2026-27 Maitri Fellowships Grant Program

About the Program

The Maitri Fellowships Program will fund **Australian Organisations**, preferably with experience in the Australia-India bilateral relationship, to engage a Fellow to work on geostrategic or geoeconomic policy issues.

Funding will be provided under the below streams:

1. Inward Fellowship up to 2 years for Indian Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, Associate Professors or Principal Research Fellows (experience equivalent to Levels B to D) to come to Australia
2. Outward Fellowship up to 2 years for Australian Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, Associate Professors or Principal Research Fellows (experience equivalent to Levels B to D) to go to India
3. Two-way Fellowship up to 2 years for an Australian and Indian Fellow in an exchange arrangement through their respective Australian and Indian Organisations.

The minimum period for Inward, Outward, and Two-way Fellowships is six months.

All Maitri Fellows will join a Fellowship community, managed by the Centre, to promote the program, engage with media, and continue to develop knowledge of and professional links with Australia including the Indian diaspora community.

The Maitri Fellowships Program objectives are:

- deepen mutual understanding between Australia and India, including on each country's strategic context and options, and on other issues of national and bilateral significance,
- promote mature policy dialogue and public discourse on contemporary India by elevating research and policy discussion on Australia-India matters,
- enhance Australia and India's cooperation, networking and cultural connections through research academics and institutions, and
- generate research collaboration and foster innovative thinking that can inform Government policy development.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- greater coverage of Australian and Indian perspectives in each other's mainstream media and policy communities,
- more informed public debate and community views about both countries and the relationship, and
- a wider range of ideas and policy options on significant issues facing both countries.

We wish you well with your application.

The Maitri Fellowships Program TeamCentre for Australia-India Relations

Eligibility Requirements

* indicates a required field

Do you meet the eligibility as set out in the Maitri Fellowships Program Guidelines? *

○ Yes ○ No

If no, your application may not be able to proceed.

Has your organisation or consortia partner been requested to join the National Redress Scheme? *

○ Yes ○ No

National Redress Scheme If 'yes' please provide details below and we may need to contact you to discuss.

Provide further information *

Has your organisation registered with the National Redress Scheme within 6 months of being asked to join? *

○ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable (not on the register)

If 'no' please provide details on why you have not registered below and we may need to contact you to discuss.

Provide further information *

Does your organisation or consortia partner comply with the Modern Slavery Act? *

○ Yes ○ No

Modern Slavery Register if you do not comply or are listed on the Register we may need to contact you to discuss.

Does your organisation have a statement on the Modern Slavery Statements Register? *

○ Yes ○ No

Provide further information *

Do you have any outstanding reports, acquittals or breaches relating to any Australian Government funding? *

○ Yes ○ No

Details on outstanding Australian Government funding *

Providing a seamless integration to Australia for the fellow will be important to ensure the fellow can concentrate on their work as soon as possible. Can you explain the level of logistical support you will provide if successful? This could include assistance with visa, bank accounts, accommodation etc.

If you are not able to provide an adequate explanation of the required logistical support to the Fellow and have successfully reached the second stage of the assessment process, the Centre will contact your organisation to further discuss this part of the application.

Level of logistical support that can be provided *

Type in "Cannot provide any support" if not able to.

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Applicant Name

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Must be an Australian Organisation. Individuals and Indian Organisations are not eligible to apply.

Contact Details

Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

Must be a valid landline number

Email *

Must be an email address.
Must be the official group mailbox address

Website

Must be a URL.

Twitter/social media handle or hashtags

Other Social Media Details

Type of Organisation

Please select your relevant type of organisation *

Australian ABN Check

Please provide your Australian Organisation's registered ABN

ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

ABN

Entity Name

ABN Status

Entity Type

Goods & Services Tax (GST)

DGR Endorsed

ATO Charity Type

ACNC Registration

Tax Concessions

Main Business Location

Please provide your Australian University OR Think Tank registered ABN

Eligibility

Fellow eligibility requirements are found in Section 4 of the Maitri Fellowships Programs Grant Guidelines 2026-27.

Does the fellow meet the fellow eligibility requirements? *

○ Yes ○ No

If No, Nominated Fellow is ineligible.

If the fellow is already linked to your Institution provide details on the connection *

Enter 'Not Applicable' if not relevant.

Due to your responses above, the Nominated Fellow is ineligible and you are therefore unable to submit this application.

Eligibility Validation Check

This number/amount is calculated.

Fellowships Program Application

* indicates a required field

Summary

Please summarise why you are applying for a Maitri grant, background on your researcher and research field and why this issue is of geostrategic importance to Australia *

Word count:
Must be no more than 150 words.

Funding Stream

Please indicate which funding stream you are applying for *

- ○ Inbound Fellowship
- ○ Outbound Fellowship
- ○ Two-way Exchange Fellowship

Please tick one

Fellows' Details - Australia

Fellows Name *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Gender *

○ Male ○ Female ○ Non-Binary

Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required. Country must be Australia

Email *

Email address must be private

Mobile Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number.

Are you currently Employed? *

○ Yes ○ No

Twitter/social media handle or hashtags

Other Social Media Details

2026-27 Maitri Fellowships Program Application Form
Form Preview

Fellow's Details - India

If applying for a two-way exchange you will need to detail both nominated Fellows (from Australia and India) in this form.

Fellows Name *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Gender *

○ Male ○ Female ○ Non-Binary

Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required. Country must be India

Email *

Email address must be private

Mobile Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number.

Are you currently employed? *

○ Yes ○ No

Twitter/social media handle or hashtags

Other Social Media Details

Fellow Employment Details

If Funding Stream is a Two-way exchange, click 'Add More' to add another row.

Employer's Name	City of Employment	State of Employment	Employer Website
			Must be a URL.

Fellow's Target Work Details

Where will the Fellow's work be focussed? *

○ Geoeconomic trends facing Australia and India; trade and investment issues (including analysis of

○ Issues of geostrategic interest to the Australia-India bilateral relationship including the Australia-

	the priority sectors identified under the India Economic Strategy and Update to the India Economic Strategy) Please tick one	India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership), and our shared place in the world

Fellow's Work Topic *

Provide a brief description of the proposed fellows work *

Word count:
Must be no more than 50 words.

Provide a brief summary of the outputs/ outcomes that will be delivered by the fellow's work *

Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.

Fellowship Start Date *

Start date must take into consideration Visa grant time.Visit https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times for estimate.

Fellowship End Date *

The grant period is up to 4 years. All activities must be completed and reports submitted by 31 December 2031

Supporting Documentation

Please upload any other relevant supporting information. Supporting information may include:

- CVs
- References that directly support your grant activity

Supporting documentation within this section is limited to 3 documents.

Attach a file:

A maximum of 3 files may be attached.

Grant Activity Details

* indicates a required field

Activity Location

For the Maitri Fellowships Program grant opportunity, activities can be delivered at different locations, as long as they are all in Australia or India.

Please indicate the PRIMARY location/s where the activity will take place.

Primary Location *

☐ Australian Capital Territory
☐ New South Wales
☐ Northern Territory
☐ Queensland
☐ South Australia
☐ Tasmania
☐ Victoria
☐ Western Australia
☐ Australia and India

At least 1 choice must be selected.
You may select more than 1 Primary Location

Activity Location - India

Identify the closest DFAT Mission *

☐ Bengaluru
☐ Chennai
☐ Kolkata
☐ Mumbai
☐ New Delhi

The DFAT website lists all Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.

Location Details	Percentage of time spent in each location
Provide more specific details on activity locations in India (eg. cities AND % of time in each location)	Please ensure percentage numbers add up to 100% Must be a number.

Grant Activity Timeline

The grant period for Fellowships is **up to four 4 years.**

You must complete your grant funded activities by **31 December 2031.**

Please provide a timeline of the major stages involved in delivering your grant activity.

Click the '+' sign or the 'Add More' button (bottom right) to insert more rows

Activity Stage	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated End Date	Explanatory notes
Name each stage of your activity	Must be a date.	Must be a date and no later than 31/12/2031.	Briefly expand on detail for this stage

Project Partners

* indicates a required field

The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the partners.

Will you be partnering with other organisations to support the Fellow? * ○ Yes ○ No

Project Partners

Provide details of partners

Partner institution letter of support must include:

- details of the partner institution
- an overview of how the partner institution will work with the lead institution and any other partner institutions in the group to successfully complete the grant activity
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities of the partner and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

Click '+' or 'Add More' (bottom right) to add additional rows

Partner Name	Details	Letter of Support
	Indicate what support the partner is providing	Please upload a letter of support from partner

Risk Management

* indicates a required field

Risk Management

Please identify the project's key risks and detail mitigations in the template provided: Maitri Grants - Risk Register Template.xlsx.

You must upload your completed Risk Register below.

Identified risks should only be relevant to your activity and will be unique to your project, sector or collaboration partners. Risks may include

- Public Risk (Accident, Health and Safety)
- Fraud
- Cybersecurity

- Intellectual property leakage
- Foreign interference
- Co-contribution risk
- Conflict of interest
- Travel restrictions

Upload your risk register *

Attach a file:

Budget Details

* indicates a required field

Budget instructions

- In the Budgeted Income section, please list all contributors to your project, including contributions by the entity seeking funding (A) and any other contributions by third parties (B). Please include in the comment section an indication of whether each source of funding is confirmed, conditional or pending approval.
- All in-kind contributions should be included and quantified in either section B (if from your entity) or section C (if from a third party).
- The Total Grant Amount section is automated, and it is the sum of the grant program funding sought from the Centre (A), contribution by the entity seeking funding (B), and contributions from third parties (C).
- In the Budgeted Expenditure section, please identify each expenditure clearly.
- The Budget Totals section is automated, it is the sum of total expenditure amount. This should equal the same as the total income (sum of A+B+C).

Notes on goods and services tax (GST): Please provide budget figure amounts EXCLUSIVE of GST.

Please refer to Section 5 in the Maitri Fellowships Program Grant Guidelines 2026-27 for clarification regarding eligible expenditure.

Joint or Lead Consortia Partner Contributions

Will you receive joint or lead consortia partner financial or in-kind support? * ○ Yes ○ No

Internal Contribution

List all joint and lead consortia contributions here. These may be cash or in-kind contributions.

Applications which include an in-kind or cash co-contribution towards the grant activities will be seen favourably.

Click '+' or 'Add More' (bottom right) to add additional rows

Contributor	Amount ($)	Status	Cash OR In-Kind
Name joint or lead consortia	Must be a dollar amount.	Advise if confirmed, conditional or pending approval	Provide brief details here
	$		

Additional financial contributions or in-kind support

Will any other financial contributions or in-kind support be provided from other sources? * ○ Yes ○ No

Additional / Other Income

Other Income can include Grants from Australian Federal Government, State Government, Local Government, etc and other income like cash, in-kind, etc.

Applications which include an in-kind or cash co-contribution towards the grant activities will be seen favourably.

Click '+' or 'Add More' (bottom right) to add additional rows

Other Income Source	AUD $	Status	Cash OR In-Kind
Contributor Name	Must be a dollar amount.	Advise if confirmed, conditional or pending approval	Provide brief details here
	$		

Project Budget (Expenditure)

Grant funding can only be spent on eligible expenditure you have incurred on eligible grant activities. Ensure you read section 4 of the Grant Guidelines for information regarding eligible expenditure.

Please ensure total Maitri Funded Expenditure in this budget matches the total amount of Maitri funding sought at the beginning of this application.

Activity Description	Basis of Calculation	Maitri Funded	Joint or Lead Consortia Partner Funded	Other Source Funding	Total Budgeted Expenditure	Comments / Notes
Name the actiivty	Please itemise	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	This number/ amount is calculated.	Provide brief additional information if required
		$	$	$	$	

Total Budgeted Expenditure

Total Maitri Funded Expenditure

$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Joint or Lead Consortia Partner Funded Expenditure

$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Other Source Funding Expenditure

$

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Expenditure Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

Assessment Criterion

* indicates a required field

Addressing the (4) Assessment Criteria

Please read section 6 of the Maitri Fellowships Program Grant Guidelines 2026-27 for detail on how to respond to the Assessment Criteria and scoring for each criteria. You must address all the following 4 assessment criteria in plain English.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

We will only consider awarding funding to applications that score highly against all assessment criteria.

Criterion 1: How will the grant contribute to the intended outcomes of this opportunity? (40%)

You should clearly demonstrate how your project will support one or more of the objectives and intended outcomes of the program.

You should:

- explain at a high-level what your idea is, what your activity will do and who will benefit
- prosecute your case as to why your activity is worth funding ahead of other competitive applications
- tell the story of your idea in simple language and avoid detailed technical jargon

Criterion 1 Response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 400 words.

Criterion 2: How effective and efficient will the applicant be in delivering the grant? (20%)

You should:

- demonstrate your previous track record of delivering similar activities and the outcome
- explain how you will measure success and detail any quantitative or qualitative metrics
- detail your sophisticated risk management planning

Criterion 2 Response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 150 words.

Criterion 3: How will the activity's impact be maximised and deliver sustainable outcomes beyond funding? (20%)

You should:

- explain how you will leverage your partners to maximise impact
- detail your communications, marketing and media planning
- outline scenario planning beyond the life of the grant agreement
- explain your ability to forge durable institutional linkages over an extended period

Note: demonstrated in-kind or cash co-contributions will be considered favourably.

Criterion 3 Response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 150 words.

Criterion 4: How will the activity deliver impact in new areas? (20%)

You should demonstrate this through:

- clearly identifying how the research topic and/or the Australia-India collaboration on the topic represents a new area of research that will support the Centre's long term strategic aspiration
- reporting on the current trends in the area of research and how this activity will complement, not duplicate existing work.

Criterion 4 Response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 150 words.

Contact Details

* indicates a required field

Primary Contact

The primary contact will receive correspondence regarding the grant until the outcome notification. If successful, applicants can nominate a project lead contact for the grant project.

Primary Contact *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position *

Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number

Email *

Must be the official email address

Secondary Contact

The secondary contact will be included in all correspondence with the applicant

Secondary Contact *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position *

Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number

Email *

Must be the official email address

Conflict of Interest and Safeguards

* indicates a required field

Conflict of Interest

Please advise if you, your organisations personnel or any person or entity connected to your application;

- Has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application process?

- Has a relationship with an organisation or foreign government?
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they may receive or be perceived to receive personal gain from this grant funding?

To the best of your knowledge, are there any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest relating to this application? *

○ Yes ○ No

Provide Details *

Working with Children or other Vulnerable Persons

Successful grantees will be asked to complete a Working with Vulnerable Persons Statement of Compliance as part of the Standard Grant Agreement.

The Commonwealth considers a child to be a person under the age of 18 years.

Will your project involve working with children and/or other vulnerable persons? *

○ Yes ○ No

Working with Vulnerable People Check

Each Australian state and territory has its own "Working with Vulnerable People" (WWVP) scheme, requiring individuals working with vulnerable people to undergo a background check and registration.

Below is a list of issuing authorities:

- Australian Capital Territory (ACT): Access Canberra
- New South Wales (NSW): NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
- Northern Territory (NT): SafeNT
- Queensland (QLD): Blue Card Services
- South Australia (SA): South Australia Police
- Tasmania (TAS): Tasmanian Department of Justice
- Victoria (VIC): Working with Children Check
- Western Australia (WA): Department of Communities

*Note: It is important to note that the specific requirements and processes for each state and territory may vary**. Applicants must consult the relevant agency's website for detailed information.***

Confirmation and Declaration

* indicates a required field

Privacy notice about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information

The personal information you provide in this report is collected by the Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR) within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to financially acquit, evaluate and report on the outcomes of your grant in accordance with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs). Without this information, we may be unable to finalise your grant payment.

We collect any photographs and audio/visual materials you provide to promote and publicise the work of CAIR and DFAT. These materials may be made public through national and local media, annual reports or via the CAIR or DFAT websites and other social media.

Our privacy policy is available at www.dfat.gov.au/privacy.html and contains information about access to, or correction of, your personal information, and how you may complain about a breach of your privacy and how we deal with complaints. Grantees/recipients should also note the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* apply to documents in DFAT's possession.

I, certify that: I have read and understand the above Privacy notice.

Overseas disclosure:

- I understand that information provided in this report, including photographs and audio-visual materials, may be used for publicity purposes.
- By providing information to DFAT, I consent to the publication of my personal information to overseas entities or on the internet. I acknowledge that if other recipients breach the Australian Privacy Principles, DFAT will not be accountable under the Privacy Act and that I will not be able to seek redress under the Privacy Act.

Information about other people

- I have sought the consent of any individual whose personal information I have included in the report (including collaborators and activity partners), to provide their personal information to CAIR and DFAT to collect, use and disclose in accordance with this Privacy notice.
- I have obtained written consent from each photographed person, where required.

Use and disclosure for secondary purposes

- I consent to information provided in this application being stored on a central database to which other Commonwealth and State or Territory government

agencies may have access for assessment or similar purposes.
- I consent to information provided in this acquittal, other than personal information, being used for training and testing purposes by DFAT staff.

Grant activity

- The statements in this report are true to the best of my knowledge.
- The grant is being used/was used in accordance with the approved budget as detailed in the Funding Agreement/Deed.
- The above financial statement presents fairly the financial transactions in relation to the CAIR grant received from DFAT (if financial acquittal).

If you have a grant amount that needs to be repaid:

- I understand that DFAT will send an invoice to the organisation funded to recover any unspent CAIR funding.
- I confirm that original receipts and other documentation which account for the expenditure will be retained for at least five years from the date of this form and will be available upon request.

Declaration *

○ Yes, I have read and agree to the above conditions.

Date of Declaration *

Must be a date.

Name *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position and Title *

If you are applying as an individual, state "individual applicant".

Statistical Information

* indicates a required field

Where did you hear about the Centre for Australia-India Relations and this Maitri Fellowships Program? *

☐ Australian Embassy/ Consulate
☐ DFAT State or Territory Offices
☐ GrantConnect
☐ Minister Media Release
☐ Social Media - Facebook. Twitter, etc
☐ CAIR Website
☐ Other:

Do you have any feedback regarding the application process which may be used to improve future grant rounds?

Note: any feedback will be treated confidentially and will not affect the assessment of your application