2023

AUSTRALIA-CHINA DIGITAL BRIDGE

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Who:
Applications are open for any teacher from any Australian school.

When:
Professional Learning Program commences Monday 27th February and occurs weekly on Wednesdays until 31st May 2023.

Where:
This program will be delivered online via Zoom.

Cost:
With funding from the National Foundation of Australia-China Relations in Australia, participation in this program is free for all Australian schools.

Apply:

melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebXZ7NAo2nX4tvg

The Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program is a collaborative, international, professional learning partnership program for educators across Australia and China. The program is an initiative funded by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations and implemented by the Asia Education Foundation at Asialink, University of Melbourne.

Digital BRIDGE is a series of expert-led, online, collaborative, professional learning sessions. Participating teachers will build professional knowledge and skills in a range of areas including, digital pedagogies, digital teaching and learning tools, intercultural understanding, Asia and Australia engagement and global competencies. Participants will develop and strengthen a sustainable informal school partnership between their Australian school and a partner school in China and design a collaborative, inter-disciplinary, student learning initiative between their schools.

This experience promotes cultural exchange, builds participants' own intercultural understanding and establishes international collaboration between schools, teachers and students on issues of shared global importance.

DIGITAL BRIDGE:

- Builds teachers' capability to develop authentic digital and intercultural learning experiences for students.
- Supports teachers to explore new pedagogies and use technologies to open their classrooms to promote global citizenship and competence.
- Supports teachers to design engaging, online learning experiences.
- Supports students to collaborate on learning engagements, build their global competence and develop international relationships.
- Supports people-to-people links between Australia and China.
- A total of 20 hours AITSL aligned professional learning with evidence of completion.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Digital BRIDGE will be delivered in two cohorts: cohort one in October to December 2022 and cohort two in February to May 2023.

In 2023 (cohort 2), 20 Australian schools and 20 schools from across China (including Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools) will be selected to participate. Participating schools can allocate one (1) to two (2) teachers to participate in the professional learning program.

This program will total 20 hours of professional learning and aligns to the AITSL standards. Participants will be provided with evidence of program completion for their records.

Chinese language ability is not a requirement for Australian teachers to take part in this program, although it can offer added learning outcomes. However, sound English capability is required by Chinese teachers to participate in the program.

The professional learning program includes:

- Nine x 90-minute online workshops
- One online half-day 'design sprint' designing a collaborative student learning initiative focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- A whole-school engagement approach incorporating; a school leaders round table, teacher professional learning program and a student challenge
- A collaborative school partnership student initiative
- Design thinking methodologies, digital pedagogies and inquiry learning approaches

2023 COHORT 2 SCHEDULE

The following timeline is indicative only and is subject to change.

DATE	ACTIVITY
Monday 27 February	Tech Trial (optional)
Wednesday 1 March	Welcome to BRIDGE
Wednesday 8 March	Partnership Establishment
Wednesday 15 March	Cultural Activity 1 (optional)
Wednesday 22 March	Cultural Activity 2 (optional)
Wednesday 29 March	Intercultural Understanding and Global Competence
Wednesday 26 April	Digital Pedagogy and Teaching and Learning Tools
Wednesday 10 May	Design Sprint
Wednesday 17 May	Project Planning
Wednesday 24 May	Check In Session (optional)
Wednesday 31 May	Exhibition of Learning

There will also be a **School Leaders Roundtable** on Wednesday 22 February, from 2pm-4.30pm AEDT / 11am-1.30pm CST, for one school leader from each participating school from Cohorts 1 and 2.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to take part in the Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program, an Australian school must:

- Agree to the conditions of participation and be interested in collaborating and partnering with a school in China.
- Have suitable hardware, software, internet access and IT support.
- Commit to working collaboratively with their Chinese partner school during the program.
- Commit to attending the online sessions
- Have approval and supporting evidence from the school principal to participate in the program.
- Be able to nominate one to two teachers to participate in the program.
- Teachers can be from any discipline, sector, region and experience level.
- Chinese language ability is not a requirement of participation or eligibility. Where two teachers from one school will participate it would be advantageous if one teacher had a level of proficiency. Please note this is not a determining factor of eligibility.

To be eligible, a nominated teacher must:

- Be a classroom or subject teacher working directly with classes of students (the principal and vice principal cannot be nominated).
- Have a proficient level of digital literacy and computer skills
- Be able to participate in nine 90-minute online workshops and a 3.5 hour design sprint over March-May for Cohort 2.

AITSL STANDARDS

Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program has been designed to meet the following AITSL Standards.

1.3 Students with diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds		
1.3.1 Demonstrate knowledge of teaching strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths and needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.	1.3.2 Design and implement teaching strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths and needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.	1.3.3 Support colleagues to develop effective teaching strategies that address the learning strengths and needs of students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.
2.6 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)		
2.6.1 Implement teaching strategies for using ICT to expand curriculum learning opportunities for students.	2.6.2 Use effective teaching strategies to integrate ICT into learning and teaching programs to make selected content relevant and meaningful.	2.6.3 Model high-level teaching knowledge and skills and work with colleagues to use current ICT to improve their teaching practice and make content relevant and meaningful.
3.4 Select and use resources		
3.4.1 Demonstrate knowledge of a range of resources, including ICT, that engage students in their learning.	3.4.2 Select and/or create and use a range of resources, including ICT, to engage students in their learning.	3.4.3 Assist colleagues to create, select and use a wide range of resources, including ICT, to engage students in their learning.
6.3 Engage with colleagues and improve practice		
	6.3.2 Contribute to collegial discussions and apply constructive feedback from colleagues to improve professional knowledge and practice.	6.3.3 Initiate and engage in professional discussions with colleagues in a range of forums to evaluate practice directed at improving professional knowledge and practice, and the educational outcomes of students.
7.4 Engage with professional teaching networks and broader communities		
	7.4.2 Participate in professional and community networks and forums to broaden knowledge and improve practice.	7.4.3 Contribute to professional networks and associations and build productive links with the wider community to improve teaching and learning.

FUNDED PLACES

Successful Australian and Chinese applicants who are selected to participate (teachers and schools) will be financially supported to participate in the Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program through financial support from the National Foundation of Australia-China Relations in Australia (NFACR). This includes:

- Funding to support the costs of participation in the online Professional Learning Program, including design sprint.
- Ongoing support in relation to professional learning in Australia and China.

"Globally, there is now such an emphasis on the sort of competencies that young people need to be able to thrive. There's enormous opportunity in that for us to continue our in schools, co-designing programs that work to help our students be resilient in our globally connected and challenging world."

RISK MANAGEMENT

As a NFACR funded program, AEF follows NFACR's Risk Mitigation strategies. AEF adheres to rigorous risk management and mitigation policies.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

All material received from schools by AEF is accepted on the understanding that such material may only be used:

- In assessing applications for the Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program
- In administering the Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program
- For the purposes of informing the program funders and the public about the outcomes of the Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program.

All information collected or created will be treated in accordance with the Australian Privacy Act 1988, which prevents personal information from being disclosed without appropriate consent, unless disclosure is required or authorised by law.

Asia Education Foundation may publish the names and school of participants of the 2023 Australia-China Digital BRIDGE Program for promotion and publicity of the programs.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or The University of Melbourne.

ABOUT ASIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Asia Education Foundation (AEF) provides school leaders, teachers and students with the global perspectives and tools to amplify their intercultural skills and mindsets. AEF delivers informative resources, national and international professional learning, innovative programs and rich networks that connect Australian schools with over 20 countries across the Inda-Pacific.

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Australian Government

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