BRIDGE develops global competence and builds student engagement between Australia and Asia. BRIDGE develops students to be global citizens who have:

- Deeper intercultural understanding
- Real-life digital capability
- New knowledge of Asia and Australia
- Strengthened language skills

What is BRIDGE?
The Australia-Asia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program equips students to be ready for the world.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE & GROWING ENGAGEMENT

BRIDGE is an international program that establishes school partnerships between teachers, students and school communities. BRIDGE students collaborate on projects, practice language skills and develop life-long friendships with students at their partner school.

BRIDGE supports teachers to use technologies to open their classrooms to the world. The BRIDGE blended model of teacher professional learning includes face-to-face and online learning plus an international travel and homestay program with partner schools.
GLOBAL COMPETENCE MEANS INTERCULTURAL COLLABORATION, ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL ISSUES, UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCE AND A SHARED RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

Global competency for an inclusive world, OECD, 2016

BRIDGE is widely acknowledged as a world class program

- Awarded Best Practice in International Education by the International Education Association of Australia, 2016
- Acknowledged as Leading Educational Innovation at the Australian Education Ministers Biennial National Education Forum, 2012
- Shortlisted for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations – BMW Award for Intercultural Innovation, 2011

Next year, the BRIDGE Program will grow to include Cambodia, Japan, Laos and Myanmar.

BRIDGE STATS

Operated since 2008

Grown to include 11 COUNTRIES

Established 330 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS across Asia

Connected 660 SCHOOLS

Directly involved 985 TEACHERS

Impacted over 100,000 STUDENTS

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CHINA

Year 1-6 students from North Sydney Demonstration School in New South Wales collaborate with students at Shandong Normal University Primary School in China via regular videoconferencing to enhance their Chinese and English language practice.

INDONESIA

Students at Marlborough Primary School in Victoria and MIN Cempaka Putih in Jakarta, Indonesia explored contemporary religion through identifying the similarities and differences between their cultures. The schools jointly published a bilingual book to profile the commonalities between students in both countries.

INDIA

Teachers at St Frances De Sales College in South Australia and Delhi Public School in India developed a Digital Citizenship License Education Program for students and established a joint virtual excursion program to share their learning experiences.

SOUTH KOREA

Partner teachers from Wynnum State High School in Queensland and Suwon Foreign Language High School in South Korea established an innovative school partnership linking the economics and English learning areas with two new curriculum units called 'Doing business in Korea' and 'Business English'.

MALAYSIA

Teachers at the Southport School in Queensland worked with their partner, SMK Abdul Rahman Talib, in Pahang, Malaysia on a project to implement new pedagogies to cater for different learning styles and explored contemporary Malaysian texts in English literature.

THAILAND

Students from Canberra Grammar School in the Australian Capital Territory and Yothinburana School in Bangkok, Thailand exchanged digital stories via Tellagamis to share their findings on collaborative science experiments.

View a series of videos about Australia-Asia BRIDGE School Partnerships here: asiaeducation.edu.au/bridge_videos
Teacher support

BRIDGE builds teacher capacity to connect classrooms to the world and grow sustainable school partnerships.

Teachers are supported to develop and sustain a collaboration plan to link their classroom to their overseas partner school.

### THE BRIDGE PROGRAM PROVIDES

- Connection to a partner school
- Joint professional learning sessions in Australia and Asia with partner teachers
- Homestays with partner teacher
- Development of a curriculum collaboration plan between partner schools
- Support to integrate global collaboration into teaching and learning in specific learning areas
- Opportunities for students to use new technologies to learn with peers in their partner school
- Strategies to engage whole school communities in the partnership
- Optional overseas learning experiences for students as the partnership develops

### BRIDGE teacher outcomes

- 81% strengthened ICT skills
- 71% reported increased student engagement in language classes
- 83% improved second language proficiency
- 97% strengthened intercultural understanding
- 95% expanded knowledge and awareness of the histories, geographies, literatures, arts and cultures of their partner countries

Source: What Works 6, Australia-Asia school partnerships, 2014
Student outcomes

Research indicates that understanding your own cultural traditions, values and beliefs and engaging with the experiences and ideas of others, is the foundation to becoming a responsible local and global citizen.

Teachers have indicated that students who have participated in BRIDGE have demonstrated the following learning outcomes.

- 67% strengthened ICT skills
- 92% expanded knowledge and awareness of the histories, geographies, literatures, arts and cultures of their partner countries
- 90% strengthened intercultural understanding
- 68% strengthened language skills and had real life applications for use and practice

Source: What Works 6, Australia-Asia school partnerships, 2014

BRIDGE IS FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE FUTURE.

Australian Foreign Minister
The Hon Julie Bishop MP
FAQ

Who should participate in BRIDGE?
Any teacher or school aiming to develop global competence, Asia capability or use innovative pedagogies for their students.

Does BRIDGE require languages ability?
A school partnership can collaborate across any learning area. Languages ability is not a requirement of the program, however learning the language of your partner school can offer additional learning outcomes.

How long is the commitment to a BRIDGE program?
BRIDGE is structured around a 12-month program of professional learning with a view to equip teachers with the ability to self-manage the ongoing partnership.

How many students need to be involved?
Usually BRIDGE partnerships begin between a specific class at an Australian school and an appropriately matched classroom in Asia. This often expands within each school as the program grows.

How many teachers need to be involved?
BRIDGE school partnerships are initially led by one teacher, however there is no limit on how many teachers can be involved in the collaboration.

Does BRIDGE operate as an extracurricular activity?
Most BRIDGE school partnerships operate as a classroom activity as part of a learning area curriculum. The professional learning program enables teachers to establish a school partnership that can support their current learning and teaching programs.

What’s involved with hosting your partner school and being hosted?
It’s expected that one BRIDGE teacher from each school will host their partner teacher in their home for one homestay period (7-10 days depending on the program).

What funding support is available?
Most BRIDGE programs receive funding support from government organisations. Check details of the program you are applying for at asiaeducation.edu.au/BRIDGE

How can I register for a BRIDGE School Partnership?
Registrations are open throughout the year. To read about our upcoming program and to register, visit asiaeducation.edu.au/BRIDGE
Asia Education Foundation (AEF) is Australia’s premier organisation providing schools with interactive student programs, international school partnerships, teacher professional learning, curriculum resources, research and networks to educate a generation of globally-ready young Australians.

Our programs focus on students, teachers, school leaders and school communities. Our goal is to develop a global mindset and skillset for all young Australians that includes intercultural understanding, language learning and an understanding of Australia’s place in the world and our region.

Key partners
The Australian Government provides support to the BRIDGE program.

— Department of Education and Training
— Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
  - Australia-Indonesia Institute
  - Australia-ASEAN Council
  - Australia-Korea Foundation

Get in touch

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