BRIDGE schools

Next steps

Download and complete the three-part application form in Word:

- [Section 1 School Information](#)
- [Section 2 School Leader Endorsement](#)
- [Section 3 Teacher Information](#)

Upload completed application forms to:

https://q.surveys.unimelb.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_d0wwmzEPrAylAvk

Register for the online Information Session

- **Date:** 13 October 2026,
- **Time:** 4:00pm – 5:00pm AEST | 5:00pm – 6:00pm AEDT
- **Registration Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/BRIDGE-Online-Info-Session>

Visit the website for more information: <https://www.bridge-program.org/>

Contact the team at: bridge@asialink.unimelb.edu.au

Alignment to the Australian Curriculum

- **Cross Curricular Priority:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia and Sustainability.
- **General Capabilities:** Intercultural Understanding; Digital Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Standards

The BRIDGE Professional Learning Program has been designed to address the following AITSL Standards

- 1.3 Students with diverse and linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds
- 2.6 Information and Communication Technology
- 3.4 Select and use resources
- 6.3 Engage with colleagues and improve practice
- 7.4 Engage with professional teaching networks and broader communities

Building Asia Capability

On 30 June 2026 the House Standing Committee on Education and Employment released the report '[Security and Prosperity in Asia: Building Asia Capability in Australia through the Education System and Beyond](#)'. This report highlights the impact of the BRIDGE Program in supporting Asia Capability and Intercultural Understanding:

Initiatives such as the BRIDGE program demonstrate how authentic, ongoing collaboration with peers in Asia can transform students' understanding and make intercultural learning real.

I benefited from a school system that valued Indonesian. A school exchange to Surabaya supported by the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program profoundly shaped my life and strengthened my desire to build a career connected to Indonesia and through my studies, I was able to learn more about the country I am from. These opportunities and lessons depended on dedicated teachers with a passion for what they do.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has identified cross-cutting priorities that are integral to international development programs.

DFAT's **Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion** framework ensures that gender equality, disability equity, and social inclusion are central to all development investments, promoting rights, equitable opportunities, and preventing marginalisation.

Climate Change and Sustainability Education: DFAT is focused on identifying and addressing climate risks and promoting climate action.

