

News | Professional Development | For Students | Resources

News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the September/October edition of the Global Learning and Engagement newsletter.

As we commence Term 4, it is an opportunity for us to reflect on the valuable contribution international education and global learning make to Victorian schools and communities.

Recent student visa reforms have highlighted the importance of continuing to provide high-quality educational experiences for students and families. International students contribute significantly to learning in our schools by bringing diverse perspectives and helping Victorian students develop the intercultural skills needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. As the policy landscape evolves, the department remains committed to ensuring international students feel supported throughout their educational journey, from their classroom and wellbeing experience to their homestay and broader school community.

These priorities were reflected at the Australian International Education Agents Conference (AIECA) recently and will continue to be explored at the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC), where IEPD will contribute to discussions on industry challenges, future trends and opportunities for the school sector.

As we move through Term 4, I look forward to seeing the impact of the GL&E programs, partnerships and student-led initiatives featured in this edition, and how they continue to enhance global learning and strengthen school communities.



2026 Victorian Young Leaders to China program concludes

The 2026 Victorian Young Leaders to China (VYLC) program recently concluded, giving Year 9 and 10 students the opportunity to build their Chinese language skills and learn about Chinese culture. Over the 2-week-program, students completed more than 10 hours of intensive language learning with expert educators from Beijing Language and

Culture University. They also took virtual tours of the iconic sites such as the Great Wall of China and participated in language and cultural exchanges with schools in Jiangsu.

A key highlight of the program was the action-packed Amazing Race through Chinatown, hosted by the Museum of Chinese Australian History. Students put their teamwork, problem-solving and language skills to the test before hearing from Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Mathew Hilakari MP, Ms Liu Dongyuan, Deputy Consul General of the People's Republic of China, and Mark Wang, CEO of the Museum of Chinese Australian History.

One participating student described the program as a 'fascinating and fun learning experience', connecting what they had learned in the virtual classroom with real-world cultural experiences.

If your school is interested in participating in the 2027 VYLC program, email us at: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Student Ambassador Project 2026 highlights

The fifth annual Student Ambassador Project concluded this term with a student-led closing forum, bringing together students from across Victoria to celebrate their achievements and reflect on their learning throughout the year.

Following the opening forum in February, participating students worked in their schools and with interschool partners to design and deliver projects addressing global challenges. Building on themes including respect, diversity and inclusion, and mental and physical health, students developed initiatives aimed at raising awareness and creating positive change within their school communities.

The projects demonstrated impressive creativity and leadership. Student initiatives included writing competitions, video interviews, online debates and cultural celebration days. Many activities highlighted food and dance, while also incorporating fundraising and social engagement opportunities.

The closing forum provided students with an opportunity to share the outcomes of their projects, celebrate successes and reflect on the impact of their work.

The project will also be featured at the AIEC later this month, where IEPD will highlight its contribution to strengthening student leadership and intercultural understanding.

To hear from the participating students from this year, see: 2026 Student Ambassador Project experience.



Explore sister school partnerships in Korea and Taiwan

Victorian schools currently have opportunities available to establish sister school partnerships with schools in Korea and Taiwan.

Sister school partnerships offer valuable experiences that connect students with peers overseas, develop intercultural capabilities, practise language skills and build respect for cultural and worldview diversity.

They also give teachers the chance to share ideas and perspectives, strengthen community connections and integrate global learning into the classroom.

Schools looking to embed global learning and help students become confident global citizens are encouraged to explore sister school partnerships.

Complete the expression of interest form to register interest in the current partnerships with Korea and Taiwan or to learn more about other partnership opportunities.

For more information, visit: Sister schools or email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Professional Development



Applications open: 2027 Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program

Applications are now open for the 2027 Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnership Program, a fully funded professional learning and school partnership opportunity for Australian and Indonesian schools.

The program is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and implemented by Asialink Education at the University of Melbourne.

Through sustainable school partnerships, the program supports educators and students to deepen intercultural understanding, strengthen global citizenship capabilities, and build lasting connections between Australia and Indonesia.

Applications close on 6 November 2026 at 10:00pm.

To find out more and apply, visit: Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE School Partnerships Program 2027.

For Students



Plan to attend the Global Youth Forum in 2027

The Global Youth Forum (GYF) will run in Terms 1 and 2, 2027, for students in Years 9 and 10.

The program gives students the opportunity to work with peers from schools across the Asia-Pacific region to explore the concepts of global citizenship and identity and study current challenges facing communities around the world.

Through a range of collaborative activities, students will:

- investigate global challenges and their impact on communities
- use design thinking to develop creative ideas and possible solutions
- take part in a group design challenge to develop and prototype a solution to a global issue.

The program aligns with the capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities of the Victorian F–10 Curriculum Version 2.0, as well as the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) 2.0, with a focus on leadership and engagement.

Registrations for the program will open in Term 1, 2027. Please visit the GYF webpage for registration details and further information. For enquiries, email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Emerging Leaders Forum returns in 2027

The Emerging Leaders Forum will be delivered in Terms 1 and 2 of 2027, bringing together Victorian students in Years 5 to 8 with students from schools across the Asia-Pacific region.

The interactive program offers two streams tailored to primary school students in Years 5 and 6, and junior secondary students in Years 7 and 8. It provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, connect with peers from different cultures and build their understanding of the Asia-Pacific region.

Through the program, students will:

- explore their leadership strengths and teamwork skills
- develop intercultural communication and collaboration skills
- build their understanding of the Asia-Pacific region and engage with different perspectives and experiences
- explore the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global citizenship.

ELF also provides schools with an early entry point for global learning and engagement, supporting teachers to incorporate international perspectives and connections into their curriculum and student engagement programs.

Registrations for the program will open in Term 1, 2027. Please visit our ELF webpage for registration details and further information.

For enquiries, email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Resources



New module explores global learning and engagement

Schools are invited to undertake a new online professional development module on LearnEd, designed to support understanding of how to foster connections between people from diverse cultures, communities and networks. This module unpacks the ‘Relationships and engagement’ and ‘Measuring impact’ dimensions of the Global Learning and Engagement Framework.

Key learning outcomes include:

- identifying opportunities to engage with global perspectives
- designing programs that facilitate intercultural connection
- planning overseas excursions that enable students to experience diverse traditions, cultures and customs
- measuring the impact of initiatives designed to facilitate intercultural connections.

This is the third module in the series, following Establishing Global Learning Partnerships and Global Learning and Engagement Framework.

To complete the Relationships and Engagement for Global Learning module, visit: LearnEd.

Follow us on social

Copyright © State Government of Victoria, Department of Education, 2026

Department of Education
International Education and Partnerships Division
200 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3002

Contact us at: international@education.vic.gov.au

Subscribe to this newsletter

To unsubscribe, contact: international.marketing@education.vic.gov.au

GLOBAL LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

VICTORIA State Government Australia