Indonesian Language Learning Ambassadors

Australia Awards

OVERVIEW

The Indonesian Language Learning Ambassador (ILLA) program was initially launched in 2017 and ran through to 2019. It was then paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following former Indonesian President Joko Widodo's visit to Australia in July 2023, a joint announcement with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese kickstarted ILLA once again in Australian primary and secondary schools.

In early 2024, Australia Awards in Indonesia relaunched the ILLA program, now including university partners along with schools. In 2025 the program will continue to engage new host institution partners across Australia.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

E: ILLA@australiaawardsindonesia.org

W: www.australiaawardsindonesia.org

AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Australia Awards are prestigious and transformational scholarship program for emerging leaders from developing countries, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Australia Awards recipients involved in ILLA are scholars already living in Australia and studying a Masters or PhD program across a range of disciplines at an Australian university. Scholarship recipients come from a range of diverse backgrounds, with teachers well represented among them.

At any given time, there are over 300 Indonesian Australia Awards scholars in Australia.

When they complete their program, scholars return to Indonesia to use their knowledge, skills, and experience to contribute to Indonesia's development, prosperity, and resilience.

WHAT IS ILLA?

The Indonesian Language Learning Ambassadors (ILLA) program matches participating Australian schools and universities with an 'ambassador': an Indonesian scholar funded by the Australian Government.

The ILLA program provides Australian Government-funded scholars from Indonesia with an opportunity to directly engage with Australian schools or universities and learn first-hand about Australian culture, community, and classroom teaching practices. It also enables ambassadors to establish local Australian community connections.

Australian schools and universities engaged in the program will benefit from passionate and engaged scholars willing to share their language, knowledge, cultural perspectives, and enthusiasm about Indonesia. School and university students involved with the program will improve their knowledge and understanding of Indonesia through direct experiences with an ambassador.

ILLA Benefits

Benefits for Schools:

Enhance Indonesian Language Skills

- Simple and effective way to engage students in Indonesian language learning.
- Provides firsthand experience of Indonesian language and culture.
- Offers a fully funded, teaching resource to assist school and university language teachers.

Deepen Cultural Awareness

- Fosters understanding of Indonesia, creating culturally inclusive students.
- Stimulates interest in learning Indonesian.

Benefits for Universities:

Rich Linguistic Experience

- Students interact with native Indonesian speakers, exposing them to diverse accents.
- Enriches class content with real-world, contemporary perspectives from Indonesia.

Cross-Cultural Understanding

- Encourages the development of relationships with future Indonesian leaders.
- Promotes global citizenship.

Benefits for Scholars:

Professional Experience

- Opportunities to practice teaching, public speaking, and cultural exchange.
- Work in Australian classrooms, gaining valuable teaching and presentation experience.

Cultural Immersion

- Immersion in Australian culture while sharing Indonesian traditions.
- Experience Australian education systems, gaining insights into global perspectives.

ILLA Outcomes

For Schools:

- Increase students' proficiency in Indonesian.
- Exposure to Indonesian culture and contemporary life.

For Universities:

- Exposure to native Indonesian speakers and diverse cultural perspectives.
- Strengthen ties between Indonesia and Australia.

For Ambassadors:

- Greater professional and personal growth.
- Opportunities for international networking and cross-cultural exchange.

ILLA Cost and Support

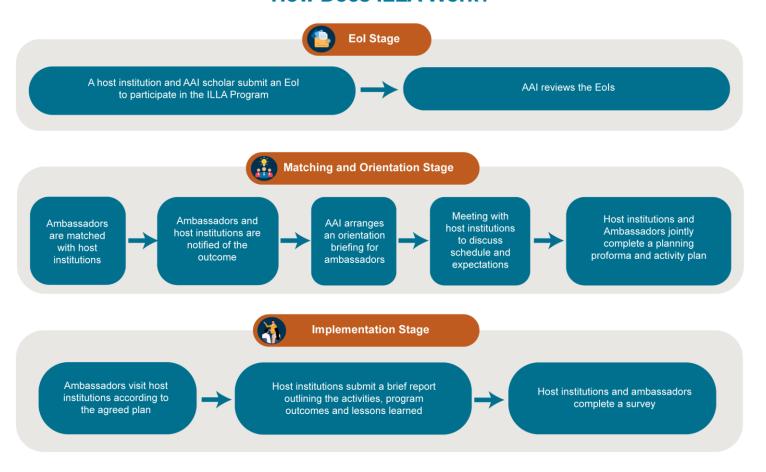The program is voluntary, with some financial support for ambassadors to cover transport, meals, and activities.

- No cost to schools or universities.
- Australia Awards Indonesia assists with matching schools and ambassadors, obtaining necessary checks, providing orientation for ambassadors, facilitating engagement, and monitoring.

VISIT FREQUENCY AND FLEXIBILITY

Ambassadors are full-time Master's and PhD students and may have other commitments.

Flexible Visit Schedules	Visit Options
- Flexibility is key: schools and universities can negotiate visit frequency. - The ideal number of visits is six per term or semester.	- Regular visits for deeper engagement - Intensive short-term visits for regional areas.

How Does ILLA Work?

EoI Stage

A host institution and AAI scholar submit an EoI to participate in the ILLA Program → AAI reviews the EoIs

Matching and Orientation Stage

Ambassadors are matched with host institutions → Ambassadors and host institutions are notified of the outcome → AAI arranges an orientation briefing for ambassadors → Meeting with host institutions to discuss schedule and expectations → Host institutions and Ambassadors jointly complete a planning proforma and activity plan

Implementation Stage

Ambassadors visit host institutions according to the agreed plan → Host institutions submit a brief report outlining the activities, program outcomes and lessons learned → Host institutions and ambassadors complete a survey

Who can apply to be an ILLA ambassador?

- Indonesian citizens enrolled in a PhD or Master's program in Australia on an Australian Government scholarship
- Beyond their first semester of study
- Residing in Australia for the duration of ILLA
- Maintaining a strong academic record
- Passionate about cross-cultural exchange, community engagement, and innovative teaching practices
- Eager to bring diverse perspectives, energy, and enthusiasm to foster global citizenship and intercultural learning in the classroom
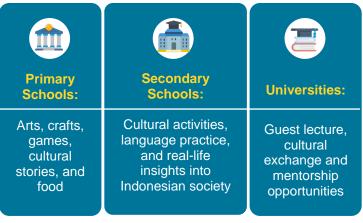
Past ambassadors are welcome to re-apply.

NATURE OF ENGAGEMENT

A broad range of activities are possible, depending on students' year level and language abilities, and the interests and background of each ILLA ambassador.

Range of Activities

Primary Schools:	Secondary Schools:	Universities:
Arts, crafts, games, cultural stories, and food	Cultural activities, language practice, and real-life insights into Indonesian society	Guest lecture, cultural exchange and mentorship opportunities

These are just a few suggestions. Please feel free to discuss with our team if you have any other ideas as we would love to hear them.

How to apply to be an ILLA ambassador?

- Submit Your EoI:**https://oz.link/ILLASecondCohort2025**
- Applications close: **11 June 2025**
- Matching Process: **mid-June 2025**
- Orientation Process: **Early July 2025**
- Expected ILLA Program Start: **Early August 2025**

Online Info Session ILLA: **4 June 2025 (RSVP by 2 June 2025: https://oz.link/InfoSessionILLA)**