

# ASEAN-Australia Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of the ASEAN-Australia Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program?

The program aims to provide development, mentoring and networking opportunities for at least 27 young women entrepreneurs across Australia, Southeast Asia and Timor-Leste each year for four years (2024-25 to 2027-28).

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- support women entrepreneurs to scale-up and expand into international markets
- increase women's economic participation
- increase business, trade, tourism and investment between Australia, Southeast Asia and Timor-Leste
- increase cross-cultural connections between Australian and Southeast Asian business, and
- increase positive awareness of ASEAN-Australia relations among Australian and Southeast Asian business communities.

### What age group is the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program targeting?

The program will target young women aged between 18 and 30 years of age.

### How much money is available to deliver the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program?

A total of \$1.8 million over four years (2024-25 to 2027-28) is available, or a maximum grant amount of \$450,000 per year.

### Is it an annual grant?

No. This is a one-off grant opportunity to deliver the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program for four years (2024-25 to 2027-28). The program is intended to be delivered annually.

## Is it a multi-year grant?

Yes. This is a one-off multi-year grant opportunity that will be awarded to one provider to deliver the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program for four years (2024-25 to 2027-28).

## Why is the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program designed to be delivered by entities that are majority owned and led by women?

This Program is implementing Recommendation 21 of [Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040](#) to facilitate linkages between young, female entrepreneurs.

The Centre has set the eligibility criteria to support organisations aligned with this recommendation to respond to the Strategy's identification of "active role modelling of women leaders and women-led businesses" as central to this objective.

## My organisation is based overseas. Can I apply to deliver the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program?

The lead applicant must be an Australian entity, located in Australia and having an Australian Business Number (ABN). If your organisation is based overseas and you wish to apply, you will need to find a suitable Australia-based partner.

## What can I do to strengthen my application?

We understand that preparing a grant application can take time, however as this is a competitive grant opportunity, we encourage you to take your time to submit a high-quality application.

Here are some suggestions for how you can strengthen your application:

- Clearly demonstrate how your project is aligned to the Centre's strategic objectives and the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program.
- Outline how the project will be successfully delivered, the intended outcomes, audience reach and impact.
- Provide a transparent budget that shows how grant funding will be spent and demonstrates value for money.
- Where possible, consider partnering with a Southeast Asian counterpart on your project.
- If you have additional funding sources or co-contributions, highlight them in your application as they demonstrate a commitment to your project.
- Ensure your application is well-written. Proofread it carefully and make sure you have included all the required information.
- Make sure you don't miss the application deadline, as late applications will not be accepted.
- Provide strong and credible referees.

## How will you decide which application is successful?

Applications will be reviewed against the eligibility and assessment criteria, which are outlined in the grant guidelines. The assessment committee will evaluate each application based on merit,

overall value for money and its ability to support the strategic objectives of the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program.

## **Where and when will you share the outcome of my application?**

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email to the primary email address listed on the Smartygrants application form. Please notify us immediately if your contact information changes so we can ensure you are kept up to date on the progress of your application.

## **When will the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program need to start being delivered?**

The successful applicant must commence delivery of the grant activity this financial year, before 30 June 2025.

## **Where can I find more information?**

Information about the Young Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Program is available on [grants.gov.au](https://grants.gov.au).

If you have questions during the grant application process, please contact the ASEAN-Australia Centre at [aseanaustraliacentre@dfat.gov.au](mailto:aseanaustraliacentre@dfat.gov.au) or call 02 6261 1333.