



Australian Government



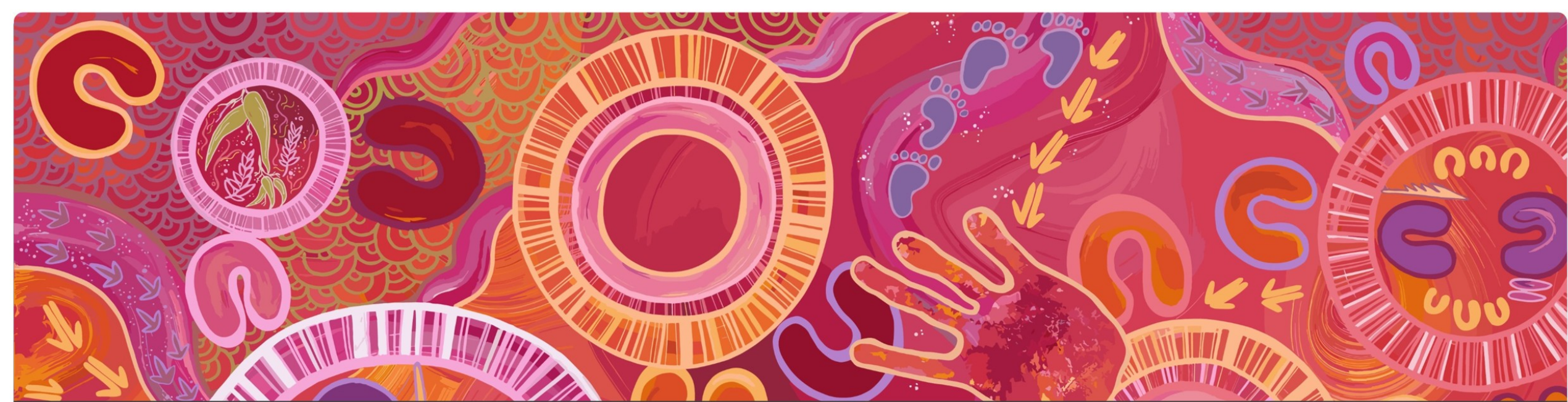
ASEAN-Australia
Centre

Grants Information Session

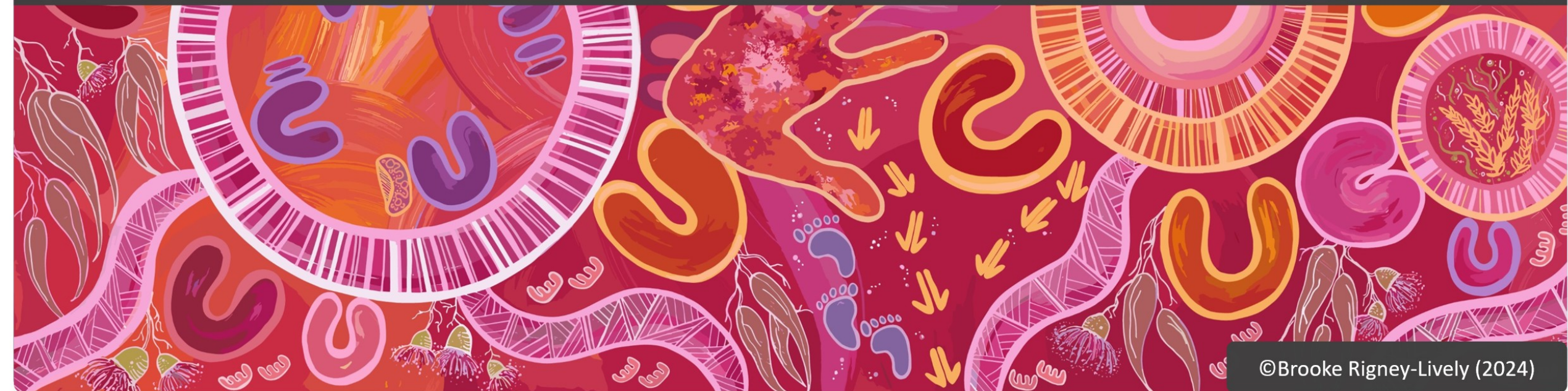
24 September 2026

Key policy objectives, common application challenges and guidance on preparing a competitive application





The ASEAN-Australia Centre acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations people, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



Before we begin

Today's focus

01 Overview

The ASEAN–Australia Centre Grant Opportunity 2026–27

02 Objectives

Key policy objectives and priority streams

03 Application

Guidance for preparing a competitive submission

04 Next steps

How to apply, when to contact the Centre and deadlines

Housekeeping

01 Recording

This session is not being recorded

02 Slides & FAQs

Slides will be emailed; questions will help update the FAQs

03 Scope

General guidance only—individual proposals will not be discussed

04 Reference

Continue using the Guidelines, application form and FAQs

WELCOME

Fiona Hoggart

Head of Centre

Building enduring connections

Partnership is at the heart of the grants program.

The Grants Program supports activities that:

1

Deepen connections
between Australia and
Southeast Asia

2

Build genuine partnerships and share
expertise

3

Strengthen enduring links
between people, institutions
and communities

PRIORITY STREAMS

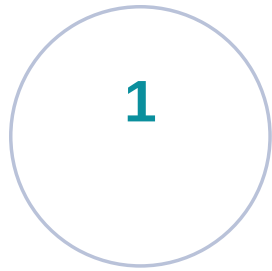
2026–27 priority streams

Three focus areas for the 2026–27 grant round

Three priority streams

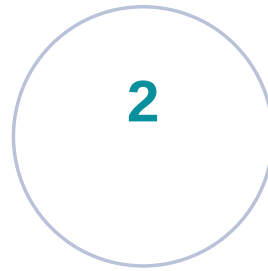
Economic, cultural and Asia capability priorities for 2026–27.

Three focus areas



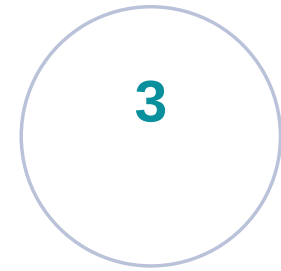
Economic engagement

Building networks, knowledge and enduring commercial connections.



Creative industry and cultural connections

Building trust, understanding and collaboration through creative and cultural engagement.



Asia capability

Developing the knowledge, skills, networks and confidence Australians need to engage effectively with Southeast Asia.

THANK YOU, FIONA

Over to Carlo

Practical guidance on preparing your application

2026–27 grant round at a glance

TOTAL FUNDING

\$2.2 million

available over two years

GRANT DURATION

One or two years

Choose the duration that best fits the scope and delivery of your activity.

ONE-YEAR GRANTS

\$50,000–\$200,000

funding per grant

TWO-YEAR GRANTS

\$100,000–\$400,000

funding per grant

Request an amount within the range for your chosen grant duration.

Requirements for all grant streams

Every proposed activity must:

- 01 Select the stream that your activity most strongly aligns with
- 02 Involve at least two Southeast Asian countries
- 03 Clearly identify your Southeast Asian partners
- 04 Explain each partner’s role and contribution
- 05 Explain how the activity will strengthen engagement between Australia and Southeast Asia

Applications are encouraged from:

AUSTRALIANS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN HERITAGE

Applications that promote engagement with, and increase awareness of, Southeast Asian diaspora communities

WOMEN AND WOMEN-LED

Women and women-led businesses and organisations are strongly encouraged to apply

FIRST NATIONS

Applications from First Nations Australians and First Nations Australian-led organisations are strongly encouraged

DIVERSE ABILITIES

Applications from people with diverse abilities are welcome

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility requirements

Who can apply and what you need to proceed

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Eligibility requirements

- 01 Hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- 02 Be an Australian permanent resident or citizen
- 03 Have an account with an Australian financial institution
- 04 Be located in Australia or Southeast Asia
- 05 Apply as an eligible entity type

Points to note

- If a university will administer the grant, the university should apply
- Consortia must appoint an eligible lead organisation
- Only the lead organisation can submit the application and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth

KEY MESSAGE

Eligibility is a threshold requirement.

If the eligibility requirements are not met, the application cannot proceed to merit assessment.

Other requirements

Safeguards

- 01 Modern Slavery Act
- 02 Vulnerable persons
- 03 Child protection
- 04 National Redress Scheme

Grant readiness

- 05 Previous Australian Government funding obligations
- 06 Capability evidence
- 07 Relevant personnel checks, where required

ASSESSMENT

Assessment

How applications are evaluated on their merits

Assessment criteria

Applications are assessed on their merits against five equally weighted criteria.

- 01 Contribution to the Centre's objectives and four pillars
- 02 Alignment with the selected grant stream and intended outcomes
- 03 Capability and capacity to deliver the activity
- 04 Enduring and sustainable outcomes
- 05 Reach and impact

WORD LIMIT

200 words per criterion

APPLICATION TIP

SmartyGrants may calculate word counts differently from Microsoft Word and other programs. Use the word count displayed in SmartyGrants when finalising your application.

KEY MESSAGE

Competitive applications directly address each assessment criterion and clearly explain how the activity supports the Centre's objectives and priorities.

Assessment process

01

Applications are assessed by Centre staff and other Commonwealth government employees

02

Applications are assessed against the published assessment criteria, including alignment with the Centre's objectives and priorities

03

Applications are compared with other eligible applications

KEY MESSAGE

Competitive applications clearly address the assessment criteria and demonstrate how the activity supports the Centre's objectives, priorities and intended outcomes.

THE APPLICATION

The application

How to prepare and submit a competitive application

Before completing your application

- 01 Ensure you have read the current Grant Opportunity Guidelines and FAQs

- 02 Re-check the FAQs before submitting, as they may be updated throughout the application period

- 03 Confirm that you meet all eligibility requirements

- 04 Obtain any required supporting documentation

- 05 Allow sufficient time for final checks, uploading attachments and submitting your application

- 06 **Late applications cannot be accepted**

APPLICATION TIP Start early and allow time to review your application before submitting.

Preparing a competitive application

01 Explain delivery, outcomes, reach and impact

02 Define each partner's role and contribution

03 Request funding within guidelines and show value for money

04 Show how benefits and relationships will endure

05 Identify cash and in-kind contributions; align activity, milestones and budget

06 Focus on outcomes, not just activities

KEY MESSAGE

Competitive applications link intended outcomes to the Centre's objectives and show how delivery, partnerships, milestones and budget fit together.

Planning your activity and budget

YOUR MILESTONES SHOULD

- Reflect the major stages of delivery
- Show what will be delivered and when
- Align with the activity description and budget
- Include monitoring, evaluation and reporting where relevant

YOUR BUDGET SHOULD

- Be balanced, transparent and realistic
- Demonstrate value for money
- Clearly identify cash and in-kind contributions
- Align with the activity, milestones and intended outcomes

POINTS TO NOTE

- Enter the budget manually into SmartyGrants
- Budget information cannot be copied directly from Excel or accounting systems
- The budget must balance before the application can be submitted

APPLICATION TIP Use the budget notes fields to explain significant costs and how they have been calculated.

KEY MESSAGE

Your activity description, milestones and budget should provide a consistent picture of what will be delivered, when it will occur and how it will be funded.

Next steps

KEY DATES

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

28 October 2026

1300 AEDT

ENQUIRIES DEADLINE

27 October 2026 · 1700 AEDT

Enquiries must arrive by this time.

STAY CONNECTED

Website

aseanaustraliacentre.org.au

LinkedIn · [ASEAN-Australia Centre](#)

Instagram · [@aseanaustraliacentre](#)

01 Check the grant documents first

Read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, FAQs and draft grant agreement. Re-check them for updates before submitting.

02 Submit through SmartyGrants

Apply by the closing time. Late applications cannot be accepted.

For technical support, contact SmartyGrants.

03 Questions after checking the documents?

If the answer is not in the grant documents, contact the Centre by email only:

aseanaustraliacentre.grants@dfat.gov.au

GRANT ENQUIRIES – EMAIL THE CENTRE

Send enquiries before the deadline shown at left.